



democracy Watch  
émocratie en surveillance

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December 9, 2019

**RE: Disclosure of whether you have secret investments in energy or mining companies**

Dear Minister Rickford:

I am writing on behalf of Democracy Watch to request that you disclose whether you have secret investments in energy or mining companies.

When you were the federal Minister of Natural Resources, you had investments in an energy hedge fund, as summarized in this article:  
<https://o.canada.com/news/new-natural-resources-minister-invested-in-hedge-fund-with-energy-holdings>.

As your Public Disclosure Statement in the Ontario Integrity Commissioner's Public Registry states, you received Director's Fees as a board member of Noront Resources Ltd. until you left the board in December 2017.

Your government has cancelled 758 contracts with renewable energy companies, and you recently cited a climate-change-denying blog when defending the \$231 million cost of cancelling those contracts, as summarized in this article:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/greg-rickford-climate-change-blog-1.5373963>.

Subsection 21(4), para. 9 of the *Members' Integrity Act* allows Cabinet ministers to own units in mutual funds in secret. You can see that provision at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/94m38#BK25>.

Despite this provision, the public has a clear right to know the financial interests of Premier Ford, all Cabinet ministers, their staff and top government officials, as those interests are among the most serious conflict of interests that any of you could have.

For all these reasons, Democracy Watch requests that you disclose whether you have secret investments in energy or mining companies.

We look forward to hearing back from you about this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Duff Conacher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Duff Conacher, Co-founder of Democracy Watch  
on behalf of the Board of Directors of Democracy Watch