



House of Commons  
CANADA

# Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

---

SECU • NUMBER 027 • 3rd SESSION • 40th PARLIAMENT

---

EVIDENCE

**Thursday, June 17, 2010**

—  
**Chair**

**Mr. Garry Breitkreuz**



## Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

Thursday, June 17, 2010

• (1720)

[English]

**The Chair (Mr. Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton—Melville, CPC)):** We are moving into a public hearing.

I want to make it clear that this motion was one that I ruled inadmissible. A motion of censure by a statement is not possible at a committee. Committees do not have the authority to condemn the behaviour or statements by a member.

I just want to apprise the committee of that. I won't read the whole thing.

We will continue now with Mr. MacKenzie.

**Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskij (Etobicoke Centre, Lib.):** I have another point of order, Mr. Chair.

Thank you for the clarification. I think it's important that you did that in public, so the public is aware of it.

**The Chair:** You cannot interrupt another member on a point of order.

**Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskij:** I am making a point of order.

You had just completed your background on what it is we're dealing with and how we've arrived at this point.

On a point of order, on your comments, Mr. Chair, I believe for further clarity it is important, now that we're in public, that the motion be read so that we know what the matter is that we're seized with in this committee.

**The Chair:** I'm sorry, you're out of order, Mr. Wrzesnewskij. We've dealt with all that. We are now in public, and the only thing that changes is that Mr. MacKenzie will now make his comments in public.

Go ahead, Mr. MacKenzie.

**Mr. Dave MacKenzie (Oxford, CPC):** Mr. Chair, with respect to what this issue is about—

[Translation]

**Mrs. Maria Mourani (Ahuntsic, BQ):** Mr. Chair, I have a point of order.

Mr. Chair, we discussed this motion in our last meeting. As you will remember, Mr. Rathgeber was talking and had finished talking.

[English]

**Mr. Phil McColeman (Brant, CPC):** A point of order, Mr. Chair.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Maria Mourani:** So we were discussing the motion and I had put my name on the list.

[English]

**Mr. Phil McColeman:** A point of order, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Ms. Mourani, I have a speakers' list. I have Mr. MacKenzie, Ms. Glover, Mr. Kania, Mr. Norlock, Ms. Mourani, and Mr. Davies on my speaking list.

We will go through that speaking list.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Maria Mourani:** Oh, we are talking about the motion.

[English]

**The Chair:** You have a point of order, Mr. McColeman.

**Mr. Phil McColeman:** I would remind the member across that we had an in camera meeting. This is totally inappropriate now that we are not in camera.

**The Chair:** Right. You cannot talk about things that were in camera.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Maria Mourani:** Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

[English]

**The Chair:** Let's have some order. Mr. MacKenzie has the floor.

**Mr. Dave MacKenzie:** Mr. Chair, first off, you were absolutely right to rule it out of order. The intent of this whole thing is to try to embarrass somebody. It has been brought here for purely partisan political reasons.

Unfortunately, the proposer of the motion obviously hasn't read the blues. What he's alleging is not in the blues. He has a different opinion of what was said there. I would like to take him back to read some of the blues, to go through what we heard from witnesses who were here. Obviously he has not done that kind of investigation.

We heard from several police officers, including Sergeant Duane Rutledge, who said:

I am disappointed that this issue has become so political in this country. I've heard the chiefs of police quoted here and also the Canadian association of professional police. To my knowledge, my members, where I'm at, were not polled by the Canadian Police Association for their viewpoint on this. Many people have been, in an attempt to muzzle them

—I would hope my colleague would listen—

from giving their full views on this issue. It's something that's uncalled for in this country. As I said, everyone should have the ability to speak their opinion

—as Ms. Glover should—

regardless of which side you stand on, and when someone says they represent someone, they should represent those people by actually polling them and getting their full views....My own chief was outspoken about this. He was scheduled to testify here, and now he's not testifying....Inflammatory remarks by members of those organizations referring to policemen who disagree with this as anonymous, donut-eating, sitting-in-the-coffeeshop police officers is uncalled for, and there's no need for it, either at this level or at the level of representing the chiefs of police or the Canadian Police Association.

That was a quote taken from Chief Blair's original letter.

I would also take the member's attention to another police officer, Mr. Jack Tinsley. He indicated the following about an article he'd written:

The article was in fact published in 1999 in the *Winnipeg Sun*. However, quite some time prior to that happening, I provided a copy to the chief of police out of courtesy, and his reply was, "I respect your opinion, but I do not agree." His reply goes on to instruct me not to associate the article in any way with the Winnipeg Police Service. Subsequently, I spent the last nine years of my career as an inspector, with the exception of a couple of months in a district in the duty office on shift work. That's about seven years longer than any other inspector that I'm aware of.

