



It starts with Scouts.

Tout commence
avec les Scouts.

Janet Yale

Executive Commissioner
and Chief Executive Officer
Commissaire générale
et directrice générale

1345 chemin Baseline Rd.
Ottawa, ON
K2C 0A7

jjale@scouts.ca
www.scouts.ca

T 613.224.5134 x 278
C 613.875.2370
F 613.224.3571

October 18, 2011

Mr. Timothy Sawa
Producer
the fifth estate
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Dear Mr. Sawa:

During an unscheduled interview conducted October 13th outside Scouts Canada's national headquarters, your Fifth Estate correspondent asserted repeatedly that Scouts Canada retains 'secret lists' or 'secret files' that detail rumours, reports or suspicions with respect to misconduct on the part of current or past volunteer leaders. Furthermore, the correspondent insisted that the contents of these alleged files have been - or are being - withheld from police and other authorities.

To eliminate any confusion or misunderstanding on your part, Scouts Canada wishes to be categorical: both assertions are completely false. As we have informed the Fifth Estate repeatedly and explicitly, unlike Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada has no history of keeping so-called 'pink files', 'pink folders', 'secret lists' or 'secret files'. To be clear, we keep no files, folders, lists or records of any kind that detail suspected instances of misbehaviour, policy violations or abuse on the part of volunteer leaders. To the contrary, our 'suspend first, inquire later' policy requires that receipt of any such report triggers an immediate and explicit response:

- First, we immediately suspend the volunteer leader in question.
- Second, we immediately notify both police and child protection services.
- Third, we share all relevant information in our possession with the police and child protection services and support their efforts to conduct a thorough investigation.

We expect CBC to fulfill its obligation to disclose our position and statement accurately. In particular, we expect CBC to acknowledge that Scouts Canada rejects any suggestion that it possesses 'pink files', 'pink folders', 'secret lists' or 'secret folders' of any kind and that it withholds any information from the police or child protection services.



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We also expect CBC to state the policies and practices of Scouts Canada as set out above and, moreover, we expect CBC to distinguish between Scouts Canada and Boy Scouts of America, clearly identifying them as separate organizations, taking care not to refer to them interchangeably and guarding against any implication – either direct or by way of omission – that the two organizations share like policies or practices.

Sincerely yours:

Janet Yale
Executive Commissioner and CEO
Scouts Canada