

Annotated Text for Coreference Resolution

1) Text 5c5e50711e67d78e27616b23.txt

CALGARY — Canada's transport minister has ordered the use of hand brakes on all trains stopped on mountain slopes following a deadly derailment earlier this week in the Rocky Mountains.

Marc Garneau said in a statement late Friday that the order is a precaution until the cause of the derailment is determined. It takes effect immediately.

"My department has issued a Ministerial Order under the Railway Safety Act to all railway companies mandating the use of hand brakes should a train be stopped on a mountain grade after an emergency use of the air brakes. This order takes effect immediately and will remain in effect as long as necessary," said Garneau.

"As I have said many times before, rail safety is my top priority and I will never hesitate to take appropriate actions when necessary."

The Canadian Press A train derailment is shown near Field, B.C. on Monday.

A Vancouver-bound train with 112 grain cars was parked for two hours with its air brakes engaged on a grade east of Field, B.C., when it started moving on its own early Monday. The train sped up to well over the limit before 99 cars and two locomotives hurtled off the tracks.

Three employees with Canadian Pacific Railway — engineer Andrew Dockrell, conductor Dylan Paradis and trainee Daniel Waldenberger-Bulmer — were killed.

The Transportation Safety Board has said hand brakes were not applied.

A report by the railway company details how challenging it is to run trains in frigid temperatures. It was about -20 C at the time of the crash.

"Harsh winter conditions are an inescapable reality in Canada's northern climate," says a document titled White Paper: Railroading in the Canadian Winter on Canadian Pacific Railway's website.

"Winter has a profound impact on a railway's operations and its ability to maintain service for its customers."

The Canadian Press A train derailment is shown near Field, B.C. on Monday.

The white paper said cold increases air leakage from a train's air- brake system that results in varying air pressures between the head and tail end of a train.

"This is a major challenge."

Trains are shortened when temperatures dip below -25 C to ensure pressure remains consistent throughout their entire length, the report said.

A union representative has said the derailed train was shorter than the 135 cars CP has run in recent years. But a veteran Boston-based engineer said 112 cars is large for a train of full grain hoppers.

"Our forefathers in the business would never have put a train together that big under those climatic conditions and expected it to run smoothly," said Joe Mulligan with Railroad Workers United, a volunteer-run group of rank-and-file railroaders across North America.

Mulligan said it would have taken a lot of handbrakes to hold back a train so big. And there was nothing to be done once the train was in motion.

The Canadian Press A train derailment is shown near Field, B.C. on Monday.

The Calgary-based railway said in the report that it also places locomotives at different points along a train in the winter. Distributing power that way makes it quicker to pressurize air brakes. The train that derailed had a locomotive at the front, middle and end.

In extreme cold, dryers are used to prevent moisture from getting into the brakes, which means it takes longer to pressurize them and do the required safety checks, said the winter railroading report.

"This unavoidably increases the train's terminal dwell time."

The white paper also said train speeds must be reduced in frigid temperatures — by at least 16 km/h below -25 C and by at least 32 km/h at -35 C.

Will Young, a locomotive mechanic based in Kansas City, Mo., and an organizer at Railroad Workers United, said cold weather takes a toll on many train components.

"Things break that normally don't. Steel just becomes brittle. Rubber seals just harden and don't work."

Young said he suspects some sort of mechanical issue caused the braking system to lose power. That could have set off the chain of events that led to the catastrophe.

"It only takes that ever-so-slight touch of momentum."

2) Text 5c5da7aa1e67d78e275f8a3c.txt

Annabelle Liang, The Associated Press.

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SINGAPORE -- World markets were subdued on Friday after President Donald Trump said he doesn't plan to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping before their truce on raising tariffs in a festering trade dispute ends in early March.

France's CAC 40 rose 0.3 per cent to 5,001.28 and the DAX in Germany was 0.1 per cent higher at 11,030.49. Britain's FTSE 100 index added 0.2 per cent to 7,108.82 as Prime Minister Theresa May and the European Union agreed to more negotiations over an exit deal.

Wall Street was set for early losses. Futures for the S&P 500 index shed 0.3 per cent to 2,696.10. Dow futures lost 0.3 per cent to 25,062.00.

