

Office of the Ethics Commissioner Bureau du commissaire à l'éthique

MARCH 2007

THE OBHRAI INQUIRY

pursuant to the CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS











Report made pursuant to a self-initiated inquiry in relation to Mr Deepak Obhrai, M.P.

Bernard J. Shapiro

THE OBHRAI INQUIRY

pursuant to the CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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66, rue Slater Street 22^e étage / 22nd Floor OTTAWA, ONTARIO CANADA K1A 0A6

March 30, 2007

The Honourable Peter Milliken, M.P. Speaker of the House of Commons House of Commons Room 328-N, Centre Block Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Further to the information provided by the Honourable Joseph Volpe, Member for Eglinton-Lawrence, please find attached, for tabling in the House of Commons, my report pursuant to the inquiry that was self-initiated by me in accordance with subsection 27(4) of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*, with respect to Mr. Deepak Obhrai, Member for Calgary East.

As I concluded that there was no contravention of the Code by the Member for Calgary East, the report is provided pursuant to subsection 28(4) of the Members' Code.

Cordially,

Bernard J. Shapiro Ethics Commissioner

Attachment

c.c. Mr. Deepak Obhrai, M.P.
The Honourable Joseph Volpe, P.C., M.P.

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THE OBHRAI INQUIRY

On May 10, 2005, I received a letter (dated May 9, 2005) from the Honourable Joseph Volpe, the Member of Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence. He provided me with several documents, including two signed affidavits, which suggested that Mr. Deepak Obhrai, Member of Parliament for Calgary East, may have contravened the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons* (the Code). Specifically, it was suggested that Mr. Obhrai: i) had entered into agreements in which he had been remunerated for assisting his sister-in-law and her family to immigrate to Canada; ii) had subsequently coerced his sister-in-law's husband to return to India; and, iii) had accepted gifts in return for assisting other persons with immigration matters. Mr. Volpe wrote: "I leave it to you to conduct your investigation as you see fit."

Mr. Volpe indicated that a copy of his letter had been sent to the Honourable Stephen Harper, then Leader of the Opposition. A copy of Mr. Volpe's letter is included in Appendix III. A full list of the allegations as set out in the documents provided by Mr. Volpe, as well as the documents themselves, are included in Appendix IV.

The documents outlining the allegations, which included two affidavits and two letters, appeared to have been originally made during the lead-up to the 2004 federal general election by Mr. Obhrai's brother-in-law, Mr. Aman Anand. They thus predated the existence of the MP Code, which came into effect on October 4, 2004. The allegations surfaced again in the Spring of 2005. While the allegations were serious and the documents provided by Mr. Volpe included affidavits suggesting that Mr. Anand had direct knowledge of serious breaches of the MP Code by Mr. Obhrai, it should be stressed that the Code has no *retroactive* effect. However, my inquiries can be *retrospective*, if the allegations referred to related to the conduct which would have continued beyond October 4, 2004. Since the issue of whether Mr. Volpe had specifically requested an inquiry arose, in order to remove any ambiguity in this regard, based upon the information available, I concluded there were reasonable grounds to believe a breach of the Code may have occurred. As a consequence, I instituted an inquiry.

Sections 8 and 9 of the Code deal with the circumstances under which Members perform their parliamentary duties and functions and in which they may use their positions to influence the decisions of others. Section 14(1) of the Code deals with the receipt of gifts and benefits by Members of the House of Commons. These sections of the Code are reproduced in Appendix VI.

Two days after receiving the documentation from Mr. Volpe, I met with Mr. Obhrai at his request on May 12, 2005. Mr. Obhrai indicated that he was aware of the allegations made against him and we discussed them in some detail. He told me that the allegations were entirely false and were the result of a family dispute. He explained that his sister-in-law, Mrs. Laxmi Anand, had moved to Canada from India with her husband, Mr. Aman Anand, and their two sons in 2003. While in Canada, the family had split. One of the sons had returned to India to study in early 2004. Mr. Anand had returned to India in April 2004, while his wife and their other son remained in Canada. Mr. Obhrai indicated that Mr. Anand was attempting to coerce Mrs. Anand into returning to India with their son and that he was trying to blackmail her via these allegations levelled against Mr. Obhrai. Mr. Obhrai indicated that Mrs. Anand could

corroborate this. In fact, he explained that she had flown into Ottawa from Calgary and would be available to speak with me. A formal interview with Mrs. Anand took place May 14.