Was this being disciplined or the career suicide I had been cautioned against? That's my guess, but I said what I felt needed to be said and I've never regretted it.

Other police officers appeared before us, including Sergeant Murray Grismer, who said:

Therefore, ipso facto, I also represent the opinion of thousands of police officers across Canada who are, in my opinion, the silent majority and, for some, the silenced majority: not only police officers who have been ordered not to speak out against the long-gun registry but also officers who fear for their careers should they voice an opinion publicly in opposition to continuation of the registry or against the position adopted by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, their chief of police, or commanding officer.

Quite frankly, Chair, you are absolutely right: this committee does not have the authority or the position to deal with this kind of issue. It shouldn't have been brought here. It was done, as I said, purely for partisan political reasons in an attempt to embarrass someone.

If Chief Blair had an issue with that, I would have expected that Chief Blair, who knows quite well how to deal with these issues, would have written to the member, would have written to the party, would have written to this committee.

For the member opposite to take it upon himself to try to do this—it's just pure wrong. It's just trying to use this committee for his own personal, or his party's, reasons. I think, with all due respect, this situation is one that should never have gotten here.

● (1725)

If the other side had confidence in the chair when he made that decision...this was long gone, and I think it should have been long gone. What the member has done here now is to bring the committee into a position of some disrepute in trying to deal with these things where it has no power and no authority.

Mr. Chair, I would say to you that if you went back and read the statement from the president of the CACP, who happens to be Chief Blair, he says "every 'real cop' knows we don't approach every situation, and every citizen, with the assumption they're armed", but he does say in there the situation I referred to. They are all real cops, not the anonymous and, most likely, imaginary cop in the "donut shop". We have police officers who say they are real cops and they did not appreciate this. They didn't go to Chief Blair, to the Toronto Police Service, and ask him to retract that. They might have, but they didn't because they are bigger than that and they've moved on.

If Chief Blair has a problem, I know the chief is quite capable of bringing his issue to this committee. Why the member opposite feels the need to do that just defies logic. The end of the story is I don't know where he thinks he goes with it. This committee has no power to discipline anybody. This isn't the place for it in the first place.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

I have five speakers left on my list: Ms. Glover, Mr. Kania, Mr. Norlock, Ms. Mourani, and Mr. Davies.

Ms. Glover, please.

**Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskyj:** On a point of order, Chair—

**Mrs. Shelly Glover (Saint Boniface, CPC):** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'm pleased to speak to this—if he'll ever give me a chance.

**Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskyj:** Mr. MacKenzie said this was an attempt to discipline. It's quite clear, if you read the text, that that is not correct.

**The Chair:** You are out of order.

**Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskyj:** What it calls—

**The Chair:** That is out of order.

This meeting is adjourned.







**MAIL  POSTE**

Canada Post Corporation / Société canadienne des postes

Postage paid

Port payé

**Lettermail**

**Poste-lettre**

**1782711  
Ottawa**

*If undelivered, return COVER ONLY to:*  
Publishing and Depository Services  
Public Works and Government Services Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5

*En cas de non-livraison,  
retourner cette COUVERTURE SEULEMENT à :*  
Les Éditions et Services de dépôt  
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0S5

Published under the authority of the Speaker of  
the House of Commons

### **SPEAKER'S PERMISSION**

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its Committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the *Copyright Act*. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a Committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the *Copyright Act*.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its Committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Additional copies may be obtained from: Publishing and  
Depository Services  
Public Works and Government Services Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5  
Telephone: 613-941-5995 or 1-800-635-7943  
Fax: 613-954-5779 or 1-800-565-7757  
publications@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca  
http://publications.gc.ca

Also available on the Parliament of Canada Web Site at the  
following address: <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

Publié en conformité de l'autorité  
du Président de la Chambre des communes

### **PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT**

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

On peut obtenir des copies supplémentaires en écrivant à : Les  
Éditions et Services de dépôt  
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0S5  
Téléphone : 613-941-5995 ou 1-800-635-7943  
Télécopieur : 613-954-5779 ou 1-800-565-7757  
publications@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca  
http://publications.gc.ca

Aussi disponible sur le site Web du Parlement du Canada à  
l'adresse suivante : <http://www.parl.gc.ca>