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Pay it back: Tilson must return Duffy money

Dear editor:

Dufferin-Caledon Conservative candidate David Tilson should immediately return thousands in dirty Duffy money raised to support his Conservative riding association.

Stephen Harper and the Conservatives admit that disgraced Senator, Mike Duffy, inappropriately billed taxpayers for partisan and personal activity including travel to countless Conservative fundraisers.

Fresh court evidence shows that David Tilson's Conservative riding association benefited from a Duffy fundraiser. Given that taxpayers are on the hook for millions of dollars to investigate and prosecute Harper's hand-picked Senator, David Tilson should do the right thing and reimburse the thousands of dollars to taxpayers.

(I am) referring to a May 17, 2012 fundraiser for the Conservative riding association, listed in Mike Duffy's personal diary which was entered into evidence before a judge in Ottawa. Liberals estimate the proceeds of that fundraiser was in the thousands, based on publicly available Elections Canada contribution data reported at the same time of the 2012 fundraiser.

The complete Duffy Diaries reveal Duffy attended more than 45 fundraising events, often collecting his Senate per diem at the same time. In total, Liberals conservatively estimate that Mike Duffy raised at least $610,000 for the Party. The actual total is much higher because much of Duffy's fundraising is untraceable ? only the Conservatives know what Duffy helped raise.

The improper fundraising has put hundreds of thousands of dollars in the coffers of Conservative riding associations. They should pay it back. Stephen Harper owes Canadians the truth about the PMO-Duffy scandal. The Harper government and his representatives cannot be trusted.

Ed Crewson,
Dufferin-Caledon
Liberal candidate