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January 9, 2019

Jay Chalke, Ombudsperson
Office of the Ombudsperson
Second Floor, 947 Fort Street
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Open letter regarding: False, misleading statements found in your report “MISFIRE: THE 2012 MINISTRY OF HEALTH EMPLOYMENT TERMINATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS”

Dear Ombudsperson, Jay Chalke

Thank you for your efforts to be an independent voice of fairness. May we all be.

As with any report, there may be errors and incorrect information for which amendments can be made. Please be aware, your report titled “MISFIRE: THE 2012 MINISTRY OF HEALTH EMPLOYMENT TERMINATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS” (April 2017) contains false and misleading statements.

False and Misleading Statements In “Misfire”

For example, on page 199 you make a claim based on your interview with Minister Margaret MacDiarmid:

Minister MacDiarmid’s shock at the contents of this briefing arose in part from her time at the Ministry of Labour, Citizens’ Services and Open Government, where she had seen the conscientiousness with which public servants performed their duties.

Given this experience, she was surprised that a group of public servants would – as was described to her – be “bending the rules and going around the rules.”

Although there are likely many conscientious public servants, MacDiarmid, while Minister of Labour and Citizens’ Services (MLCS), was aware of examples of lack of conscientiousness within a small group within her Ministry.

Minister of Labour and Citizens’ Services, MacDiarmid, Made Aware of False Reporting

In November 2011, I sent Minister MacDiarmid, (Minister of Labour and Citizens’ Services (MLCS), September 26, 2011 – September 5, 2012), several letters¹, wherein I described how MLCS (BC Statistics) officials had disseminated to Public Service providers and the public (taxpayers) false information for many years without acknowledging the errors or making corrections.

For example, I stated that BC Statistics officials pointed public service providers and the public to incorrect methods and data accompanying unsupported, unverifiable numbers (not findings)

¹ The October and November 2011, as well as the February, March, April, May, June, July, August, and September 2012 letters to Minister MacDiarmid and all other supporting documents are posted online, listed by dates, for your convenience at <http://wminfomatics.com/WP/index2.html>. For example, BC Statistics corroboration can be found by scrolling to August 2011. Also, my letter to you Mr. Chalke dated April 11, 2018 is also posted online.

for over a decade.

"Between 1998 and 2011 there were many changes to the methods that were not open to peer review nor made public."

MacDiarmid, in November 2011, was made aware this false reporting was corroborated in a BC Statistics' report (Generalized Estimation System, August 2011).

MacDiarmid Accepts Report Endorsing MLCS But Source Withheld – Disclosure Harmful

In response, MacDiarmid's spokesperson, Bette-Jo Hughes (November 22, 2011) claimed that BC Statistics' methods and data were of "better quality" than Statistics Canada, an endorsement quoted from a 2005 study by Statistics Canada; however, MacDiarmid would not provide a copy or even the title of the quoted study (ignoring my 12 requests over 6 months followed by a freedom of information request) claiming disclosure of the study was considered harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations:

"Please be advised the records you requested are withheld in their entirety pursuant to section 16 (Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations) of FOIPPA." (June 22, 2012)

Perhaps Statistics Canada was also given BC Statistics' incorrect methods and data accompanying unsupported unverifiable numbers? Minister MacDiarmid had previously served as Minister Responsible for the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat of British Columbia.

To be clear, false information disseminated by BC Statistics for many years without correction was considered acceptable by government officials including MacDiarmid. Also, withholding the source of the quote used to assert integrity, (a clear example of a lack of integrity) was considered acceptable by government officials including MacDiarmid. Even withholding the source of the quote claiming "disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations or negotiations" was also considered acceptable by government officials including MacDiarmid.

Study Reveals MLSC False Reporting to Statistics and Finance Canada – Disclosure Helpful

At my request, I received a copy of the quoted study from Statistics Canada (June 18, 2012) (being an organization with integrity meaning integer, whole, complete, nothing ignored or left out; honest *rather than dishonest, incomplete, parts missing*), titled "The Equalization Program and the Property Tax Base: Feasibility Study Conducted by Statistics Canada", (February 28, 2005) wherein BC Statistics officials' false information is revealed.²

To be clear, BC Statistics' officials had provided false information to Statistics Canada for the study into methods and data to refine Canada's Equalization Payments Programme. Also, MacDiarmid was the Minister of LCS while an effort was made to coverup the false reporting to Statistics Canada and Finance Canada regarding a study into methods and data to refine Canada's Equalization Payments Programme.

My letters to government officials and elected representatives, including to you Mr. Chalke, advocating the implementation of formal policies and assigning clear accountabilities to help safeguard the integrity of analytic products used for public service decision making have been

² "The Equalization Program and the Property Tax Base: Feasibility Study Conducted by Statistics Canada", (February 28, 2005), p. 63

ignored or dismissed as unnecessary.

