

Tories ask CSIS to probe McCallum's comments about advice to China

MIA RABSON
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA
Conservative MPs want Canada's intelligence agency to probe whether a former Canadian ambassador is encouraging China to interfere in the upcoming federal election.

John McCallum was the ambassador to China from March 2017 until January 2019, when the Liberals fired him following a number of public comments that broke with the government's line on the detention of two Canadians in China. He's also a former Liberal MP and cabinet minister.

China and Canada are locked in a battle following the December 2018 arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou at the request of the United States, which wants her extradited to face fraud charges. China first detained former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor days later. In more recent months, China has stopped imports of Canadian canola and obstructed shipments of pork and beef, attempting to pressure Canada to release Meng.

McCallum lost his post after suggesting Meng had a strong case against extradition to the U.S. because President Donald Trump was using her as a pawn in a trade negotiation with China.

Now a Toronto-based adviser on Canada-China business relations, McCallum recently told the South China Morning Post that he had warned China's foreign ministry that more harmful actions against Canada would only help what he deems the less-China-friendly Conservative party get elected.

Deputy Conservative leader Lisa Raitt and public-security critic Pierre Paul-Hus say in a letter to Canadian Security Intelligence Service director David Vigneault that the comments are "very disturbing" and need to be looked at.

"Canadians expect that the upcoming election will be conducted in a free and fair manner, and that any and all incidents of foreign inter-



CP FILE PHOTO

John McCallum, then ambassador to China, arrives for a cabinet meeting in Sherbrooke, Que., in January. Conservative MPs want Canada's intelligence agency to probe whether McCallum is encouraging China to interfere in the upcoming federal election.

ference will be fully investigated, with action taken to prevent said interference," Raitt and Paul-Hus wrote.

"We believe Mr. McCallum's actions, as confirmed by his own public statements, deserve the utmost scrutiny of your agency."

On Friday Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sidestepped a question about how he felt about McCallum, pointing instead to comments made Thursday by Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland that disavowed McCallum as a spokesperson for Canada, without offering up his own thoughts on the matter.

"The foreign minister addressed yesterday the comments by Mr. McCallum," Trudeau said, before going on about standing up for Canadian interests.

"We will be unflinching about that in our communications both public and private as a government because that is the path to both defending Canada's interests and defending the Canadians that are unjustly held," he said.

Freeland said Thursday it is "highly inappropriate" for any Canadian

to advise any foreign government how it could influence a Canadian election. She said McCallum, who was the immigration minister in Trudeau's government before getting the China post, does not speak for the Canadian government.

Trudeau also did not answer a question about why Canada hasn't yet appointed an ambassador to replace to McCallum in China. The post has been empty for nearly six months, amid one of the most difficult periods for Canada-China relations in memory.

Trudeau called the situation with China "challenging" but would not say whether a new ambassador for China is even in consideration.

"We have excellent diplomatic representation in China who are doing an outstanding job and we are making sure we are moving forward in the right way, in a way that is going to both protect Canadians, uphold the rule of law and keep a path forward for our economy and the investments," he said. "Getting that balance right is something that we are taking very seriously."

Top brass shuffled again as army commander becomes military's second-in-command

The Canadian Press

OTTAWA

The fallout from the failed prosecution of Vice-Admiral Mark Norman continued Friday as the Defence Department announced another shuffle to its top ranks, including the appointment of a new second-in-command.

Canadian Army commander Lt.-Gen. Jean-Marc Lanthier has been tapped to become the new vice-chief of defence staff, the fourth officer to serve in that position since Norman was suspended from the office in January 2017.

Lanthier takes over from Lt.-Gen. Paul Wynnyk, who linked his surprise resignation Tuesday to an aborted attempt to reinstate Norman as vice-chief after the breach-of-trust case against him was dropped in May.

Lanthier had only last year taken over command of the army, which will now go to Lt.-Gen. Wayne Eyre, who just last month had been installed as the chief of military personnel, the Forces' top human-resources officer.

Eyre, a Medicine Hat native, was a local cadet and high school student in the early 1980s, was named commander of Canada's Military Personnel Command, a department which handles human resources, recruitment and other issues for 16,000 forces personnel.

Previously, Eyre served as the deputy commander of U.N. presence in South Korea, and oversaw military domestic responses in Canada, such as the 2015 Fort McMurray fire evacuation.

The moves caused a ripple effect farther down the chain of command as the Defence Department said four other senior officers were being moved to fill in the gaps.

