

Allegation of Non-confidence in the Leadership of Annamie Paul

Whereas:

The GPC Constitution, Appendix A, Participatory Democracy, requires “that all elected representatives are committed to transparency, truthfulness and accountability in governance”; and

The GPC Constitution requires that the party leader act as an active, contributing member of Federal Council, equal to other members of Federal Council; and

The GPC Federal Council Code of Conduct requires that councillors, including the leader, are required to hold the party’s interests above their individual self-interest, to not use insulting, harassing or offensive behaviour, to not act in a way that brings the party into disrepute, to always act to the highest ethical standards and to conduct themselves honestly and in a spirit of collegiality, valuing the opinions of other councillors and seeking common ground; and

The GPC Member Code of Conduct prohibits any member, including the leader or their staff, from degrading, undermining, working against or permitting attacks on party MPs.

And whereas:

Since her election as leader, Annamie Paul has acted with an autocratic attitude of hostility, superiority and rejection, failing to assume her duty to be an active, contributing, respectful, attentive member of Federal Council, failing to develop a collaborative working relationship, failing to engage in respectful discussions, and failing to use dialogue and compromise. She has attended few council meetings, and when in attendance, has displayed anger in long, repetitive, aggressive monologues and has failed to recognize the value of any ideas except her own, acting in a manner not in compliance with the leader’s role and responsibilities as outlined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Codes of Conduct of the Green Party of Canada; and

Annamie Paul has rejected transparency stating that “transparency is not the way to go” to a staff meeting on June 11; and

Annamie Paul misrepresented her relationship with caucus to the media, claiming that there was a good relationship when in fact Annamie’s relationship with Caucus is hostile, autocratic and dismissive. She has ignored caucus efforts to communicate, placed a gag order on Caucus, preventing them from talking to the media and from correcting false information, stated to staff on June 11 that MP Jenica Atwin’s statement of approved policy was an “attack on the authority of the leader”, ignored caucus concerns, and treated caucus in ways that any reasonable person would know to be unwelcome; and

Annamie specifically placed a gag order on the MPs, but allowed her senior advisor to talk freely and repeatedly to the media, publishing false information that degraded and undermined the MPs; and

Annamie Paul has failed to protect and support GPC MPs. She has brought the party into disrepute and degraded, undermined and worked against its MPs by issuing an incorrect press statement against the advice of GPC MPs and permitting her chief advisor, Noah Zatzman, to then engage in character assassination of GPC MPs in the media. Subsequently Annamie Paul:

- failed to intervene,
- failed to stop her advisor's further attacks,
- failed to refute her advisor's words to the media or to party members,
- failed to apologize to MPs for the damage done to their reputations and their ability to serve their constituents,
- stated that Green MP Jenica Atwin was "not worth a phone call from me",
- stated that "Zatzman is my friend" (June 11),
- not admitted her part in MP Jenica Atwin's departure from the GPC; and

Annamie Paul misrepresented her actions to the media, failing to admit that her own failure to stop her staff from attacking MPs was the direct cause of all actions by MP Jenica Atwin; and that she herself had plenty of time to respond to MP Jenica Atwin before taking her own personal leave of absence but chose not to respond; and that she failed to attend all caucus meetings except one during the Zatzman crisis; and that when MP Jenica Atwin asked why her messages had not been answered, Annamie Paul replied "I got your messages; I just did not want to talk to you."

And whereas:

Annamie Paul has developed a personal reputation for dishonesty which gives opposition parties the ability to compromise her election and which harms the reputation of the GPC and the GPC's ability to elect candidates and to re-elect MPs; and

Members are openly calling for the leader, Annamie Paul, to step down, citing a failure of the leader to lead; and

Federal councillors have been inundated by calls to take action on this immediately. Over 2000 letters have been received from GPC members concerned about her actions or demanding the resignation or removal of leader; and

General donations have declined, and significant numbers of monthly donors have cancelled their donations citing the leader's recent behaviour as the reason; and

Candidates and EDA officers have resigned, citing the leader's actions and behaviour as the reason.

Therefore be it resolved that since Annamie Paul has damaged the interests of the GPC, brought the party into disrepute, and is in violation of the GPC Constitution, Bylaws, Members Code of Conduct and the Federal Council Code of Conduct, this Federal Council has lost confidence in Annamie Paul's leadership of the GPC and puts a motion of non-confidence to the members in General Meeting and through a leadership review.

Chronology of the Character Assassination of Green MPs

April and May – MP Jenica Atwin actively building her green re-election campaign and had no impetus to leave the party.

May 10 – Caucus meeting with Annamie Paul in which Annamie insisted on issuing a public statement which contravened party approved policy even though the MPs advised her of the mistake.

May 11 – MPs Jenica Atwin and Paul Manly publicly confirmed their commitment to party approved policy.

May 14 – Zatzman publicly attacks Green MPs.

May 14 – MP Jenica Atwin phoned and emailed Annamie Paul, asking and then begging for Annamie to refute her staff's attacks, but received no response.

May 16 – Party corrected policy statement to bring it into line with approved policy.

May 16 – Attacks on Green MPs escalated, still without response from Annamie Paul.

May 17 – Jenica Atwin reached out to the Liberal party.

May 19 – Annamie's mother collapsed. Annamie unavailable for some days.

May 26 – Annamie attended caucus meeting. When MP Jenica Atwin asked why Annamie had not returned her messages, Annamie stated "I got your messages; I just did not want to talk to you."

May 29 – Zatzman statement to CBC exempting one MP from the attack but conspicuously refusing to exempt MP Jenica Atwin and MP Paul Manly.

Annamie's staff speak about "Cleaning out the party" and "no regrets".

Annamie's staff reveal that they have been given specific instruction not to respond to questions put to her and her chief of staff by the GPC Chief Agent (the employer) regarding a communication relating to the employment of her advisor, Noah Zatzman.

June 9 – MP Jenica Atwin announced her departure from the GPC, clearly stating that her departure is due to the actions of Annamie Paul.