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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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The Honourable Anthony Rota
Speaker of the House
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

February 12, 2021

Mr. Speaker,

By this letter, I wish to inform you that I will be rising on a point of privilege on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. This will be my earliest opportunity to raise the issue that came to my attention late last week. In a media interview the Honourable Member from Burnaby South and leader of the New Democratic Party appears to have solidified opposition to Green Party and other representatives of non-recognized parties from placing questions to the prime minister on Wednesdays. In fact, Mr.

Singh's quote suggests he does not think members of non-recognized parties have rights to speak in Question Period at all.

The matter of privilege is, of course, our ability as Members of Parliament to do our work effectively. It has been a matter of fairly continual dispute since late 2019 that members of non-recognized parties are being denied the opportunity to take the floor in Wednesday Question Period. But until Mr. Singh's reply to Ms. Althia Raj of Huff Post, it seemed to be a matter of scheduling difficulties. It was the matter of scheduling over which we were in somewhat futile "negotiations" with the four house leaders.

I am grateful for the opportunity to place this matter before you and seek protection of our rights as Members of Parliament. Can you advise me whether my intention to rise at the end of routine proceedings is convenient, or if another point in the day's proceedings would be preferred?

Many thanks. With all good wishes,

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada

