



For Immediate Release
June 10, 2014

Conservatives Caught Misdirecting Voters to Wrong Polling Stations

Elections complaint filed – Evidence of Potentially Systemic Attempt to Deceive Voters

(London) A Harper Conservative, possibly directed by the Hudak PC Campaign, appears to have been caught engaging in an elaborate campaign to provide incorrect voting location information to non-PC voters. Liberals have filed an urgent complaint with Elections Ontario.

Yesterday, Ontario Liberal supporters in the riding of London North Centre received a letter in an envelope that had no return address, instructing them to vote at *Ridgeview Community Church* located at 1470 Glenora Drive in London. This is the incorrect voting location for voters like Ms. Miriam Hamou who received a letter. *Ridgeview Community Church* is 4.3 km in the opposite direction from her home.

The letter was apparently signed by Tim Gatten, a paid staff person for Susan Truppe, the Federal Conservative MP for London North Centre.

At least one other person in that same neighbourhood – in the same poll – received the identical letter. Both homes had Liberal lawn signs.

The correct voting location for Ms. Miriam Hamou is Ryerson Public School at 940 Waterloo Street which is a significantly shorter and a more direct drive.

This is the second time this year that conservatives have been caught utilizing virtually identical letters that provide incorrect information to non-PC voters regarding where to vote. In the Niagara Falls by-election last February, the letter authorized by the PC campaign directed voters to an incorrect location that was a 15 minute drive from the proper polling location.

At the time, PC Party spokesman Alan Sakach claimed that the oddly worded letter was just an "administrative error." (*CKTB Radio, February 12, 2014*)

The incidents are eerily similar to the Harper Conservatives' robocall scandal currently before the courts in Guelph.

"Misdirecting voters is wrong. What are the odds that nearly the exact same personal letters, one from Niagara Falls and one from London, would both be sent to identified

Liberal voters, directing them to the wrong polling stations,” said London North Centre Liberal candidate Deb Matthews.

“We know that the Hudak PCs authored one of the misleading letters, and now a Harper Conservative has been caught signing an almost identical misleading letter,” said Matthews. “That’s why the Ontario Liberal Party has filed an official complaint with Elections Ontario regarding the letters and requested a full investigation.”

Ontario’s *Elections Act* imposes fines of up to \$25,000 and two years less a day in prison for anyone caught trying to stop Ontarians from voting.

In Ontario it is illegal to:

- Impede or attempt to stop a citizen from voting by providing false information directly or indirectly, such as providing voters with incorrect information on the polling station where they would be voting in a provincial election
- Impersonate an agent or representative of Elections Ontario, a provincial candidate, or a representative of a candidate, political party or constituency association
- Direct or hire someone or a company to commit the above offences.

Ontarians should only rely upon official communications from Elections Ontario in order to know where to vote.

-30-

For further information:

Ontario Liberal Party
(416) 230-2084