On Thursday, Trump did not dismiss the possibility of meeting Xi in the next month or so. But he shook his head and said no when reporters asked if the meeting would take place before March 2. That marks the end of a 90-day tariffs truce mooted after Trump and Xi met in December.

Unless American and Chinese negotiators come to a new agreement, the U.S. is expected to raise import taxes from 10 per cent to 25 per cent for \$200 billion in Chinese goods. The trade dispute between the world's two largest economies, which has cooled in recent months, has weighed on the outlook of businesses and the global economy.

"The worries surround the uncertainties of a resolution to the likelihood of further tariffs in this on-again, off-again confidence with regards to a deal," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a market commentary.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin and trade representative Robert Lighthizer are to lead a delegation to Beijing next week for the next round of trade talks. Officials have reported little progress on contentious issues but are hopeful that a deal will be struck.

The downgrade of growth forecasts for the 19-country eurozone was also on trader's minds. The European Commission cut its forecast for the year to 1.3 per cent from 1.9 per cent on Thursday, because of slowing Chinese growth and other risks.

Germany, Europe's largest economy, saw a significant cut to its growth outlook to 1.1 per cent from 1.8 per cent. This comes on the back of economic releases showing that industrial production and factory orders slowed in December.

THE DAY IN ASIA: Japan's Nikkei 225 index closed 2 per cent lower at 20,333.17. Hong Kong's Hang Seng, reopening after a Lunar New Year break, gave up 0.2 per cent to 27,946.32. The Kospi in South Korea declined 1.2 per cent to 2,177.05 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 was down 0.3 per cent at 6,071.50. Stocks fell in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand but rose in Malaysia. Markets in China and Taiwan were closed.

ENERGY: U.S. crude oil lost 21 cents to \$52.43 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It dropped \$1.37 to settle at \$52.64 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, retreated 11 cents to \$61.52 per barrel. It fell \$1.06 to close at \$61.63 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 109.79 yen from 109.82 yen late Thursday. The euro eased to \$1.1330 from \$1.1341. The British pound fell to \$1.2931 from \$1.2953.

3) Text 5c5d532a795bd2d5c282a094.txt

Open this photo in gallery FILE PHOTO: A Suncor refinery is seen in Sherwood Park, near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada November 13, 2016. REUTERS/Chris Helgren/File Photo Chris Helgren/Reuters.

The federal government paid Calgary-based Suncor Energy as much as \$600-million to compensate for Middle East oil and gas assets and income lost since the Arab Spring in 2011.

On Wednesday Suncor disclosed in its quarterly financial results that it had received \$300-million in "risk mitigation" payments relating to its Libyan operations. This followed a separate \$300-million payment linked to its Syrian enterprise in 2012. Suncor declined to answer questions about the payments.

Suncor reported a profit of \$3.3-billion on revenue of \$38.98-billion for the 12 months ended Dec. 31, 2018. With an enterprise value of \$76-billion at the end of last year and daily production capacity of about 830,000 barrels, Suncor by any measure ranks among Canada's largest energy companies.

Story continues below advertisement.

Export Development Canada (EDC), the national export credit agency, has long offered political risk insurance. That insurance protects EDC's customers against the dangers of doing business in high-risk emerging markets, such as expropriation, political violence and the inability to transfer or convert local currency. The insurance cushioned the blow for **Suncor**, which wrote off assets worth billions of dollars from its former Middle East operations.

Political risk insurance is a niche product, and **Suncor's** claims are massive by both Canadian and international standards. The U.S. **Overseas Private Investment Corp.**, one of the world's largest political risk insurers, has paid out 300 settlements since it was established by president **Richard Nixon** in 1971; the combined value of those claims was only US\$977.4-million.

Although a handful of commercial insurers have offered the product, the **Crown corporation** is known for taking risks the private sector would never entertain. In the years leading up to 2011, **EDC** charged a premium of around 1 per cent or slightly less for this insurance. **EDC** has typically earned around \$10-million to \$20-million in premiums annually from selling political risk insurance; at that rate, it would take decades to cover **Suncor's** claims.

