

Media Release • Saskatchewan Party Caucus

For immediate release:
October 31, 2008

“We did not want him in our employment. He was fired.”
- Pat Atkinson, responding to questions about Murdoch Carriere in Question Period, March 8, 2007

“Mr. Carriere was fired.”
- Kevin Yates, responding to a question during debate in the Assembly, April 5, 2007

“Mr. Murdoch Carriere was terminated.”
- Lorne Calvert, responding to questions in Question Period, April 11, 2007

MURDOCH CARRIERE WAS NEVER FIRED BY NDP GOVERNMENT

Calvert, Atkinson, Yates All Mised the Legislative Assembly and the Public

Former NDP Premier Lorne Calvert and former Ministers Pat Atkinson and Kevin Yates told the Legislative Assembly 29 times that Murdoch Carriere was fired, terminated, or dismissed, even after their government had signed an agreement acknowledging Carriere had actually resigned.

The agreement has now been made public through a Freedom of Information request by the Regina Leader-Post.

Carriere was a senior official in the Environment department who the NDP government said they had fired in the aftermath of harassment complaints by several women employees. Carriere received \$275,000 taxpayers' dollars plus a top-up of his pension.

Contrary to the NDP's claims that Carriere was fired, the agreement signed with the former NDP government states that Carriere was on leave from the Government starting on February 12, 2003 and that he would resign on February 2, 2007 “or at such later date as required to ensure that the Plaintiff (Carriere) is credited with 35 years of pensionable service.”

The agreement also states that Carriere is being compensated “for his pain and suffering and damage to his reputation.”

Saskatchewan Party Environment Minister Nancy Heppner said the NDP's agreement with Carriere is one more insult to the women he harassed and to all Saskatchewan women and taxpayers.

“It is absolutely sickening to me that the NDP went to such great lengths to pay off Murdoch Carriere for *his* pain and suffering, while they showed such little concern for his victims,” Heppner said. “And then, Lorne Calvert and Pat Atkinson continued to tell us Carriere was fired when they knew it wasn't true.”

Heppner called on Calvert, Atkinson and Kevin Yates to admit Carriere was never fired and apologize for misleading the Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan.

“Most of all, they need to apologize to Carriere's victims, who were always told Carriere was fired when that just wasn't true,” Heppner said.

MEDIA ADVISORY: Saskatoon Martensville MLA Nancy Heppner will hold a scrum at 2:00 pm at Saskatoon Silversprings MLA Ken Cheveldayoff's constituency office - 1106A Central Avenue North

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