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Duffy diaries indicate Senator coordinated efforts with Krause and Levant to attack charities

How Vivian Krause's attack on charities moved from her North Vancouver basement to the halls of power in Ottawa has long been a mystery. Duffy's diaries reveal clues.



Danny Kresnyak | Apr 10th, 2015

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Text in yellow is what has been retracted from the original article.



Left to right: Vivian Krause, Mike Duffy and Ezra Levant

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She had tears in her eyes as she told the Senate National Finance Committee **she had sold her house to fund her research on environmental charities.**

On June 8, 2012, Vivian Krause alleged a conspiracy between American financial interests and Canadian environmental groups. She said the collusion was meant to ensure Canadian energy resources would remain destined for American markets rather than exported east to meet the growing demand in China.

Mike Duffy, then a Harper appointed Senator and prominent character in fundraiser videos for the Conservative Party of Canada, was not a regular member of the finance committee but was present to hear Krause's testimony. His day planner — now popularly known as the "Duffy diaries" — has a note on June 6 2012 that reads "MD fills in for Doug Finley @ National Finance, Vivian Krause"

Krause, a self-described North Vancouver independent researcher and "B.C. girl at heart," is named 11 times in Duffy's diary between February and December of 2012, 12 in all.

The document, admitted as evidence before the court in Duffy's trial, **states Duffy met with controversial researcher and writer Vivian Krause on numerous occasions after teleconferencing with ex-Sun News personality Ezra Levant and exchanging emails under the heading "re: Vivian Krause" in early 2011. Court documents revealed these facts on Wednesday.**

"Vivian Krause appears before Commons Energy Committee," says an entry in Duffy's journal on February 9, 2012, on the day Krause testified before the Standing Committee on Natural Resources that U.S. foundations were donating money to Canadian environmental charities. Right after Krause's testimony, Duffy's diary reads: "Lunch - Vivian Krause".

The diary also mentions a meeting with "Kory", presumably then-Sun News executive and current Conservative Party staff member Kory Teneycke.

In the same time frame, Krause received significant funding from the oil, gas and mining industries and has admitted 90% of her income in 2012, 2013 and 2014 was drawn from speaking fees and honorariums funded by energy industry giants - though she has not declared who or how much she was paid. Krause's work has received traction in the National Post, Financial post and on social media. Her website, Fairquestions.org has also become a favorite resource of Fox News and the now defunct Sun News Network.

Assertions made by Krause have sparked audits of environmental charities by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), a fact she has included in her resume. All complaints filed with the CRA were done by a group called Ethical Oil through their legal team. At the same time, On Ezra Levant's now defunct program *The Source* he echoed Krause's conspiracy talking points and added allegations of environmental charities laundering money for political special interests.

Meanwhile, Ethical Oil authored the Our Decision campaign to advocate the approval of the Northern Gateway pipeline and energy trade with the Asian market. Ethical Oil was incorporated by Edmonton law firm McLennan Ross, a company which represents a self-reported 63 per cent of the the major players in the oil sands industry. Levant's personal lawyer, Thomas Ross, is a partner at McLennan Ross.

Krause's research has been cited as the inspiration for articles from Conservative party caucus members Peter Kent, Vic Toews and Joe Oliver. Oliver echoed the conspiracy accusation when he wrote on his website that British Columbia based environmental activists funded by foreign special interests "threaten to hijack our regulatory system to achieve their radical ideological agenda."

The May 9, 2012 episode of Levant's program *The Source* featured a report tying environmental activists with extremism and money laundering. Sun News Network followed up with a piece in August claiming one in two people were afraid of eco-terrorist attacks.

Peter Kent formalized the claims of alleged money-laundering amongst environmental charities and then Finance Minister Jim Flaherty used the stories to justify audits of Tides Canada and other associations. Vic Toews included environmental action groups on a list of groups linked to extremism and a possible source of terror attacks in Canada.

According to prominent Vancouver business leader and Observer contributor Sandy Garossino, Krause's accusations leave out the fact that "the majority of the \$425 million that U.S. foundations donated to Canada in the last 15 years went toward habitat conservation in the Great Bear Rainforest and Boreal Forest Initiatives projects," which was then a partnership with the Harper government. References to this have now removed from both Krause and the Conservative Party's websites.