



## TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CANADA

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September 30, 2015

Sent via Email

### Open Letter To:

Stephen Harper, Leader, Conservative Party of Canada  
Thomas Mulcair, Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada  
Justin Trudeau, Leader, Liberal Party of Canada  
Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada  
Gilles Duceppe, Leader, Bloc Quebecois

### Re: What's your party's position on Whistleblower Protections in Canada?

As the leading anti-corruption organization in Canada, Transparency International Canada (TI Canada) works to ensure that whistleblowers are provided adequate protections. Whistleblowing is one of the most direct methods of exposing acts of corruption, bribery and fraud. Protection of whistleblowers is of great importance to the Canadian public since it plays a crucial role in the fight against corruption both in the public and private sectors.

TI Canada recently published a [report](#) concluding that whistleblower protections in Canada are insufficient, fall short of Canada's international commitments and fail to keep up with the efforts of other leading countries. Britain, the United States and Australia have adopted more robust whistleblower protection laws. Currently, seven provinces and territories in Canada do not have legislation in place providing whistleblower protection.

During this election campaign, with its opportunities for debate on major issues, TI Canada believes whistleblower protection is one of those key issues and therefore asks:

- 1) What will your Government do to better protect whistleblowers in Canada?**
- 2) Will your Government take the lead in convincing all provinces and territories to adopt consistent whistleblower protections?**
- 3) Will your Government consider supporting any of the TI Canada recommendations? (Below)**

TI Canada and the Canadian public through the media hope to hear from you on this important issue so that voters who share TI Canada's commitment to combatting corruption remain informed.

Attached you will find TI Canada's [report](#) on whistleblower protections in Canada outlining the following **recommendations**:

1. **Reverse onus**: As it relates to reprisals in the public sector, the burden of proof should be on the employer to prove that their actions were not reprisals.
2. **Single disclosure regime**: The advantages and feasibility of a single disclosure regime for both private and public sectors should be carefully considered.
3. **Single competent authority**: Both private and public sector whistleblowers should have the right to seek remedies before a competent authority.
4. **Monetary rewards**: The advantages and feasibility of *Qui Tam* legislation, to allow citizens to sue contractors on behalf of the government, should be carefully considered.
5. **Increased transparency**: Greater transparency and access to specific case information should be adopted in relation to the federal Integrity Commissioner process and to whistleblower complaints processes of the provinces.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [ti-can@transparency.ca](mailto:ti-can@transparency.ca) or 416.488.3939.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Peter Dent  
Chair and President  
Transparency International Canada