

**PIERRE  
POILIEVRE MP**  
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**NEPEAN-CARLETON**

August 17, 2009

Minister Paradis,

I recently had the chance to sit down with some graphic designers who expressed their concerns with me over procurement practices in their field. I promised them that I would bring these issues to your attention.

The main concern that these individuals have is that contract procurement is solely based on a 'lowest-bid' system where the actual quality of the work is not taken into account. They feel that this is something that, in the graphic design industry, is creating an unhealthy environment of competitiveness where the government picks the "cheapest" contract rather than the one which has the "best value." At the same time, they realize that a system which takes quality into account would be difficult to create and manage but fear that if change does not happen soon, many good quality graphic designers will go out of business.

They have, however, proposed a solution. There is a provincially set-up organization which can do the leg work for the Federal government in determining the quality of a graphic designer. This organization, The Association of Registered Graphic Designers of Ontario (RGD), puts its members through a series of tests in order to determine the quality of their work as well as requiring post-secondary education. They feel that PWGSC should recognize RDG certification in awarding contracts related to graphic design. This, they point out, would ensure the best value for the best price.

As the Member of Parliament for Nepean-Carleton, I take pride in listening to my constituents and presenting their concerns in order to get results and I hope that you too will take the time to consider the points that these graphic designers have raised. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Pierre Poilievre, M.P. Nepean-Carleton  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister  
& to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

cc. Hilary Ashworth  
cc. Al Albania  
cc. Brendan Hawley

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