In May and June 2005 Mr. Obhrai provided my Office with several documents as well as a taped recording of a telephone conversation which both he and Mrs. Anand identified as being between Mrs. Anand and Mr. Anand. It appeared to corroborate Mr. Obhrai's claim that the allegations resulted from a family dispute. During the taped conversation, it appears that Mr. Anand denies outright having given money to Mr. Obhrai. Mr. Anand also suggests the allegation documents were prepared by another relative of Mr. Obhrai's living in Calgary. It soon became evident from these conversations that Mr. Anand appeared willing to retract all the allegations in exchange for the return of his wife and youngest child to India.

In order to assess the reliability and trustworthiness of the information obtained from both Mr. Volpe and Mr. Obhrai, my Office interviewed several witnesses in Ottawa and Calgary and, in the Fall of 2005, my Office was also able to interview Mr. Anand, in Chittorgarh, India. A full list of the witnesses interviewed for this Inquiry appears in Appendix II.

My inquiries confirmed that Mr. Anand and his family came to Canada in September 2003 on Temporary Resident Permits. Within months of their arrival, relations between Mr. Anand and his wife, on one hand, and Mr. Anand and the Obhrai family, on the other, deteriorated. In two separate instances police were called in to respond to domestic disturbances. As a result of the second instance, Mrs. Anand applied for and was granted an Ex Parte Restraining Order on March 30, 2004. That Order was set to be reviewed on April 15, 2004. On April 7, 2004 Mr. Anand returned to India. His spouse and one of his two sons remained in Canada. His second son had returned to India in early 2004.

During formal interviews with Mr. Anand in the presence of his lawyer, Mr. Anand volunteered that he had paid money to Mr. Obhrai. However, my Office's discussions with Mr. Anand also bear out Mr. Obhrai's assertion that Mr. Anand's overriding concern was the return of his wife and youngest child to India. During his interview, Mr. Anand repeatedly indicated that his only concern was to secure the return of his family to India. When it became clear that my Office could not help him in this regard he chose to cease cooperating with my Office. He refused to put his statements in an affidavit or to provide further evidence.

When asked to comment specifically on an affidavit apparently signed by him, Mr. Anand refused. Mr. Anand's lawyer indicated that Mr. Obhrai had filed a complaint in Chittorgarh in relation to this document and that local police were currently investigating. It should be noted that validity of the affidavit is questionable. There appears to be no notary practicing in Chittorgarh by the name "Daljit Singh Chadha", whose name appears on the affidavit. This was confirmed by Mr. Anand's own lawyer and corroborated by a lawyer acting on my behalf, who spoke with lawyers at the District Courts of Chittorgarh to confirm this fact.

In his interview, Mr. Anand stated that he had enjoyed a good relationship with Mr. Obhrai until the end of December 2003 or early January 2004, when the relationship became bitter. However, he added: "I did not get any threats from Mr. Obhrai." Mr. Anand left Canada in April of 2004 and did not return subsequently.

During this same interview, Mr. Anand repeated his allegation that Mr. Obhrai had accepted free liquor in exchange for helping constituents in relation to immigration matters. However, his allegations were only made in relation to events that would have allegedly taken place before the Code came into effect on October 4, 2004.

In connection with the allegations related to the Anands' immigration to Canada, Mr. Obhrai's spouse, Neena Obhrai, had communicated with my Office indicating that Mr. Obhrai was not involved in any way with the Anands' immigration file. With Mr. Anand's consent, we were able to obtain portions of some documents in Mr. Anand's immigration file. There was no indication from these documents that Mr. Obhrai had been involved in the file. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain the consent of Mrs. Anand, and were therefore unable to corroborate this matter further.

On October 24, 2005, this inquiry was suspended following formal notification from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) that they were also investigating the allegations made against Mr. Obhrai, as contained in the documents they had received from Mr. Volpe. The suspension of the inquiry was done in accordance with section 29(1)(b)(i) of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*.

On January 31, 2007, the RCMP informed my Office that: "The investigation in reference to the criminal allegations made against Mr. OBHRAI are insufficient to support Criminal or Federal Statute charges in relation to this matter." This permitted me to resume the inquiry process, which had, at the time of suspension, reached the point of preparing a report to be issued as required pursuant to section 28(1) of the Code.

Among the allegations contained in the documents forwarded to me by Mr. Volpe (Appendix IV), three do not fall within my jurisdiction. **Allegations #3 and #7** fall within the jurisdiction the Board of Internal Economy of the House of Commons. Section 6 of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons* states that: "Nothing in this Code affects the jurisdiction of the Board of Internal Economy of the House of Commons to determine the propriety of the use of any funds, goods, services or premises made available to Members for carrying out their parliamentary duties and functions." **Allegation # 6** also does not fall within the scope of the Code. As a result, I have not pursued these matters further.

Allegation #1 suggests that Mr. Obhrai acted in his official capacity to assist Mr. Anand and his family to immigrate to Canada and that he requested, agreed to accept and/or received a payment for this service. In examining this allegation, my Office has had to rely solely on interviews with cooperative witnesses and taped evidence provided to my Office by Mr. Obhrai himself. The evidence available of Mr. Anand, as it particularly relates to this allegation, is contradictory, unreliable and inconclusive. As a consequence, I have concluded that this allegation is not supported by the evidence. As well, it is clear from the information gathered that there was no evidence indicating that the alleged activity would have continued beyond October 4, 2004, which would mean that it would not have fallen within the parameters of the MP Code.

Allegations #2 and #8 suggest that Mr. Obhrai coerced Mr. Anand into leaving Canada. In addition to the contradictory and unreliable nature of Mr. Anand's evidence, it is worth noting, as I have already indicated, that he testified that he was not under threat to either return or,

subsequently, to remain in India. As a consequence, I have concluded that these allegations are not supported by the evidence.

Although Mr. Anand repeated this allegation when interviewed, his testimony, as I have already indicated, was both contradictory and unreliable. In addition, as noted above, it relates to events which would have taken place before Mr. Anand's departure from Canada in April 2004, a time prior to the MP Code coming into force (i.e., October 4, 2004). For these reasons, I have concluded that this allegation is not supported by the evidence available.

Allegations #5 and #9 again relate to the claim that Mr. Obhrai improperly helped the Anand family immigrate to Canada. However, they do not make any claim to the effect that Mr. Obhrai requested, agreed to accept or received a payment in exchange for doing so. Nonetheless, they suggest that Mr. Obhrai "improperly" furthered the interests of the Anand family by making or supporting false claims on their behalf. The only evidence in support of these allegations was that of Mr. Anand, which has been found to be contradictory and unreliable. As well, no additional information or evidence indicates that this alleged conduct continued or occurred following the coming into force of the MP Code. Accordingly, I have concluded that this allegation is not supported by the evidence.

A NOTE ON PROCESS

On September 26, 2005, Mr. Obhrai raised a question of privilege in the House of Commons, citing several concerns related to the process followed in this investigation. As I could not comment on an ongoing inquiry, I was unable to publicly address those concerns at the time. I am now able to do so.

Mr. Obhrai suggested that I had failed to observe two sections of the Code. These were section 27(7), which requires me to conduct my inquiries in private, and section 27(4), which requires me to give the Member involved reasonable written notice of a decision to initiate an inquiry.

In regards to section 27(7), Mr. Obhrai's concerns relate to the following statements attributed to me by Jack Aubry of the Ottawa Citizen: "I have some material that suggests something inappropriate was happening. If true, it seemed worth looking into. If untrue, it will turn out not to be." As I indicated in my testimony before the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (PROC) of the House of Commons in October and November 2005, my intent had been merely to confirm that an inquiry was indeed ongoing. In hindsight, however, I understand that my comments were somewhat ambiguous and open to misinterpretation. In the future, therefore, I will limit my media comments in relation to any inquiry to a simple and clear confirmation that an inquiry is proceeding and nothing else.

As for Mr. Obhrai's claim that I failed to observe section 27(4), I can say that Mr. Obhrai was aware from the very outset as to how the matter was progressing. As indicated above, Mr. Obhrai and Mrs. Anand cooperated closely with my Office from the time Mr. Volpe first brought these allegations to my attention. Indeed, two (2) days after I received the documents alleging violations of the MP Code from Minister Volpe, Mr. Obhrai informed me personally that he was aware of the allegations contained in the documents. I received further

documentation from Mr. Obhrai and Mrs. Anand in May and June. During this time Mr. Obhrai was being informed on a regular basis of how the inquiry was progressing.