EDC underwrote **Suncor's** insurance policy in 2006 at a time when Petro-Canada (which merged with **Suncor** in 2009) produced crude oil in Libya and was pursuing a new natural gas development in Syria, having just sold a portfolio of mature assets there. **Petro-Canada** began developing the Ebla natural gas project in Syria in the late 2000s, where it saw "significant upside potential." Meanwhile, it also established itself as one of Libya's larger oil producers through Harouge Oil Operations, a joint venture with that country's national oil company.

The company pumped hundreds of millions of dollars in capital spending into the two countries. But it knew its overseas assets were threatened by unrest, economic and legal sanctions and war, and purchased political risk insurance from EDC and commercial insurers to mitigate those perils.

EDC, meanwhile, wanted to encourage more Canadian foreign direct investment. One way to accomplish that was by offering increased volumes of political risk insurance to Canadian companies interested in doing business in volatile emerging markets. In 2006 **EDC** broadened its political risk insurance program to cover a wider variety of investments. That year it underwrote \$4.8-billion in political risk insurance, substantially beating its own target.

Canadians had little way of knowing about **Suncor's** insurance policy. Although **EDC** disclosed most of its financing transactions since 2001, it reveals political risk insurance policies only when the beneficiaries were lenders such as banks. In 2006 it disclosed political insurance policies in Mauritania, Jamaica and Mexico, but none in the Middle East. **EDC** declined to answer most of The Globe's questions about the **Suncor** policy. "We are obligated to respect the confidentiality of our policy holders and their policies with us," it said in a statement.

Story continues below advertisement.

Story continues below advertisement.

EDC continued expanding its insurance business in the Middle East and Africa throughout the late 2000s, and by the dawn of the Arab Spring, 37 per cent of its political risk insurance portfolio resided in that region – by far its largest regional exposure.

The timing proved unfortunate.

Things soured quickly in February, 2011, when what began as anti-government rallies in Benghazi grew into an armed uprising against the government of Moammar Gadhafi. Meanwhile, pro-democracy protests in March, 2011, in southern Syria also mushroomed into widespread unrest throughout the country, prompting a crackdown by President Bashar al-Assad and, ultimately, civil war.

Responding to international sanctions, Suncor suspended operations in both countries. In Syria the suspension proved indefinite, and the company filed a claim to EDC in 2011. The following year, Suncor reported receiving \$300-million in “risk mitigation” payments relating to its Syrian operations, without identifying the source. Meanwhile, EDC disclosed a \$300-million claim without identifying the customer. “EDC had the largest political risk insurance claim charge in its history as a result of the turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East,” Pierre Gignac, EDC’s then-chief risk officer, mentioned in a 2013 commentary.

Another was coming.

Suncor’s withdrawal from Libya unfolded in a less straightforward manner. After Mr. Gadhafi was removed from power and murdered in 2011, Suncor was optimistic it could continue doing business under the new government. It resumed production later that year. But beginning in July, 2013, Suncor found its Libyan oil shut in again, a situation that worsened after export terminals it relied on were closed. The result was the same: As unrest escalated, Suncor concluded it could no longer operate in Libya, either.

Story continues below the advertisement.

Suncor received its second \$300-million payment earlier this year. The company noted it might have to repay some of that sum “dependent on the future performance and cash flows from Suncor’s Libyan assets.” But as of press time, Suncor said continuing political risk continues to impede its production in Libya. As the latest payment has yet to appear in EDC’s financial statements, it’s not clear the Crown corporation paid the full balance.

In the years following Suncor’s monster Syrian claim, EDC disclosed additional political risk insurance exposures across the Middle East, including \$300-million of liability in each of Tunisia, Qatar, Algeria and Yemen. EDC continues to offer this type of insurance, but in 2017 its total exposure fell below \$1-billion for the first time in years, and its Middle Eastern liability had fallen to 10 per cent of its total portfolio.

EDC says it is self-funding. However, as a Crown corporation, its benefits from the federal government’s triple-A credit rating.

EDC declined to discuss whether it had changed its underwriting or risk management practices as a result of Suncor's claims.

