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Wild Rose

# Wild Rose Report

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DEFENDING THE INTEGRITY OF CANADA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM**

Canadian citizenship – although undeniably valuable and sought after - is not a commodity. It is not something to be bought or sold; it is not something to be obtained through fraud.

Unless we act to stop Canadian citizenship from being treated in such a crass way, we are failing to protect its integrity. We are effectively endorsing law breaking as a means to acquire what otherwise can only be had by birthright or through the hard work of people who come here in accordance with our rules.

Our Conservative Government believes in the integrity of Canadian citizenship. That's why we are taking action to safeguard it. This summer, we moved to revoke the citizenship of some 1,800 individuals who did not choose Canada as their home, but rather as a pit-stop of convenience.

These individuals defrauded our immigration system by breaking the rules and jumping the queue to acquire citizenship. These are people who have hired crooked immigration consultants, lied about residency and other things in order to fraudulently obtain citizenship and then, in most cases, have lived outside Canada to avoid paying taxes while keeping all the benefits of citizenship!

It is an unacceptable abuse of the generosity of Canadians that our Government will not tolerate. Yet even as we were unveiling our initiative, Opposition members in Parliament were quick to defend those same people who have been jumping the line.

The Liberal immigration critic went so far as to suggest that those set to lose their ill-gotten citizenship were the real "victims" in this affair. In stating that, he is rushing to the defence of people who have used criminal means to selfishly force their way to the front of line, thereby leaving sincere applicants for citizenship languishing even longer.

If that's the hill the Opposition parties want to defend, I suppose that's their choice. But while they may think that those who break the law to gain citizenship should not be held accountable, we know Canadians do not agree.

All Canadians - especially new Canadians who followed the rules to come here - are deeply concerned by this attack on Canada's generosity. It undermines public support for immigration and it costs taxpayers a tremendous amount of money to provide health care, consular support and other services to people who do not pay into them and who, in point of fact, have no legitimate claim to them.

Our Government is sending a global message - we will not allow such fraud.