In late May, my Office had begun searching for a lawyer in India who would be able to interview Mr. Anand if necessary. My Office attempted to contact both Mr. Obhrai and Mrs. Anand on July 6, 2005 to update them on these developments, request additional documents and discuss the possibility of having a lawyer working on our behalf in India liaise with Mr. Obhrai's own lawyer there. Although, Mrs. Anand agreed to send some documents which we had requested earlier, she refused to cooperate further with my Office, asking that we refrain from contacting her in the future. Mr. Obhrai did not return three messages left at his constituency office. Instead, I received a letter from him on July 14, 2005 questioning my decision to hire a lawyer in India. He requested that my Office not talk to any of his family members and that our Office limit the scope of our investigation to the allegation dealing with the Anand family's immigration to Canada. In addition, he asked that our final report be released only to the then Leader of the Opposition, himself and Mr. Volpe.

On July 26, 2005 Mr. Obhrai sent me a letter raising doubts as to whether this inquiry had, in fact, been specifically requested by Mr. Volpe. As the above indicates, until then, both my Office and Mr. Obhrai had proceeded on the understanding that Mr. Volpe had requested this inquiry. However, in order to remove any ambiguity in regards to process, I decided to pursue the matter further through my self-initiation power. Mr. Obhrai was informed accordingly on August 4, 2005. The Speaker of the House of Commons was informed in writing in anticipation of the resumption of Parliament on September 29, 2005. The relevant documentation is included in Appendix V to this Report.

While I was encouraged by the initial openness and cooperation being extended by Mr. Obhrai, it appears that in our efforts to keep Mr. Obhrai informed regarding the inquiry process, he grew apprehensive and unfortunately declined to cooperate any further with my Office. The withdrawal of Mr. Obhrai's cooperation was regrettable as his continued, cooperation may have expedited my ability to conclude the inquiry and issue this Report. However, in order to assess the reliability and trustworthiness of the information contained in the documents received from Mr. Volpe, my Office interviewed Mr. Obhrai's brother-in-law, Mr. Anand, the individual who purportedly made all of the allegations. As a consequence of the information gathered and the testimony provided, I am able to conclude two things. First, there was no credible evidence in support of the allegations. Second, there was no evidence to indicate that the allegations relate to conduct that would have occurred on or after October 4, 2004 or would have been initiated before then and extended up to or past that date.

APPENDIX I - Costs

Aside from the costs represented in the time and effort of the staff in the Office of the Ethics Commissioner, there were additional costs, primarily for travel and professional services, involved in conducting this inquiry. All of these costs have been or will be absorbed by the budget of the Office of the Ethics Commissioner, but for the general interest of readers of this report, they are listed below:

Investigation expense report

LAWYER FROM INDIA	AMOUNT
Jatinder Cheema ESQ	\$ 32,633.78
TRAVEL	AMOUNT
Director of Executive Affairs and Advisor interviews in Calgary	\$ 4,402.00
COURT REPORTING	AMOUNT
Cornell Catana Reporting	\$ 1,270.61
SHIPPING	AMOUNT
UPS Courier	\$ 88.42
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	AMOUNT
Receiver General	\$ 47.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 38,441.81

APPENDIX II - Witnesses Interviewed

Conversation with the Honourable Joseph Volpe P.C., M.P.

Conversation with Mr. Deepak Obhrai P.C., M.P.

Mrs. Laxmi Anand, sister-in-law of Mr. Obhrai, and Akshay Anand, son of Mrs. Laxmi Anand

Mr. James Maxim, Liberal candidate in Calgary East, running against Mr. Obhrai, in the 2004 federal election

Mr. Joseph Alexander, friend of Mr. Aman Anand

Ms. Sunita Dhoopar, younger sister of Mrs. Neena Obhrai

Mr. Subhash Dhoopar, husband of Ms. Sunita Dhoopar

Mr. Aman Anand, estranged husband of Mr. Laxmi Anand

APPENDIX III - Mr. Volpe's letter

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration



Ministre de la Citoyenneté et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

CONFIDENTIAL

May 9, 2005

Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Ethics Commissioner Office of the Ethics Commissioner 66 Slater Street, 22nd Floor Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H1

Fax: (613) 995-7308

Dear Dr. Shapiro:

I am writing to you today to forward to you two unsolicited affidavits I have received with respect to a fellow Member of Parliament, Mr. Deepak Obhrai, the Member for Calgary East.

