

# A license to print money

*Your CTF has been inundated with e-mails expressing outrage, bewilderment, and frustration at the latest Liberal scandal involving the former head of the Canadian Mint, David Dingwall. The question is simple: how much did this guy end up costing us?"*

**O**n September 28, 2005, the head of the Royal Canadian Mint, David Dingwall resigned amid allegations of ethical lapses and questionable spending – some \$740,000 in 2004 expenses -- making him the fifth scandal-plagued Crown corporation head to exit under Paul Martin's watch.

He had also been criticized for failing to register as a lobbyist for Bioniche Life Sciences Inc., a Toronto-based pharmaceutical company. Reports indicate Dingwall was paid \$350,000 for helping secure grants from Technology Partnerships Canada (an Industry Canada program) for the company even though TPC rules forbid paying "success fees."

Mr. Dingwall, Paul Martin, Revenue Minister John McCallum, and Treasury Board President, Reg Alcock all defended these lavish expenses at the mint saying no rules were broken. Mr. Dingwall himself said: "All of the expenses were related to my responsibilities and each

of them were disclosed to the board and will stand up to scrutiny as completely appropriate to my role as president of the mint."

So what were these expenses?

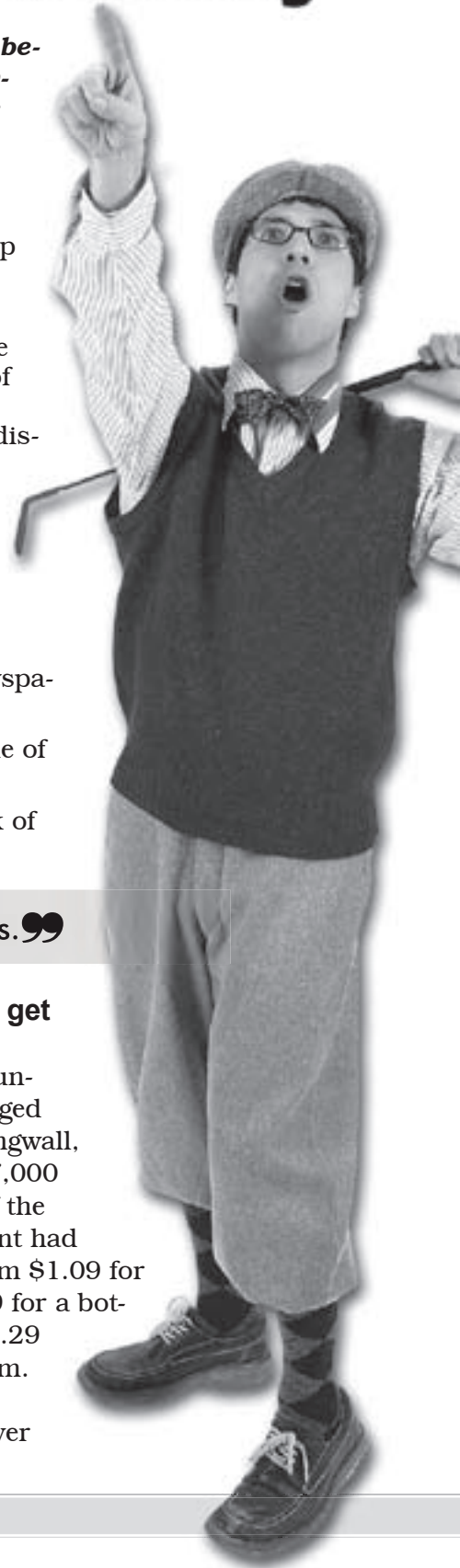
- \$92,682 for foreign travel including a one-day bill for over \$13,000;
- \$40,355 for travel in Canada;
- \$3,314 for dining while abroad;
- \$11,173 for domestic dining, including \$5,953 for a single meal at Ottawa's Brookstreet Hotel, a swanky restaurant in the nation's capital;

- \$5,297 for golf club membership fees;
- \$2,500 for domestic limousine service (on top of having a government car at his disposal);
- \$12,000 car allowance;
- \$5,998 for vehicle "operating costs";
- \$1.09 for a newspaper;
- \$1.79 for a bottle of water; and
- \$1.29 for a pack of chewing gum.

“\$5,297 for golf club membership fees.”

## How did Dingwall get by?

Taxpayers were understandably outraged to hear that Mr. Dingwall, who collected \$277,000 per year as head of the Royal Canadian Mint had the audacity to claim \$1.09 for a newspaper, \$1.79 for a bottle of water, and \$1.29 for a package of gum. Barely 3 percent of Canadians make over



## You asked for it...

\$100,000 per year, let alone over a quarter of a million dollars. Surely, Mr. Dingwall can afford to pay out of pocket for his Dentyne.

### How Will Dingwall Survive Now?

To add salt to taxpayer wounds Mr. Dingwall is in line for \$500,000 in severance. Most of us in the real world get nothing if we quit our job. Then there's that little issue of his MP pension. Your CTF estimates that in just two years, at the ripe age of 55, Mr. Dingwall will be collecting an annual pension of \$77,219. That puts him in the top ten percent of income earners in the country – as a retiree no less! Assuming Mr. Dingwall lives to 75, his annual pension (modestly indexed at one-and-a-half percent) will be \$121,951. Total estimated pension benefits to age 75: \$1,905,890.

### Unrepentant Pigs at the Trough

What rankles taxpayers almost as much as the wasteful spending by politically-connected elites, is the arrogant, unapologetic reactions of these guys when they get caught. Andre Ouellet, the former head of Canada Post racked up \$2-million in expenses without producing so much as a parking receipt. When he was questioned,

Ouellet bragged about how he turned Canada Post around and how he followed all the rules. Read: buzz off taxpayer and pay my bills!

David Dingwall has stuck to the same script. When questioned about his expenses on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Mr. Dingwall said he had stuck to the rules and that nothing was out of order. He added that it wasn't actually taxpayers' money he spent. Said Dingwall: "All expenses came from the operating revenue of the corporation (Royal Canadian Mint), not from taxpayers' dollars."

Say what? Aren't Crown Corporations owned by the federal government, and by extension taxpayers? Every dime of either profit or operating expenses is taxpayers' money! This type of arrogance is all too common. When asked whether he thought he was deserving of severance, Mr. Dingwall replied, "I think I am ethically entitled to the entitlements owing to me."

With an "independent audit" clearing the former Crown head of any wrongdoing and his lawyers ready to pounce ... be assured dear taxpayer that Mr. Dingwall will get everything and more he is "ethically entitled to," right down to the gum wrapper.■

## David Dingwall's Licence to print money

Salary as head of the Royal Canadian Mint: **\$277,000**

Severance for resigning: **\$500,000**

Annual MP Pension (CTF estimate): **\$77,219 (indexed)**

Total MP pension benefits to age 75: **\$1,905,890 (est)**

