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Tel: (514) 483-5699

December 15, 1983

Mrs. E. Coté  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Room 322  
1255 Laird Boulevard  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3P 2T1

RE: Unemployment, Financial Ruin and-Wrongful Dismissal  
from The SNC Group

Dear Mrs. Coté:

I enclose two copies of a letter which I would like to be seen by the Prime Minister - who also happens to be my Member of Parliament. One copy is for you to send to Ottawa, the other is for your retention.

On two separate occasions I have been advised, by different people, to approach the Prime Minister directly, and I think you will agree that the implications of my situation are of national importance.

I have documentary evidence in support of what I am saying.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) R.T. Chisholm

R.T. Chisholm, B.Sc. (ENG.), C. ENG., M.I. MECH. E.

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The Right Honorable P.E. Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Member of Parliament for Mount Royal  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario

RE: Unemployment, Financial Ruin and Wrongful Dismissal  
from the SNC Group

Dear Sir:

I have been placed in an utterly impossible situation as a result of being actively recruited by The SNC Group whilst working as a mechanical engineer in England, for another company. The SNC Group - hereafter referred to as SNC - are one of Canada's most important consulting engineering companies. I arrived in Canada as a landed immigrant on March 31, 1982 and was then laid off by SNC 15 weeks later because of the economic situation - before even being entitled to Unemployment Insurance benefits because, as you know, the qualifying period of employment for new entrants to the Canadian labour force is 20 weeks, and I was not told about this before coming to Canada.

I am therefore writing to you to respectfully request your personal influence in resolving a dispute between me and SNC which is ruining my life and has been caused by a situation which is not of my making. In addition, I need more help in finding suitable employment in my field - mechanical engineering. I would also be grateful for an opportunity to meet you personally.

On September 19th, 1983 I wrote to the Honorable John Roberts, Minister of Employment and Immigration, asking for his help in finding suitable employment in my field; I received a sympathetic reply but so far nothing else has materialized.

I can assure you that I have done everything possible in attempting to find alternative employment in my field - without concrete results, so far.

I have just gone into business on my own doing painting and wallpaper hanging but could be bankrupt in three months if business does not develop as anticipated.

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To return to the subject of SNC - I find their behaviour callous, illogical and irresponsible for some very important reasons, in addition to those directly affecting me personally. In particular, I would draw your attention to the following:

1. SNC gave satisfactory compensation out-of-court to other people in similar situations to mine.
2. SNC suggested to my lawyer, on several occasions, that they were going to make a satisfactory offer of compensation out-of-court, and then did not do so. They were, therefore, served with a writ committing them to court proceedings,
3. SNC have suggested that my seeking satisfactory compensation through the legal system might be used by them to blackball me from working, in particular at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft of Canada.
4. SNC are attempting to use the legal system, with the unacceptably long time delays caused by the heavy workload on the system, as a means of surreptitiously persuading me and others to leave Canada, when we were admitted in the normal way by the Federal and Quebec Immigration authorities because of demand for our skills, and on the initiative of SNC.
5. SNC's conduct toward me and others in similar situations breaks the rules of their own Industrial Association - the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC) concerning conduct towards employees. The ACEC is seemingly not unsympathetic towards my case but is unable to help me directly.
6. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers in England, of which I am a member, is sympathetic towards my case but is also unable to help me directly.
7. The economic situation is not an excuse for SNC's conduct.
8. I find it difficult to believe that such an important company as SNC could behave in such a way as to endanger their position of trust and confidence within the Canadian political system, at the same time endangering their own reputation - and that of Canadian consulting engineering companies generally - with their clients, both within Canada and abroad, and also seriously endangering exports by Canadian manufacturing companies as a result. But that is what they are doing.

9. I have documentary evidence in support of the above statements.

I am trying very hard to maintain a positive attitude towards Canada in the face of intractable obstacles.

Therefore, Sir, I am asking you to use your personal influence to help me settle my dispute involving financial compensation with SNC very soon, and to help me find suitable employment in my field. I am doing this because my situation is not the result of faulty actions on my part, because all other lines of approach have failed so far, and because I have twice been advised to approach you personally.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) R.T. Chisholm

R.T. Chisholm, B.Sc. (ENG.), C. ENG., M.I. MECH. E.