Jim Carr, the Minister of International Trade Diversification, bears primary responsibility for supervising the Crown corporation. In a statement, his office said: "In these cases, the political risk insurance was purchased under the previous government and these payments were simply following the contracts signed under those agreements.

"We will continue to work with the agency and their new CEO to ensure that they uphold the values of openness and transparency that Canadians expect." (Former long-time Bombardier executive Mairead Lavery was appointed EDC's new president and CEO on Feb. 5, replacing Benoit Daignault, who held the post five years beginning in 2014. She is the first female to hold the position.).

Story continues below advertisement.

In addition to Suncor, other Canadian companies have historically also experienced significant losses while operating abroad – often because of expropriation.

Robert Wisner, a lawyer with McMillan LLP in Toronto who specializes in international arbitrations, said disputes between companies and governments involving political risks are increasingly resolved under international investment treaties. "In that field there have been billion-dollar awards, including for Canadian companies," he said. Prominent Canadian examples include Canadian mining companies operating in Venezuela such as Crystallex International Corp., Rusoro Mining Corp. and Gold Reserve Inc. that lost properties through expropriation in Venezuela.

"Obviously the billion-dollar cases are at the very high end," he added, "but there have been other cases where awards have been paid out for hundreds of millions of dollars."

4) Text 5c5d3f0a1e67d78e275e5788.txt

Please note that for this text, we colored all person entities the same color due to limited colors availability, and as well, to minimize confusion between colors use, as there was only one coreference chain that was formed.

Play continues across three courses Friday at AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Brian Gay and Scott Langley begin play in Round sharing the lead at 7-under par. Among those tied at 6-under: Phil Mickelson and Jason Day. Hosung Choi and his "fisherman" swing made their PGA Tour debut with a 72 Thursday.

Ted Potter, Jr., is the defending champion.

Here are the Round 2 tee times, which have been moved up due to concerns about inclement weather.

Next on the tee ... Ho Sung Choi ♂ pic.twitter.com/XmE3dFgtcU — PGA TOUR (@PGATOUR) February 7, 2019.

Round 2 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am tee times, pairings.

Pebble Beach Golf Links – 1st tee.

(All times Eastern).

Tee time Pro Player (Amateur Partner) 10 a.m. John Senden (Ford), Scott Stallings (Weiner) 10:11 a.m. Rod Pampling (Kernen), Grayson Murray (Read) 10:22 a.m. Lucas Glover (Mack), Fabián Gómez (Marsh) 10:33 a.m. Ryan Palmer (Roberts), James Hahn (Schindler) 10:44 a.m. Kramer Hickok (Kohler), Cameron Davis (Kell) 10:55 a.m. Whee Kim (Dreesen), Kelly Kraft (Vaughn) 11:06 a.m. Jimmy Walker (Crane), Andrew Putnam (Disney) 11:17 a.m. Hunter Mahan (Dundon), Jim Furyk (Romo) 11:28 p.m. Wyndham Clark (Rooney), Jos de Jesús Rodríguez (Harrison) 11:39 p.m. Shane Lowry (McManus), Rafa Cabrera Bello (Desmond) 11:50 p.m. Cameron Champ (Roberts), Brice Garnett (Durban) 12:01 p.m. Cody Gribble (Ewing IV), Ted Potter, Jr. (Law) 12:12 p.m. Roger Sloan (DeCarlo), Chase Wright (Esteve III).

Pebble Beach Golf Links – 10th tee.

Tee time Pro Player (Amateur Partner) 10 a.m. John Catlin (Robbins), Corey Connors (Wirth) 10:11 a.m. Adam Long (Squeri), Michael Kim (Cue) 10:22 p.m. Johnson Wagner (McCoy), Peter Malnati (McCoy) 10:33 p.m. Vaughn Taylor (Ontiveros), David Duval (Kenning) 10:44 a.m. Anders Albertson (Dorman), Martin Piller (Antin) 10:55 a.m. J.J. Spaun (Torgerson), Matt Jones (Arcangeli Jr.) 11:06 a.m. Sean O’Hair (Johnson), Tyrone Van Aswegen (Light) 11:17 a.m. Michael Thompson (Ogunlesi), J.J. Henry (Taylor) 11:28 a.m. Adam Svensson (Yass), Jim Knous (Crockett) 11:33 a.m. Chesson Hadley (Lacob), Martin Laird (Couch) 11:50 p.m. Adam Hadwin (Quattrone), Ben Crane (Pena) 12:01 p.m. Aaron Baddeley (Vaughan), Sangmoon Bae (Campbell) 12:12 p.m. Jason Schmuhl (Rogers), Sepp Straka (Sepp Straka).

