



SIPA

SMALL INVESTOR PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

**A Voice for Small Investors
Seeking Truth and Justice**

NEWS RELEASE – April 29, 2019

On behalf of all Canadians, the Small Investor Protection Association (SIPA) is renewing its call on our Government

- **To immediately launch a Public Commission of Inquiry into financial services and investments, and the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC)**
- **To establish an independent National Investor Protection Authority with the sole mandate to protect the Canadian public.**

In light of CBC's latest report revealing collusion between the FCAC, the Big Banks and the Finance Department: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/fcac-bank-report-on-sales-tactics-weakened-1.5091115> an independent public inquiry is necessary to get to the truth. The public's voices need to be heard and not just the industry and its captured regulators. It is time to review the FCAC as well as the banks.

There appears to be a far too 'cozy' relationship between the banking industry, the FCAC and the Finance Department. The public cannot rely on the FCAC to regulate, or the Finance Department to allow for an independent review of the system, and its regulation. The FCAC sent early versions of its investigation report to the Finance Department and the big banks with resulting edit occurring to make the report more favourable to the big banks.

Thanks to media, the bigger contextual picture is finally emerging. These revelations, along with the SNC Lavalin affair and the Ontario Finance Minister's intervention regarding the "independent regulator" Ontario Securities Commission action relative to mutual fund fees, bring the word TRUST into a highly capitalized focus. Will we ever get the objective truth and how much more is being tainted by undue influence?

Canadians are losing their savings due to systemic fraud and wrongdoing by a financial services industry that does not put clients' best interests first, disregarding laws or rules and regulations. It has been possible to defraud tens of thousands of clients for up to a decade as indicated by recent No Contest Settlements by paying fines to avoid admitting responsibility and litigation. Where were the regulators?

It is essential that Government acts:

- to revise Statutes to ensure that all firms and individuals offering financial advice are held to a fiduciary standard regardless of their titles.
- to ensure those tasked with over-seeing industry conduct are impartial, willing and capable of effectively sanctioning those who persist in unfairly harvesting Canadians savings. They must levy appropriate financial fines and incarceration when warranted.
- to ensure victims are paid restitution when warranted without having to turn to costly civil litigation.
- to create an independent National Investor Protection Authority with the requisite authority to properly protect Canadians from fraud and wrongdoing by the financial services industry.

With so many highly paid regulators across Canada tasked with consumer protection mandates, the question arises why is it left to the media to break these stories? The implications here for Canadians are enormous. Given the potential extent of continuing financial harm to Canadians, it is essential that our Government takes positive action without undue delay. It must not be Caveat Emptor in a relationship that is based solidly on trust. Canadians are entrusting their hard-earned money, savings and futures with what should be trusted institutions and individuals.



About SIPA: The Small Investor Protection Association (SIPA) was incorporated (Ontario corporation number 1327366) as a national non-profit organization at the end of January, 1999. SIPA is a voice for small investors and advocates for the interests of investors.

SOURCE: Small Investor Protection Association

For further information:

Stan I. Buell, President, Small Investor Protection Association

email: stanbuell@gmail.com or sipa.toronto@gmail.com

tel: 902-213-3124