Ontario
LEGISLATIVE
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January 20, 2017

The Honourable Glen Murray
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, ON, M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Murray,

This week the *Toronto Star* revealed the latest in a long line of alleged misdeeds connected to Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS). Perminder Kandola, the organization's former Chief Financial Officer, has been investigated by the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) for suspicious financial transactions, and the findings have been turned over to the Toronto Police Fraud Unit. This greatly concerns the PC Caucus, Ontarians, and hopefully, you.

Which is why our Caucus is calling on you to take **immediate** action to begin the phase out of Ontario Tire Stewardship, and outline today the steps you intend to take to do so.

With the *Waste Free Ontario Act* receiving Royal Assent back in June, you now have the authority to make this happen. Yet in the seven months since it was passed, we've seen no action from you to begin this process.

What's more disconcerting is the fact that the allegations this week aren't the only instances of wrongdoing connected to OTS.

The saga began over a year ago, when the *Toronto Star* revealed in an exposé that funds being collected by Ontario Tire Stewardship were being used on wine tasting tours, boat cruises, luxury hotel stays, and elk steak dinners for executives.

Then last week, your own Ministry laid charges under the *Waste Diversion Act* against two former executives from OTS: Mr. Kandola and Frank Fragale, for the alleged theft of more than $550,000.

For two years you have been promising Ontarians that "eco-fees are dead", and that the industry funding organizations that oversee their collection are no longer needed.

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Well Minister, the time has come to stop dragging your heels. No longer can we as consumers afford these taxes, the wasteful spending by IFOs, or the allegations of criminal activity. No more silence, no more empty draft strategies with no clear timelines.

The legislation is clear: you, as the Minister, can at any point issue a directive to an IFO to begin winding up. Never has it been more pressing that you do so than now.

How many more dollars need to be spent needlessly; how many more allegations of wrongdoing do you need, before you take action?

Sincerely,

Lisa

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