



The Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette, P.C.
Senator

PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette files a complaint against CTV and journalist Robert Fife

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OTTAWA, October 28, 2009 – In her letter to the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC) dated October 21, 2009, Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette filed a complaint against the CTV network and Robert Fife, a CTV journalist, for violating the code of ethics of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) and the Radio Television News Directors Association of Canada (RTNDA).

Senator Hervieux-Payette stated that in a CTV report concerning the Senate's review of Bill C-25, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (limiting credit for time spent in pre-sentencing custody), journalist Robert Fife "grossly manipulated public opinion."

"CTV tried to convince Canadians that Liberal senators killed Bill C-25 and supported criminals. CTV claimed that Conservative senators wanted to support the bill, while they clearly refused to do so. This is false. In fact, Conservative senators blocked debate and suspended the work of the Senate for 10 days but CTV misrepresented these facts as reported by Canadian Press."

In her letter to the CBSC, the Senator stated that the CTV had violated clauses 5 and 6 of the CAB's code of ethics concerning the accuracy and impartiality of broadcasters. She also feels that Mr. Fife violated articles 1, 3 and 5 of the RTNDA code of ethics concerning journalistic accuracy, authenticity and independence.

Senator Hervieux-Payette referred to the CTV interview with Stéphane Dion in which the broadcaster was accused of not adhering to the code of ethics: "We are dealing with a Conservative government that manipulates the Canadian public by putting its party's logo on government cheques, models the symbols used by our Olympic athletes on its own logo, sweeps reports on torture in Afghanistan under the carpet and conducts misleading advertising campaigns ... and CTV is paid to broadcast these schemes." The Senator is asking that the independence of the network and its editorial staff in relation to the government be examined.

– 30 –

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