



Interview Summary: Leona Alleslev

Leona Alleslev, former Member of Parliament for Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill, was interviewed by Commission Counsel on March 4, 2024.

Notes to reader

- Commission Counsel have provided explanatory notes in square brackets to assist the reader.
- This summary contains information that relates to the Commission's mandate under clauses (a)(i)(A) and (B) of its Terms of Reference. Information provided during the interviews that relates to other aspects of the Commission's Terms of Reference has been omitted from this summary, but may be adduced by the Commission at a later stage of its proceedings.

[1] Leona Alleslev is the former MP for Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill. She was first elected in 2015 as a member of the Liberal Party of Canada. In 2018, she crossed the floor to join the **Conservative Party of Canada (“CPC”)**. She won reelection as the CPC candidate in 2019. In 2021, she lost her seat to Liberal candidate Leah Taylor-Roy, whom she defeated in 2019, by less than 1500 votes.

[2] Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill has a substantial ethnic Chinese minority population. The 2021 election occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. While campaigning door-to-door in the last ten days of the election, Ms. Alleslev noticed that a majority of Chinese-Canadians would not open their doors to her. (Many other constituents also did not answer their doors during this campaign.)

[3] Those that did answer broadly fell into two categories. Around half the Chinese-Canada constituents she canvassed would tell Ms. Alleslev they were afraid to vote for her because they feared repercussions against themselves or their family members both in Canada and China. Some claimed they took the threat seriously because there were

agents of the **Chinese Communist Party (“CCP”)** working in the local Elections Canada office and in the polling stations, or monitoring outside of the significantly reduced number of polling stations to watch who voted.

- [4] The other half told Ms. Alleslev that the CPC was anti-Chinese and wanted to discredit the CCP and ethnic Chinese people, and take away China’s sovereignty and economic power. One constituent appeared to have a printed email with critical “talking points” about the CPC. She noticed that many other constituents echoed similar sentiments and it sounded to her as if they had received the same “talking points”.
- [5] Ms. Alleslev believes she would have spoken to 200 to 300 constituents who fell into these two categories.
- [6] Ms. Alleslev was also told by some Chinese-Canadian constituents about messaging they had received that said she was anti-Chinese or that she could revoke people’s immigration status, prevent them from getting citizenship, deny student visas or their family members’ visitor visas, take away their benefits, or have them deported.
- [7] Ms. Alleslev did not report any concerns to Elections Canada or the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections during the campaign because of her experience with Elections Canada’s lack of clear process, unresponsiveness and inaction on other matters, but she did express her concerns after the election and to other Members of Parliament, including Erin O’Toole.