



Criminal Lawyers' Association
1 – 189 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 1S2
416-214-9875 www.criminallawyers.ca

**Press Release
For Immediate Distribution**

Prime Minister Harper's allegations are an attack on the integrity of Chief Justice McLachlin

May 5, 2014 – Toronto – The Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) one of the largest specialty legal organizations in Canada, with more than 1,200 members is deeply concerned and offended by Prime Minister Harper's recent allegations that Chief Justice McLachlin had attempted to contact him regarding the Justice Nadon matter that was presently before the Courts.

No doubt had that occurred it would have been terribly inappropriate. The facts that have now come out confirm the contact was initiated months prior to Justice Nadon being appointed; obviously well before any matter was before the Court.

Prime Minister Harper's allegations are an attack on the integrity of Chief Justice McLachlin and could be considered as an ill conceived attempt to intimidate the Supreme Court of Canada. One can only hope that Prime Minister Harper is not motivated by the fact that the Supreme Court of Canada has refused to allow the Harper Government's law and order agenda to trample the rights of all Canadians as protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Criminal Lawyers' Association urges Prime Minister Harper to immediately withdraw his allegations against Chief Justice McLachlin.

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The Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) is one of the largest specialty legal organizations in Canada, with more than 1,100 members. The CLA is a voice for everyone concerned with criminal justice and civil liberties in Canada. Our advice and perspective is frequently sought by all levels of government and the judiciary on issues relating to legislation and the administration of criminal justice. The CLA also assists its members in every aspect of the practice of criminal litigation. A list of our membership and a more detailed description of our organization is located at <http://www.criminallawyers.ca>

For more information contact:

Anthony Moustacalis
President, Criminal Lawyers' Association

Anthony Laycock
Executive Director

Tel: 416-363-2656 Direct: 416-879-5698
anthonyem@msn.com

Tel: 416-214-9875
Anthony@criminallawyers.ca