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STEPHANIE KUSIE, M.P.
CALGARY MIDNAPORE

Mr. Mario Dion
Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Dion:

Re Request for Inquiry Concerning Raj Grewal

In light of the most recent troubling revelations from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s problem-plagued trip to India in February, I am writing to request, pursuant to section 27 of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*, that you conduct an inquiry concerning Mr. Raj Grewal, the Liberal Member of Parliament for Brampton East.

Media have reported that Mr. Grewal secured invitations for Yusuf Yenilmez, Chief Executive Officer of Zgemi Inc., to attend events with the Prime Minister during his India trip. Mr. Grewal is employed by Zgemi Inc., as your office’s public disclosure reports confirm.

These revelations, particularly in view of the underlying employment relationship, lead me to have reasonable grounds to believe that Mr. Grewal may have breached sections 8 (furthering private interests) and 9 (using influence) of the Code.

According to the *National Post*, Mr. Yenilmez said that he “called Mr. Grewal’s office and asked to make sure my name was on the list” (“Liberal MP put business affiliate on India guest lists”, March 28, 2018, page A6).

It is a commonly accepted fact of life that employers have expectations of employees, and that employees, in turn, seek to avoid disappointing their bosses.

In this case, Mr. Grewal’s employer had an expectation of Mr. Grewal, one which he confirmed to a reporter. It reasonable to conclude that Mr. Grewal would have done what was necessary to avoid disappointing his employer.

The Prime Minister’s Office confirmed to the *Toronto Star* that “MP Grewal” invited Mr. Yenilmez to the reception, and clearly demonstrating that the Prime Minister’s Office understood that Mr. Grewal’s requests to have Mr. Yenilmez invited were linked to Mr. Grewal’s functions and position

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as a Member of the House of Commons (“Liberal MP helped business associate get passage to India events”, March 28, 2018, page A1).

We already know from separate *National Post* reporting that Mr. Grewal took an aggressive attitude in securing the admission of friends and associates to the Prime Minister’s party held at the High Commissioner’s residence in New Delhi (“More follies from PM’s India vacay”, March 7, 2018, page A7).

Photos posted on Facebook, and reported by the media, show that Mr. Yenilmez was able, through the access arranged by Mr. Grewal, to socialize with several Ministers of the Crown and other senior government officials, such as Canada’s High Commissioner to India and the Prime Minister’s Chief of Staff.

This access would have facilitated opportunities for Mr. Yenilmez to discuss his business operations, intentions and hopes with many senior figures in the Government of Canada. This improper conduct on Mr. Grewal’s part would have been in furtherance of Mr. Yenilmez and Zgemi Inc.’s private interests.

Moreover, this conduct – not to mention any rewards to be reaped by Zgemi Inc. through the networking opportunities available at the Prime Minister’s parties – would have advanced the standing Mr. Grewal has with his employer, Zgemi Inc., and his boss, Mr. Yenilmez, thereby furthering Mr. Grewal’s own private interests.

This very clearly raises serious concerns that sections 8 and 9 of the Code may have been breached by Mr. Grewal.

It certainly flies in the face of the principles of the *Conflict of Interest Code* which expects us, as Members of Parliament, to “uphold the highest standards so as to avoid real or apparent conflicts of interest, and maintain and enhance public confidence and trust in the integrity of each Member and in the House of Commons”.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. I look forward to your inquiry and the subsequent report which will follow.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Kusie, MP