I believe the affidavits are self-explanatory, and I leave it to you to conduct your investigation as you see fit. I have informed Mr. Obhrai I would be taking this step, and I further informed him I would not be going public with these affidavits.

I am also forwarding these to the Commissioner of the RCMP, and I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Joseph Volpe,

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

cc. The Hon. Stephen Harper, Leader of the Opposition

APPENDIX IV – The allegations and the three documents listing them

The affidavit of June 23, 2004 contained two allegations:

- 1. That Mr. Obhrai asked for \$40,000 to assist Mr. Anand and his family to immigrate to Canada. It further alleges that two payments, the first in Indian rupees and the second in Canadian dollars, were made by Mr. Anand to Mr. Obhrai, totalling about \$36,000.
- 2. That Mr. Anand was "forced" to leave Canada by Mr. Obhrai.

The letter from May 27, 2004 contained six allegations:

- 3. That Mr. Obhrai allowed relatives to travel under his and his family's name on VIA Rail from Edmonton to Toronto in the second week of July, 2000.
- 4. That Mr. Obhrai received "truck loads" of free liquor from store owners in Calgary, in exchange for helping their family members with immigration issues.
- 5. That Mr. Obhrai helped Aman Anand and his family immigrate to Canada by falsely claiming that Mr. Anand's wife Laxmi Anand would be hired to work in a seniors' home.
- 6. That Mr. Obhrai's family members have trafficked in marijuana.
- 7. That Mr. Obhrai employed Laxmi Anand in his constituency office, and that she was not a permanent resident at the time.
- 8. That Mr. Obhrai forced Mr. Anand to leave Canada by using threats and intimidation after Mr. Anand converted to Christianity.

The letter from on June 18, 2004 contained one allegation:

9. That Mrs. Anand's work permit was arranged on false pretences with the assistance of Mr. Obhrai. According to Mr. Anand, papers filed by Mr. Obhrai indicated that Laxmi Anand had volunteered at a seniors' home in Chittorgarh, where she lived before coming to Canada, and that this claim is false.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Aman Anand son of late Mr. Satpai Anand resident of 62 A Pratap Nagar, Chiltorgarh, Rajasthan do solemniy agree and declare as under;

 That I met Mr. Deepak Obhrai, MP for Calgary in New Delhi during his visit to India in Nov / Dec 2002 in his hotel in Karol Bach, Delhi.

2. That I am related to Deepak Obhrai through marriage. Her wife and

my wife are sisters.

 That Deepak Obhrai MP suggested that he can help us getting immigration to Canada for the whole family and charge us \$40,000 for this whole case.

4. That I paid him Rs.500,000 cash to him in the presence of Mr. Ajay of Delhi as part payment of the deal and he arranged the ministerial permit for us to enter Canada and we came to Canada in September 2003.

 That after reaching Canada, he arranged to file application for permanent residence for my wife and kids and asked me to pay the

difference of agreed amount.

6. That when my relations got spoiled, he forced me to leave Canada and before leaving Canada, I withdrew \$21000 from my bank and paid him \$20,000 and his people escorted me to the airport and ensured that I had left.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it has the same force and affect as if made under path.

Declared before me in Chittorgarh On 23rd June 2004

Bhe do

(Aman Anand)

DALITSINGH CHADHA CHITTORGARH
RIGH No. 2322

aman anand

62 A Pratap Nagar Chittorgarh - 312001 Rajasthan, India Tel: 91-1472-240386 91-1472-243886 91-9828140387

May 27, 2004

The Prime Minister
Government of Canada
Ottawa.

