

## **CONSERVATIVE ATTACK FLYER: A NEW LOW FOR STEPHEN HARPER**

February 16, 2010

After four years in government, Stephen Harper's "legacy" to Canadian politics will be the lowering of political civility. His modus operandi is to disseminate untruths on important issues affecting the lives of Canadians and reduce political debate to guttersniping and mudslinging opponents.

This February, Stephen Harper reached a new low in Canadian politics - not an easy achievement for a party who has accused the opposition of being anti-Semitic, pro-terrorism, and anti-troops. Last week, I and the constituents of Eglinton-Lawrence received yet another attack flyer from the Conservatives, paid for by taxpayers.

The flyer accuses me and the Liberals of supporting criminals at the expense of children. As a father of four, and grandfather of seven, imagine my shock at this new level of political assault arriving in my own home. For Stephen Harper to accuse me, a Member of Parliament who has served his community for twenty-two years and a former teacher, of deliberately exposing my children and grandchildren to the predation of criminals, is shameful!

The flyer also states the Liberals weakened laws that would protect families from dangerous products. How can anyone be so blatantly dishonest by stating I would deliberately expose my family and constituents to injurious products, or indeed prevent governments from presenting a structure, an apparatus, a process for identifying harmful products and ensuring they be removed from the marketplace?

As a Member of Her Majesty's Official Opposition, I am doing my job when asking questions and reviewing policy proposals. Stephen Harper is vilifying and attacking me and my colleagues for not rubber stamping his proposals.

The irony is that it was Stephen Harper himself that killed every piece of legislation that he accuses the Liberals of gutting when he prorogued Parliament. In fact, prorogation killed 18 bills being reviewed in Parliament under Stephen Harper's so called tough on crime agenda.

Did he think those laws were no longer worthy of debate? They were his proposals. Yet, his prorogation of Parliament erased all the work that was being done by parliamentarians, stakeholders, and interested citizens on those bills.

Moreover, Stephen Harper has not delivered on his 2006 campaign promise to provide funds for an additional 2500 police officers, nationally, to fight illicit drug distribution and other criminal activity.

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Stephen, it is time for you to start debating your colleagues in the opposition honestly. Your type of politics is beneath the office of the Prime Minister of Canada.

To my constituents, the next time you get an unsolicited attack flyer from the Conservatives consider the source. Sadly it's coming from your Prime Minister.

The Hon. Joe Volpe, P.C., M.P.  
Eglinton-Lawrence