

2011-03-12 – Comment – The Harper Government

The Harper Government

Stephen Harper has dictated that all federal departments, boards, agencies and commissions replace the phrase “Government of Canada” with “The Harper Government”. This is extraordinary, and is an affront to all Canadians. Does this mean that the word “Canada” is too offensive to the Conservatives? Does Stephen Harper somehow now believe that our government no longer belongs to Canada, but is his own personal fiefdom? With “Harper” now to be used at all times instead of “Canada”, what is next? Harper’s face on the \$5 bill? (It is already blue after all.) Will Tim Horton’s now become Tim **Harper’s**?

It is an affront to all Canadians. Ordering that all references to “Government of Canada” be changed, replacing the word “Canada” with the Prime Minister's own name, is an extraordinary example of the level of control that Harper is now exerting. This order, suggesting that OUR government does not, in fact, belong to Canadians, but somehow belongs to Harper personally, in my view violates Treasury Board Communications Policy, Federal Identity Program Policy, the *Conflict of Interest Act* and the *Conflict of Interest Code* for Members of Parliament. And it should offend all Canadians.