Honorable Sir:

Re: Abuse of Privileges by Mr. Deepak Obhrai, MP, Calgary East

I would like to bring the following few examples of abuse of privileges by Mr. Deepak Obhrai, MP, Calgary East of which I have been a witness:

- 1. Mr. Obhrai has personally obliged visiting relatives (three) from India to travel on his and his family's name on VIA Rail from Edmonton to Toronto and from Toronto to Ottawa in 2nd week of July 2000 (when Mr. Stock well Day was elected leader of Canadian Alliance), while he himself traveled on Air Canada with his wife on the same day to Toronto from Calgary.
- 2. Mr. Obhrai has been receiving truck loads of liquor (free) from following liquor stores against the help provided in the immigration of their family members:
 a) D.J.Liquor Store, Mayland's Heights, Calgary
 b) Bow Liquor Store, Bowness, Calgary
 (The recent supplies are as recent as December 2003 to February 2004)
- 3. Mr. Obhrai obtained Minister's Work permit from New Delhi office for family of four (his sister in law's family) on the promise of hiring his sister in law in their new project to start old people's home called APNA GHAR. The fact is the sister in law is 11th grade from India and does not have any formal education, knowledge or experience in managing a senior citizen's home. These people reached Canada

on 11 September 2003 and have been working petty jobs, piece work with different work places.

4. Through Mr. Obhrai's own family members drug (Marijuana) deals were made on personal cell phone # (403) 874 5722 and personal home phone number (403) 293 5677 during Oct - Nov 2003 evenings.

5. Mr. Obhrai employed his family member (sister in law Mrs. Laxmi Anand) in his constituency office in Calgary since her arrival in Canada although she is not a permanent resident of Canada.

6. Mrs. & Mr. Obhrai and his family has persecuted me when I changed my faith to Christianity and they have forced me to leave Canada in first week of May 2004 and still threatening my mother for the safety of my life and my family's life. And also interfering my family and have separated my wife and one child. People who have tried to help my stay in Calgary have been severely warned by the Obhrai family.

I have many witnesses in Calgary who will verify my persecution by Mr Obhrai & his family.

I am sure your good office will investigate the matter and put an end to such abuse of privileges being exercised by Mr. Deepak Obhrai, MP, Calgary East.

Yours truly,

Aman Anand

Honorable Minister
Mrs. Judy Sagro
Minister of Immigration & Citizenship
Canada

Dear Madam;

Sub; To stop processing files of permanent residence, of my both sons my wife.

Madam, Mr. Deepak oblimi member of parliament cast Calgary & his family visited India & my home town last year deepak & his wife sometited us to get start business in Canada & make a deal to get grant us visa immitiately my family was very well doing here but Deepak showed us false dreams of Canada.

In Karol bagh hotel new Delhi Deepak took money to help us to file all the immigration papers for work permit by the name of laxmi Anand my wife mine[Aman Anand[4] my two sons

In Karol bagh hotel new Delhi Deepak tool money to help us to file all the immigration papers for work permit by the name of laxmi Anand my wife mine Aman Anand my two sons. Dhaman Akshay on student permit laxmi Anand is only grade 11 passed & had no other qualification or experience of senior care etc. what ever documents were filed at Delhi office were made false, there is no siniour care home even in a littorgarh deepak misused his power of m.p. & get us granted is a without taking HRDC approval, we came to Canada on 11. ep. 2003 after few months Deepak & his wife Neena started asking more money from me & by trick they get filed our permanent residence file as our commitment was of permanent res. in Canada, but mean while they refused to give us job to my wife in senior care home so after a while it was becoming hard to service in Canada with my family four people so my son Dhaman Anand came back to India on saril 2004.

As laxmi Anand & my sons applied for permanent residence is. 'Vagraville on the humanitarian and compassionate ground & all these papers are also does not make truth as my son is in India &

Total 4 PAGES

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Neens attached paper that she is going to start IndoX musdian senior thoulity which is going to start on jan2004.

Deepak is asking for more to get P.R. soon illegally going beyond the rules of Causdian Govt. using his power & influence but I request you to stop all processing & return my processing fee of Laxmi Anand Akahay Anand to my India address on get deposited to my Sectia bank se-sheqing Monatery Park brance Calgary. Please cancel the work permit of Laxmi Anand & student permit of Akahay as both are alone in Canada & I am seared of Doopak & Neena for my wife & son Deepak & Neena are missing Laxmi & taking false affidavits so please depot them as soon as possible & take action against Deepak.