Fired for Answering the Call

I know of these issues having served the public (not ladder climbers) as BC Statistics' Population Analyst (2002 to 2006). I was not told of the 2005 study even though it contained information with which I am intimately familiar.

In 2002, hired straight out of University having earned my Master of Arts from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Carleton University in Ottawa, specializing in understanding strengths and weaknesses of statistical methods, data and modeling used to estimate and project population change with adjunct professors from Statistics Canada, I had been asked (along with long time employees -the Chief Demographer and International Migration Analyst) to figure out why BC Statistics' numbers were so far off the census results (statistically significantly different - poor quality).

The Chief Demographer (who was later given the Manager position) and International Migration Analyst tried but could not figure it out; however, I decided to test a fundamental assumption, developed a hypothesis and successfully found the problem. The Chief Demographer called my success "dumb luck" (just the kind of guy he is).

I provided easy solutions, but these were not implemented. Unaware to me during the feasibility study addressing Canada's Equalization Payments Programme (September 2004 to February 28, 2005), rather than fix the problem, the manager and the Executive Director pretended that the original faulty poor quality method was sound – producing numbers that were almost exactly the same as the census results – false reporting. This false information was given to Statistics Canada for the feasibility study, but not verified.

Examples of Coercion (Heavy Handed Actions), Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

On the day of the release of the study to Finance Canada (February 28, 2005), rather than announcing and celebrating Statistics Canada's endorsement of "better quality", the Chief Demographer now Manager accused me of making a verbal attack on a female co-worker. The Manager withdrew his accusation the next day in front of the Job Steward claiming the female co-worker (who had been raising her voice and telling me what to do and who had previously loudly falsely accused me of doing things wrong) was a frustrated manager (? - she was in the Cartographer position) and she was upset that her position was not reclassified. Read my statement given to the Manager and Job Steward online at <http://wminformatics.com/WP/petition/Exhibit3.pdf>

There was no celebration nor recognition of Statistics Canada's report to Finance Canada endorsing BC Statistics; nonetheless, I continued to be targeted for removal. I have described the coercion in hundreds of letters to government officials, elected representatives, and lawyers, even Queen Elizabeth II (the most helpful of all), letters available online not only to raise awareness, advocating verification, but to work toward making sure no one else would be treated so badly.

I was accused of things I did not do, yelled at (YOU IDIOT, GET UT OF HERE, YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS KIND OF WORK ANYWAY, etc.), removed from all responsibility, removed from the

contacts list, given more and more menial tasks with shorter and shorter time limits, accused of making another female co-worker fear for her (job?) safety, required to file a grievance to have mediation / resolution to address this false accusation, investigated by the Executive Director who ruled that the resolution would be that there is no resolution, then ordered by the Manager to turn in my security pass and 'escorted' out of the building shortly after forwarding my grievance to the Deputy Minister, a week later ordered to return to work but registered in a program where I would have a psychological assessment for a believed behavioural problem (doing my job) supported by the BC Government Employees Union. Prior to being given the position, the manager was the union shop steward for ~10 years (social capital). The BCGEU supported the "assessment" rather than address the false reporting, placing an duplicitous emphasis on their concern about mental health while quality of public service declines.

Instead of addressing solutions to improve the unreliable information, I was dismissed for doing my job (considered insubordinate by the Deputy Minister), ultimately denied arbitration by the BC Labour Relations Board (going down the wrong channel).

MacDiarmid Aware of Coercion to Coverup False Reporting – How Gobsmacked Was She?

In my letter (November 2, 2011), I had informed Minister MacDiarmid that while serving as Analyst for the Provincial Government of British Columbia (2002 to 2006), I was fired (February 15, 2006) shortly after submitting my grievance to the Deputy Minister:

"I was subjected to discrimination then fired while a grievance was before the Deputy Minister."

Minister MacDiarmid, received more detailed description of my firing in my letters to her dated having taken up the position of Minister of Health was aware of coercion (heavy handed actions to use Premier Clark's term), including people being fired contrary to her statement in "Misfire".

Minister MacDiarmid recalled that, from her perspective, "one of the things that I was really gobsmacked by was that people were being fired. I didn't remember anyone being fired. People got severed and they got huge piles of money."

I did not receive severance pay. I should mention, the goal of some of the officials was to retire but to continue to do work as contractors.

Ombudsperson Jay Chalke, are you allowed to correct false information in your "Misfire" report? Will you inform the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the false and misleading statements found in your report "Misfire" described herein? Will you include my statement to correct the false and misleading statements in your report? Of course, if you have questions or need clarification please let me know. I would be glad to make amendments if corrections are merited.

Sincerely,



William Warren Munroe