While the military's senior ranks are subject to change every year as older officers retire and new ones succeed them, the pace has accelerated since Norman's suspension as vice-chief of the defence staff.

The churn in the vice-chief's office has been particularly worrying to many observers given the importance of the position, which is responsible for much of the day-to-day financial oversight and management of the Forces.

"The VCDS position is supposed to be the critical resource-steward," said defence analyst David Perry of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

"And it's hard to do that effectively, no matter how good the people you're putting into those positions are, if you're having people that aren't staying even two years."

Many had believed Wynnyk would stay in the position after the government and Norman announced a still-undisclosed settlement last month, along with Norman's plan to retire from the Forces.

But that was before Wynnyk's surprise resignation, which he tendered in a letter to defence chief Gen. Jonathan Vance that was subsequently leaked and caused a firestorm of controversy earlier this week.

In his resignation letter, Wynnyk wrote that when he was appointed vice-chief of the defence staff in July 2018, Vance insisted on a two-year commitment.

Before that, Wynnyk had been one in a series of fill-ins as the military waited for Norman's breach-of-trust case to make its way through the courts. Wynnyk had previously planned to retire this summer.

But Vance asked Wynnyk to make way for Norman by retiring after the breach-of-trust case was dropped — only to ask him to stay after the government and Norman reached their settlement.

Wynnyk, however, told Vance that he was pressing ahead with his retirement.

Panellists quit corporate responsibility panel citing 'erosion of trust'

The Canadian Press

OTTAWA

Citing an erosion of trust, civil society and labour representatives have resigned from a panel set up to advise the federal government on ensuring Canadian firms operating abroad are accountable for how they conduct themselves.

The 14 members withdrew from the "multi-stakeholder advisory body on responsible business conduct" Thursday, complaining that a newly created adviser on corporate accountability lacks the teeth to ensure companies conducting business outside Canada do so in a responsible manner.

The government announced in 2018 the creation of an ombudsperson for responsible enterprise, saying the office would be given the tools to conduct credible, independent investigations.

The ombudsperson's powers were to include the ability to summon witnesses and compel documents.

But civil-society leaders say the appointment in April of this year of a special adviser to the international trade minister instead, without giving that adviser proper investigative powers, backtracked on the pledge.

And because of that, organizations operating under the umbrella Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability said they lost faith in the ability of the advisory body to function as originally envisioned.

PUBLIC NOTICES

8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828



Medicine Hat
The Gas City

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JULY 4 TO JULY 10, 2019 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

49 SOMERSET WAY SE	(Lot 3, Block 5, Plan 0612243) DP15048. Garage.
12 HUTCHINGS COURT NE	(Lot 3, Block 8, Plan 7410135) DP15050. Garage.
192 RANCHVIEW WAY NE	(Lot 27, Block 16, Plan 0910426) DP15052. Single Detached House (Covered Deck).



COMMERCIAL

3806 BOX SPRINGS ROAD NW	(Lot, Block, Plan) DP15010. Industrial Operations (Office Trailers).
901 13 STREET SW	(Lot 5, Block 41, Plan 637JK) DP15028. Funeral Establishment (Addition) Including Front Setback Variance.
663 2 STREET SE	(Lot 15, Block 14, Plan 1491) DP15039. One Fascia Sign.

HOME OCCUPATION

10 STANFIELD COURT SE	(Lot 21, Block 22, Plan 9611395) DP15059. Customers to Attend Site. Beauty Salon.
59 11 STREET SW	(Lot 15, Block 30, Plan 2177M) DP15071. Office Use Only. Consultant.
28 ROSS HEIGHTS COURT SE	(Lot 29, Block 23, Plan 7910729) DP15076. Office Use With Storage on Site. Consultant.
11 HUDSON CRESCENT NE	(Lot 3, Block 16, Plan 0012635) DP15080. Office Use With Storage on Site. Photography & Equipment.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty-one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

IMPORTANT NOTICE - THE HVAC GUYS

City of Medicine Hat, Planning & Development Services (PDS) department advises residents that if you have had a furnace installed by THE HVAC GUYS INC. between January 2016 and June 2019, to please contact PDS department for information regarding your installation.

This notice does not pertain to installations performed by other licensed service providers.

Please contact:

Planning & Development Services
City of Medicine Hat
City Hall, Second Floor
580 1st Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8E6

403.529.8374
Email: pbe@medicinehat.ca

Department hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Mon.-Fri.4.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING & FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

Environmental Utilities performs regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually flushing water mains and inspecting fire hydrants.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will disappear when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on your cold water tap or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing Programs page on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca/eu or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.