Aman Anand 62-A Pratap Nagar Chittergath-312001 India Phone-91-1472-240386 91-1472-243886 Curs Truly

Arran Anand

APPENDIX V - Dr. Shapiro's letter of August 4, 2005 launching the inquiry

PROTECTED - PERSONAL INFORMATION

August 4, 2005

Mr. Deepak Obhrai Member of Parliament for Calgary East Room 685, Confederation Building Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Obhrai:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 2005, and for raising with me your concerns surrounding this inquiry.

My letter of July 18, 2005 was perhaps not entirely clear in referring to this Inquiry as having been initiated at the request of Minister Volpe. In handing over to me certain documents in his possession, Minister Volpe did not specifically request that I conduct an inquiry into the allegations contained within them. Rather, following receipt of Minister Volpe's letter and attachments, including a signed affidavit, my office reviewed the aforementioned documents and, in accordance with the powers granted to me under section 27 (4) of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*, I decided to proceed with an inquiry into this matter.

As I have noted earlier, I understand that this process has been difficult for both you and your family and I appreciate your and your family member's cooperation to date. However, as you can imagine, conducting an inquiry of this kind involves a comprehensive gathering of information that will include the collection of numerous documents and the interviewing of a number of witnesses. As such, my office will be in touch with you shortly on several matters. I hope that we can continue to be able to rely on your cooperation and assistance.

Cordially,

Bernard J. Shapiro Ethics Commissioner

APPENDIX V - Dr. Shapiro's letter of September 23, 2005 informing the Speaker

PROTECTED – PERSONAL INFORMATION

September 23, 2005

Honourable Peter Milliken, M.P. Speaker of the House of Commons House of Commons K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Following the review of information brought to my attention by the Honourable Member for Eglinton-Lawrence, I wish to inform you that I am conducting, on my own initiative, pursuant to section 27(4) of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*, an inquiry in relation to the Honourable Member for Calgary-East.

In a letter dated August 23, 2005, I provided the Member for Calgary-East written notice of the principal focus of the inquiry.

In the past, when I had informed you regarding an inquiry initiated at the request of a Member, I brought to your attention that subsection 27(5) of the Members' Code provides that:

"Once a request for an inquiry has been made to the Ethics Commissioner, Members should respect the process established by this Code and permit it to take place without commenting further on the matter".

As the present inquiry was not initiated at the request of a member but instead has been self-initiated by me, pursuant to subsection 27(4) of the Code, I leave it to your interpretation whether the requirements of subsection 27(5) – Members refrain from commenting - also apply to self-initiated inquiries undertaken as per section 27(4) of the Members' Code.

I am enclosing a copy of the written notice provided to the Member for Calgary-East in order that you, as Speaker of the House, will be at liberty to assess whether potential issues raised in the House may relate to this inquiry.

Cordially,

Bernard J. Shapiro Ethics Commissioner

APPENDIX VI - Sections 8, 9 and 14(1) of the **Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons**

Furthering private interests.

8. When performing parliamentary duties and functions, a Member shall not act in any way to further his or her private interests or those of a member of the Member's family, or to improperly further another person's private interests.

Favoritisme.

Using influence.

9. A Member shall not use his or her position as a Member to influence a decision of another person so as to further the Member's private interests or those of a member of his or her family, or to improperly further another person's private interests.

9. Le député ne peut se prévaloir de sa charge pour influencer la décision Influence. d'une autre personne de façon à favoriser ses intérêts personnels ou ceux d'un membre de sa famille ou encore, d'une façon indue, ceux de toute autre personne.

8. Le député ne peut, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions parlementaires,

agir de façon à favoriser ses intérêts personnels ou ceux d'un membre de

sa famille ou encore, d'une façon indue, ceux de toute autre personne.

Prohibition: gifts and other benefits.

14.(1) Neither a Member or any member of a Member's family shall accept, directly or indirectly, any gift or other benefit, except compensation authorized by law, that is related to the Member's position.

14.(1) Le député ou un membre de sa famille ne peut, dans le cadre de la charge du député, accepter, même indirectement, de cadeaux ou d'autres avantages, sauf s'il s'agit d'une rétribution autorisée par la loi.

Interdiction: cadeaux et autres avantages.