Spyglass Hill Golf Course – 1st tee.

10 a.m. Talor Gooch (Smith), David Hearn (Dube) 10:11 a.m. Austin Cook (Holzschuh), Jonas Blixt (Davis) 10:22 a.m. Matt Kuchar (Yang), Davis Love III (Walker) 10:33 a.m. Chez Reavie (Swette), D.J. Trahan (Garcia) 10:44 a.m. Curtis Luck (Davis), Dru Love (Tarde) 10:55 a.m. Matt Every (Buchmueller), Andres Romero (Barton) 11:06 a.m. Ernie Els (Yang), Sungjae Im (Battle) 11:17 a.m. Scott Langley (Rose), Brendon Todd (Keller) 11:28 a.m. Trey Mullinax (Rice), Beau Hossler (Lance) 11:39 a.m. Patrick Rodgers (Schwab), Josh Teater (Smith) 11:50 a.m. Tommy Fleetwood (Grizot), Russell Henley (Arnault) 12:01 p.m. Jason Day (Lentz), Mackenzie Hughes (Wilson) 12:12 p.m. Seth Reeves (Kinnear), Doug Ghim (Ueberroth).

Spyglass Hill Golf Course – 10th tee.

Tee Times Pro Player (Amateur Partner) 10 a.m. Jason Gore (Ribeiro), Ryan Armour (Kazantsev) 10:11 a.m. Phil Mickelson (Ozanus), Patrick Reed (Dunne) 10:22 a.m. Adam Scott (Mackenzie), Billy Hurley III (Slater) 10:33 a.m. Jerry Kelly (Rodgers), Ho Sung Choi (O’Donnell) 10:44 a.m. Ryan Ruffels (Abeles), Wes Roach (Laffont) 10:55 a.m. Kevin Streelman (Fitzgerald), Brian Gay (Young) 11:06 a.m. Kenny Perry (Rucker), Russell Knox (Ryan) 11:17 a.m. Steve Stricker (Keith), Kevin Kisner (Ford) 11:28 a.m. Dominic Bozzelli (Walker), Ricky Barnes (Monahan) 11:39 a.m. Keith Mitchell (Monahan), Charley Hoffman (Fish) 11:50 a.m. Dustin Johnson (Gretzky), Jordan Spieth (Owen) 12:01 p.m. D.A. Points

(Murray), Pat Perez (Lund) 12:12 p.m. Brady Schnell (Larry the Cable Guy), Adam Schenk (Romano).

Monterey Peninsula CC – 1st tee.

Tee Times Pro Player (Amateur Partner) 10 a.m. Scott Brown (Sloan), Brian Stuard (Fireman) 10:11 a.m. David Lingmerth (Truwit), Stephan Jaeger (Curragh) 10:22 a.m. Chad Collins (Handler), Tom Hoge (Beam) 10:33 a.m. Tyler Duncan (Calhoun), Brandon Harkins (Ireland) 10:44 a.m. Roberto Díaz (Bronson), Nate Lashley (Rose) 10:55 a.m. Chris Thompson (Maritz), Hank Lebioda (Antinori) 11:06 a.m.. Nick Taylor (Arora), Freddie Jacobson (Robertson) 11:17 a.m. John Huh (Demo), Derek Fathauer (Dyer) 11:28 a.m. Julián Etulain (Lindner III), Ben Silverman (Jacobs) 11:39 a.m. John Chin (Baumer), Kyle Jones (Kyle Jones) 11:50 a.m. Kyoung-Hoon Lee (Patterson), Dylan Frittelli (Meeker) 12:01 p.m. Steve Jones (McGarry), Alex Cejka (Silagy) 12:12 p.m. Sebastián Muñoz (Entrecanales), Max Homa (Baldwin).

