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**Charlie Angus**

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Commissioner Mario Dion  
Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner  
Parliament of Canada  
66 Slater Street, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

By email: [info@cie.parl.gc.ca](mailto:info@cie.parl.gc.ca)

July 23, 2020

**Re: Investigation into travel fees paid for Minister Bill Morneau**

Dear Commissioner Dion,

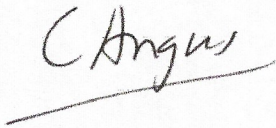
I am writing with regard to testimony presented by Finance Minister Bill Morneau at the Finance Committee on July 22, 2020, wherein he admitted that a WE entity covered significant international travel costs for him and his family. He states that they covered \$41,000 in travel-related expenses, including accommodation. WE was, of course, awarded a significant contribution agreement to administer the \$912 million Canada Student Service Grant, which Mr. Morneau's office was actively involved in promoting, and from decisions related to which he now admits he should have recused himself at stages where WE was being seriously considered.

I am equally concerned that in testimony before the committee, Mr. Morneau was asked directly if he had ever read the *Conflict of Interest Act*. His answer was vague and did not give the impression that he paid much attention to this important law. Mr. Morneau is already under investigation for failing to recuse himself from decisions related to WE over the fact that one of his daughters is employed by the charity, and that his other daughter has spoken at WE events. Mr. Morneau's revelation that he

received significant financial benefit from paid travel from a group that was seeking government funds raises this issue to another level. WE may well indeed be engaged in philanthropic work, but as in the case of the Aga Khan decision, it is plainly impermissible for a Minister of the Crown to receive financial or in-kind gifts of this nature.

I ask that you launch a second investigation into Mr. Morneau's failure to disclose these travel gifts. It is important that the complete facts of the matter are assembled and that an appropriate finding is made within the scope of the *Conflict of Interest Act's* prohibition on significant gifts to minister.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Angus". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Charlie Angus  
MP Timmins-James Bay