

MEDIA RELEASE

Chinese Canadians Call for Action Against Derek Sloan

Toronto, April 30, 2020 Chinese Canadians across the country are calling on Canada's political leaders to specifically denounce MP Derek Sloan's racist comments and to speak out against the rising trend of anti-Asian attacks across the country. The Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice (CCNC-SJ) emailed all party leaders and Conservative leadership candidates to invite them to respond. <http://ccncsj.ca/wp/?p=177> . To date, no response has been received.

Conservative leadership candidate Derek Sloan questioned the loyalty of Dr. Teresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada asking "Does she work for Canada or for China?" "Dr. Tam must go" <https://twitter.com/DerekSloanCPC/status/1252738270632558599>

It is commendable that Ontario's Conservative MPs passed a motion calling on Mr. Sloan to apologize for his remarks and retract them. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ontario-conservative-mps-pass-motion-demanding-derek-sloan-apologize/>. In response, Mr. Sloan says he doesn't question Dr. Tam's loyalty. So what is he questioning since her advice was at all times consistent with her peers across the country?

Andrew Scheer, Conservative Party leader, has so far refused to reprimand Mr. Sloan for his xenophobic remarks.

Mr. Sloan can be removed from the Conservative caucus by a vote of 50%+1 of the Conservative caucus. 20% can call for the vote. There are 121 Conservative MPs and Ontario MPs comprise 36 of them - or 29% - more than sufficient to call for the vote.

"There is little question that Mr Sloan's remarks were directed at Dr. Tam because she is Chinese Canadian when he says something that's the equivalent of "go back to China". When every other public health officer concurred with Dr Tam's professional guidance, Mr. Sloan did not mention them. This has not been lost on any number of Chinese Canadians across the country many of whom have started petitions," said Dr. Joseph Wong, Director of Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice.

And this is not happening in the vacuum. Our recent poll <https://ccncsj.ca/nationalpollbias/>

found that a disturbing incidence of anti-Asian racist attitudes, and the reports of anti-Asian racism occurring across the country, make the need for political leadership that much more urgent.

"The lack of political leadership beyond a few words of self-distancing is appalling. In this day and age, there needs to be concrete consequences for such obvious race baiting from someone seeking the leadership of Canada's Official Opposition," said Amy Go, President, Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice.

"Shame on Derek Sloan for feeding the Anti-Asian sentiment in Canada. Shame on all those in his party and the parliament for keeping quiet and condoning racism." said Meena Wong, President, Civic Engagement Network and former Vancouver Mayoral candidate.

We are therefore calling for the following:

1. That Derek Sloan unreservedly apologize for his remarks and withdraw them completely
2. That if Mr. Sloan does not do so, that he be removed from the Conservative caucus by Conservative MPs and that Caucus Chair MP Tom Kmiec initiate the expulsion vote
3. That Mr. Sloan be disqualified as a Conservative party leadership candidate

Numerous online petitions have been initiated from different groups calling for condemnation of Mr. Sloan's remarks or his ouster.