

August 31, 2023

Mme. Sarah Fischer  
Director of Communications  
Conservative Party of Canada  
1800-66 Slater Street  
Ottawa ON K1P 5H1

*Delivered by email*

RE: The Breach denied media accreditation for CPC Convention

Dear Mme. Fischer,

Our consortium of press freedom groups are writing to you today to express our concern that [The Breach](#), a national English-language digital-only news outlet based in Montreal, was denied media accreditation to attend the upcoming Conservative Party Convention in Quebec City.

We understand that representatives from The Breach have reached out to you and your team to clarify this decision but they have not received a response. Similarly, we have contacted you directly to comprehend your rationale in an effort to resolve this dispute. We have not yet received a reply.

Our organizations share the view that Canadian political parties should not be in the business of determining who *'is'* or *'is not'* a journalist. We also share the view that all Canadians, regardless of their political leanings or the ways in which they choose to obtain news information and commentary, have a legitimate interest in accessing information about the policy and leadership activities of the Conservative Party of Canada. We, therefore, encourage you to reverse your decision.

We note that this issue was addressed by the [Federal Leaders' Debates Commission](#) ahead of the 2021 federal election. As you can see from the link enclosed, there are several avenues whereby journalists can be accredited to attend official proceedings and/or scrum federal leaders.

The Breach may be a fairly new journalism outlet, but it is a federally-incorporated nonprofit organization that employs eight (8) staff and publishes original reporting on issues of national interest. As you may be aware, The Breach published an investigation into pharmaceutical price reforms that sparked a parliamentary probe earlier this year.

Similarly, the publication's managing editor, Martin Lukacs, who was looking to attend the CPC Convention is a journalist who has worked for The Guardian (UK) and whose work has also been published by outlets including The Toronto Star, The Walrus, CBC, and others. He is also a member of the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ) in good standing.

We hope this letter will assist you in reversing your decision. As an ensemble of groups committed to freedom of expression, we thank you for your careful consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

We the undersigned,



Brent Jolly, President  
Canadian Association of Journalists



Phil Tunley, President  
Canadian Journalists for Free Expression



Grace Westcott, President  
PEN Canada



Brandi Schier, Vice-Chair  
Press Forward