

Ministry of the Attorney General

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Bureau

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Toronto ON M5G 1E6



September 9, 2025

Clerk of the Court  
Ontario Court of Justice – East Region  
161 Elgin St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, ON K2P 2K1

Via email: [Ottawa.OCJ.courts@ontario.ca](mailto:Ottawa.OCJ.courts@ontario.ca)  
[Ottawa.Criminal@ontario.ca](mailto:Ottawa.Criminal@ontario.ca)

**Re: Stay Pursuant to Section 579(1) of the *Criminal Code***  
*Duff Conacher v. Justin Trudeau* (private complaint)  
Info # 25-11400134 and 25-11400135  
NCD: September 26, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. – courtroom 25

To the Honourable Clerk:

As Crown counsel and agent of the Attorney General for Ontario, I am assigned to the above-noted proceedings.

**Pursuant to s. 579(1) of the *Criminal Code*, I am directing you to make an entry on the record that these proceedings are stayed. Please see the enclosed Notice of Stay of Proceedings.**

**Please append this letter and the Notice of Stay of Proceedings to each of the private informations involved in these proceedings (Info # 25-11400134 and 25-11400135).**

The next court date, which is now vacated as the result of the stay, was scheduled for September 26, 2025. I am sending my instructions now, in writing, so the Court and the private informant may be notified as soon as possible.

In the two private informations, the informant alleged that Justin Trudeau committed obstruct justice and breach of trust. The counts allege that Mr. Trudeau did, by himself and others under his direction, “pressur[e] the Attorney General of Canada to intervene to stop a prosecution against SNC-Lavalin Group Inc.” in late 2018 and early 2019. The core of these alleged events became known as the “SNC-Lavalin affair” after they came to light in February 2019. They resulted in public hearings before the Justice Committee, an investigation and published findings by the Ethics Commissioner, and an investigation

by the RCMP. The Ethics Commissioner's report, released later in 2019, concluded that Mr. Trudeau's conduct had violated the federal *Conflict of Interest Act*.

My office has carefully considered the substantial volume of information that resulted from these proceedings, and other publicly available information about the matter. This includes all material provided to us by the private informant through his counsel. Our assessment has assumed that the witnesses and documents marshalled by these bodies could be placed before a criminal court. However, one must also keep in mind that unlike the Ethics Commissioner and the Justice Committee, the prosecution bears the burden of proving criminal charges beyond a reasonable doubt in accordance with the rules of criminal evidence.

Our review was conducted dispassionately and independently, in accordance with Ontario's Crown Prosecution Manual, which directs:

The Prosecutor should not consider the personal feelings of any official involved in the prosecution about the alleged victim or the accused, the potential political advantage or disadvantage that might flow from the decision to undertake or stop a prosecution, or the possible effect on the personal or professional circumstances of anyone connected to the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

Having considered all the available materials, and having accepted the allegations at their highest, I have concluded there is no reasonable prospect of conviction for either charge.

The allegation of criminal breach of trust contrary to s. 122 of the *Criminal Code* would require proof that Mr. Trudeau's conduct amounted to a serious and marked departure from the standard of care for Prime Ministers, and that he engaged in such improper conduct with a specific motive other than the public good. The allegation of obstruct justice contrary to s. 139(2) of the *Criminal Code* would require proof that Mr. Trudeau engaged in conduct that could have obstructed, perverted, or defeated the course of justice and that he did so with specific intent.

I conclude there is no reasonable prospect the Crown could prove that Mr. Trudeau engaged in the criminal conduct captured by either alleged offence. Moreover, I conclude there is no reasonable prospect the Crown could prove that Mr. Trudeau acted with the requisite criminal intent for either alleged offence.

In staying the proceedings now, I have carefully considered whether it would be in the public interest to hear any evidence that may be adduced by the informant at the pre-enquête hearing. I have concluded it would not. The Crown has a duty to supervise the conduct of these proceedings, to prevent proceedings that are not in the interest of the administration of justice, and to ensure efficient use of court resources. I am satisfied the available evidence would not materially change as a result of a pre-enquête hearing. The SNC-Lavalin affair was a matter of public inquiry for several years. There is a full and rich record in the public sphere, brought out by the press, the Justice Committee, the Ethics Commissioner, and published civil judgments. The RCMP also conducted its own review.

In short, this is not a case where the core facts are unknown or new evidence is likely to become available. Accordingly, I have directed a stay at this stage of the proceedings, as permitted under s. 579(1) of the *Criminal Code*.

I thank counsel for the Informant, Ms. Danch, for her communication and professionalism in this file. I further thank the Court and its staff for the time and resources made available to the parties.

Sincerely,



John Corelli  
Director  
Complex Prosecutions Bureau  
Ministry of the Attorney General for Ontario

Enclosed: Notice of Stay of Proceedings

Cc: Jen Danch  
Swadron Associates  
[jdanch@swadron.com](mailto:jdanch@swadron.com)  
*Counsel for Private Informant*

ONTARIO  
COURT OF JUSTICE  
(East Region)

BETWEEN:

DUFF CONACHER

– and –

JUSTIN TRUDEAU

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**NOTICE OF STAY OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**Pursuant to Section 579(1) of the *Criminal Code***

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WHEREAS it is alleged via two private informations before this Court that Justin Trudeau:

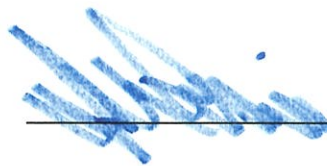
between the first day of September 2018 and the 15th day of January 2019 at or near Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario, did by himself and others under his direction, wilfully attempt to obstruct, pervert or defeat the course of justice in a judicial proceeding by unlawfully pressuring the Attorney General of Canada to intervene to stop a prosecution against SNC-Lavalin Group Inc., contrary to section 139(2) of the Criminal Code of Canada. [***Information No. 25-11400134***]

between the first day of September 2018 and the 15th day of January 2019 at or near Ottawa, in the province of Ontario, did by himself and others under his direction, in connection with the duties of his office, commit a breach of trust by pressuring the Attorney General of Canada to intervene to stop a prosecution against SNC-Lavalin Group Inc., an action that departs markedly from the standards of conduct demanded of an individual in his position, an action that was for a purpose other than public good, contrary to section 122 of the Criminal Code of Canada [***Information No. 25-11400135***]

AND WHEREAS no judgment has been entered on either information;

THE CLERK OF THIS COURT, or any other proper officer of the court, is hereby directed to make an entry on the record that the proceedings are stayed by the Attorney General's direction, pursuant to s. 579(1) of the *Criminal Code*.

DATED at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario this 9th day of September, 2025.



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John Corelli  
Director  
Complex Prosecutions Bureau  
Ministry of the Attorney General for Ontario  
393 University Avenue, 19th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 1E6