



May 4, 2016

Ref: 21862

The Honourable Linda Reid
Speaker of the Legislature
Suite 207, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Madam Speaker,

I have been reflecting further on your letter of yesterday's date and your related statement in the House. I am deeply disturbed by your statements - as an Officer of the Legislature, as a judge (on leave), and as an individual.

It is my understanding that it is not the Speaker's prerogative to determine whether a party is in contempt of the House - rather that only the House can do so. If I am incorrect in that regard I invite you to clarify my understanding for me.

Further, it is my view that my decision to publish my report in all the circumstances was not an offence against Parliament's authority or dignity - Members remain at liberty to review the report and to use it for whatever purpose they wish. Nothing in my Act prevents me from publishing the report. Nothing in my actions prevented Members from receiving the report from you "as soon as possible" as provided for in the Act. And, with respect, I do not consider it contempt of Parliament to not adhere to the terms of a document that has been unilaterally prepared, which among other things purports to speak to when I may make my reports public, and which I have been clear for some time we do not share agreement on.

It is regrettable that we, in the circumstances, have diverging views on the appropriateness of my decisions and actions, but to describe my conduct as egregious, disrespectful and contempt of Parliament are very serious allegations and I respectfully suggest are unfounded in the circumstances. I assure you my actions have been and always will be undertaken in good faith, with a view to effectively and efficiently discharging my mandate as an Officer of the Legislature.

I remain open to meeting with you to discuss the matters addressed in the document you note, if you are amenable to doing so. I would like to avoid similar divergences of views going forward.

.../2

In the meanwhile I also respectfully ask that you retract your statements regarding my conduct being egregious, disrespectful and in contempt of Parliament and, if you feel necessary to comment on them at all, to instead describe them in more measured terms that are more reflective of a good faith disagreement rather than language that has the effective of diminishing my reputation as an Officer, as a judge (on leave) and an individual.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond
Representative

Pc: Craig James, Clerk
Legislative Assembly

Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees
Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth

