Re: Save the Parliamentary Budget Office

From: **bob.rae@parl.gc.ca**
Sent: April-03-13 3:12:07 PM
To: bluegreen1965@live.com

On behalf of Liberal Leader Bob Rae, I would like to thank you for taking the time to share your views regarding the retirement of Mr. Kevin Page, Canada's first Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO). Over the past five years Mr. Page has performed incredibly well at a very difficult job. Parliamentarians and, in fact, all Canadians were well served by him. The Liberal Party of Canada asked the government to extend his term until a new PBO could be found, but the Conservatives were clearly not interested in letting that happen.

The entire process of finding Mr. Page's replacement has been veiled in secrecy by the Harper Conservatives. Elected Members of Parliament in opposition parties have been told that they are not allowed to know the identities of the people who sit on the PBO search committee.

The Liberal Party of Canada has repeatedly asked the Conservative Chair of the Library Committee, Royal Galipeau, to convene a meeting so that MPs and Senators can find out how the search for a new PBO is proceeding. The committee has not met since early December and Mr. Galipeau has informed us that the committee will not meet to discuss the new PBO. He has also told us that the he will not allow Mr. Page to appear before the committee.

While Mr. Galipeau's actions are outrageous, not all Conservatives are against the PBO. Conservative backbench MPs like Brent Rathgeber have stated publicly that Canada needs a strong PBO to hold the government to account.

An effective PBO is in everyone's best interest, even the Cabinet Ministers whose departments the PBO examines. Transparency makes departments stronger over time. It is unfortunate that Stephen Harper prefers to have as few watchdogs as possible examining how he spends taxpayer money.

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Sincerely,

Colin McKone

Office of the Liberal Leader