



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

Commissioner Nancy Bélanger  
Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada  
410 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 1B7  
Sent via email: [nancy.belanger@lobbycanada.gc.ca](mailto:nancy.belanger@lobbycanada.gc.ca)

September 3, 2020

Dear Commissioner,

Commissioner, we are writing to you again in as many weeks regarding potentially unregistered communications between Rob Silver, the spouse of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Chief of Staff Katie Telford and the most senior levels of government. Mr. Silver serves on the MCAP executive team as Senior Vice-President of Strategy, Policy and Risk and sought changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) that would make MCAP eligible for the program.

In your correspondence on August 11<sup>th</sup> with our offices, you acknowledged that the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying began a preliminary assessment into unregistered lobbying by Mr. Silver in securing an \$84 million subcontract for MCAP to administer applications for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. This was first reported publicly in the [Globe and Mail](#) on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Recent media reports have unearthed further and potentially unregistered communications between Rob Silver and senior staff in the Prime Minister's Office and the former Finance Minister's Office. Both the [Globe and Mail](#) and [Vice News](#) reported that Mr. Silver had multiple conversations with the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Minister's Office in seeking changes to the CEWS that would make his employer, MCAP, eligible for the program.

Based on available media reports, Mr. Silver's unregistered communications expanded from attempting to influence policy to specifying the necessary legislative changes for MCAP to become CEWS eligible. Vice News reports, "Silver went so far as to request specific legislative amendments to the Commercial Emergency Wage Subsidy, according to two sources who are familiar with the matter."

Our preliminary search of the lobby registry does not show any registered communications between Mr. Silver/MCAP, the Prime Minister's Office or the former Finance Minister's Office regarding changes to the wage subsidy program. In addition, Mr. Silver is currently not registered as a lobbyist.

Commissioner, we are inquiring if the available public information on this matter provides cause for your office to open a second assessment into the unregistered communications between Mr. Silver, the Prime Minister's Office and the former Finance Minister's Office on amending the wage subsidy program in order for MCAP to qualify.

We understand that your office does undertake proactive media and parliamentary monitoring to identify potential violations of the *Lobbying Act* and may have already initiated a preliminary assessment into the matter outlined above.

We await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Poilievre', with a horizontal line underneath.

Pierre Poilievre, MP  
Shadow Minister for Finance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Barrett', with a horizontal line underneath.

Michael Barrett, MP  
Shadow Minister for Ethics