

news release



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CBA Calls for Resignation of Maurice Vellacott as Chair of Aboriginal Affairs Committee Following Remarks About Chief Justice

OTTAWA – The Canadian Bar Association is asking the Prime Minister to insist that MP Maurice Vellacott resign immediately as Chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee. The call follows Mr. Vellacott's remarks about the Chief Justice of Canada, which undermine public confidence in the justice system.

“When a member of the government misrepresents the views of the country's top judge and damages the reputation of the Supreme Court of Canada, he must be held fully accountable,” says CBA President Brian A. Tabor, Q.C., of Halifax in a [letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper](#). “It's simply not good enough to say that the remarks reflect Mr. Vellacott's personal opinion.”

The CBA is asking the Prime Minister to call for Mr. Vellacott's resignation as chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee. “His statements irreparably harm his ability to play a leadership role on any matter related to the administration of justice,” says Mr. Tabor.

“These comments have inflicted serious damage on the institution of the Supreme Court of Canada and the reputation of our Chief Justice,” says the letter. They bring the administration of justice into disrepute and seriously threaten judicial independence.

“It is incumbent on you to take steps now to repair the damage Mr. Vellacott has caused,” concludes the letter.

The Canadian Bar Association is dedicated to improvement in the law and the administration of justice. Some 36,000 lawyers, law teachers, and law students from across Canada are members.

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