Monterey Peninsula CC – 10th tee.

Tee Times Pro Player (Amateur Partner) 10 a.m. Sam Saunders (Ferris), Joel Dahmen (Bertarelli) 10:11 a.m. Chris Stroud (Lewis), Branden Grace (Green) 10:22 a.m. Brandt Snedeker (Bhusri), Matthew Fitzpatrick (Still) 10:33 a.m. Rory Sabbatini (Mycoskie), J.B. Holmes (Wagner) 10:44 a.m. Martin Trainer (Hamill), Joey Garber (Maxwell) 10:55 a.m. Chad Campbell (Sutton), Alex Prugh (Thompson) 11:06 a.m.. Jonathan Byrd (Francis), Si Woo Kim (Gill) 11:17 a.m. Graeme McDowell (Brown), Paul Casey (Colleran) 11:28 a.m. Cameron Tringale (Richards, Jr.), Richy Werenski (Chen) 11:39 a.m. Nick Watney (Frist), Robert Garrigus (Plain) 11:50 a.m. Tony Finau (Narayan), Scott Piercy (Ryu) 12:01 p.m. Sung Kang (Calderoni), Roberto Castro (O'Connor) 12:12 p.m. Broc Everett (Barrett), Tom Lovelady (MacFarlane).

TV information.

Golf Channel:.

Friday: 3-6 p.m.

Saturday: 1-2:45 p.m.

Sunday: 1-2:45 p.m.

CBS.

Saturday: 3-6 p.m.

Sunday: 3-6:30 p.m.

PGA Tour Live:.

Friday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

5) Text 5c5d3e251e67d78e275e54b5.txt

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is under siege over an allegation his office attempted to politically interfere in a criminal corruption case against SNC-Lavalin, a massive Quebec-based engineering firm with a hand in many Canadian infrastructure projects.

Trudeau called the allegation “false” on Thursday and in a carefully worded response said he never issued directions on the case.

“Neither the current nor the previous attorney general was ever directed by me or by anyone in my office to take a decision in this matter,” Trudeau told reporters.

But the opposition accused him of parsing words to avoid answering whether any attempt at influence was made.

“The prime minister must immediately come clean to Canadians about what he knew about this case and when he knew it,” said Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer. “Nothing less than full disclosure is acceptable.”

The firestorm was kicked off by a report in The Globe and Mail Thursday that, citing confidential sources, alleged the Prime Minister’s Office leaned on then Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould to negotiate what’s known as a remediation agreement with SNC-Lavalin. The company was criminally charged in 2015 with allegedly paying bribes to Libyan public officials between 2001 and 2011 in exchange for construction contracts in that country. The National Post has not independently verified the allegation of political interference.

A remediation agreement, also called deferred prosecution, would mean the prosecution is halted and the charges stayed in exchange for an admission of wrongdoing, full co-operation in the investigation of specific individuals and a fine. Proponents of remediation agreements say they bring faster restitution, avoid costly trials and treat company shareholders more fairly. The ability for Canada to pursue such agreements is new; the provision was in a budget bill passed in the spring of 2018.

A conviction on fraud or corruption would be enormously damaging for SNC-Lavalin, barring it from bidding on federal government contracts for 10 years. SNC-Lavalin has long been pushing for Canada to adopt remediation agreements.

Wilson-Raybould, according to the Globe report, rebuffed the pressure from the Prime Minister’s Office. In January, she was shuffled out of the portfolio and moved to Veterans Affairs. David Lametti, a former McGill University law professor, has taken over as Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

After Wilson-Raybould was shuffled, she published an unusual statement on her website that hinted at disagreements with the Prime Minister’s Office.

“It is a pillar of our democracy that our system of justice be free from even the perception of political interference and uphold the highest levels of public confidence,” her statement said. “As such, it has always been my view that the Attorney General of Canada must be non-partisan, more transparent in the principles that are the basis of decisions, and, in this respect, always willing to speak truth to power.”

Speaking in Vaughan, Ont., on Thursday morning, Trudeau denied the substance of the Globe’s story. “The allegations in the Globe story this morning are false,” he said.

But pushed twice on whether anyone in his office attempted any type of influence beyond “directing” the attorney general, Trudeau stuck by those particular words.

“At no time did I or my office direct the current or previous attorney general to make any particular decision in this matter,” he said.

Later, during question period in the House of Commons, Lametti said that neither he nor Wilson-Raybould was “under pressure” by the Prime Minister’s Office. But Lametti repeatedly attributed that phrase to Trudeau, despite Trudeau having never said that.

“As the Prime Minister said earlier today, neither the Prime Minister nor his office put my predecessor or myself under pressure nor gave any directives,” Lametti said.

Liberal MP Marco Mendicino — a former federal prosecutor, and until August 2018 the parliamentary secretary to the attorney general — went on CBC later in the day to further rebut the allegation of PMO interference.

“Neither directed, nor pressured, nor influenced,” he said. “Insert whatever adjective you want. The attorney general is an office that the prime minister respects, along with the independence of the judiciary, as well as the Prosecution Service.”

Trudeau was not in attendance in the House of Commons on Thursday, instead attending scheduled events in Toronto. Wilson-Raybould was present but did not answer any questions — despite numerous questions directed at her by opposition MPs. “The minister will not be commenting on this story today,” her office told the National Post. She had earlier declined comment to the Globe, saying the matter “is between me and the government as the government’s previous lawyer.”

Nothing less than full disclosure is acceptable.

SNC-Lavalin also declined comment in a statement to the Post.

The decision of whether or not to pursue a remediation agreement is made by the Director of the Public Prosecutions, Kathleen Rousel. SNC-Lavalin was informed on Oct. 9, 2018, that that it would not be invited to negotiate an agreement, meaning the criminal charges would proceed.

Later that month, SNC-Lavalin applied for judicial review of the decision in Federal Court, arguing Rousel’s refusal to issue an invitation was an “unreasonable exercise of her discretion” and an “incoherent application of the relevant criteria.”

The Director of Public Prosecutions has filed a motion to strike SNC-Lavalin’s application on the grounds the court does not have jurisdiction to review the decision. A hearing on the motion to strike took place last week in Montreal; a decision has yet to be announced.

Lobbying records show SNC-Lavalin has repeatedly met with the government on the topic of “justice” and “law enforcement” over the past two years, including more than a dozen meetings with Prime Minister’s Office staff. The government held a two-month consultation in the fall of 2017 on remediation agreements, and multiple departments were involved in shaping the policy. The policy was inserted into Bill C-74, a sprawling budget bill introduced on March 27, 2018, and passed into law three months later.

Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, said in an interview on Thursday that the policy discussion on remediation agreements was on a “broader scale,” not meant to benefit one specific company.

“We engage with companies of all sizes from different regions and we want to hear their concerns, so I have no doubt that that (SNC-Lavalin) probably raised the issue with my team or my officials,” he said. “But again, our policies are designed to be agnostic to any one sector or any one company.”

Last November, former SNC-Lavalin vice-president Normand Morin pleaded guilty to violating Canada’s election finance laws over a scandal that saw the company reimbursing employees for donations to political parties. Of the more than \$117,000 in donations, the vast majority was to Liberals, including \$83,534 to the Liberal Party of Canada, \$13,552 to Liberal riding associations, and \$12,529 to Liberal leadership candidates. Less than \$10,000 went to the Conservative party and its riding associations.

The allegation of political interference in a criminal prosecution is especially explosive because of the Vice Admiral Mark Norman case. Norman’s lawyers are already preparing a motion on abuse of process that will be heard in March, and have alleged in court documents that the prosecution of Norman may have been politically motivated.

Norman, the former second-in-command of the Canadian Forces, was charged last year with breach of trust for allegedly leaking cabinet secrets about a \$700-million navy supply ship procurement. He has denied wrongdoing, and his supporters argue he was scapegoated after the Liberal government was embarrassed by the leaks. The trial is set for August 2019, but Norman’s lawyers are expected to ask the judge to toss out the case due to political interference and government obstruction over documents Norman needs to defend himself.