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Welcome To Youth For Volpe!*

*Formerly Children of Apotex Inc. Executives for Volpe

Send to a Friend

Your friend's email:

Classy. Articulate. Even-tempered. These are just some of the qualities that make Joe Volpe our choice for Liberal leader. But to win the leadership, *Joe needs your help!*

Testimonials

How You Can Help

- ✓ Sell your Apotex stock options and donate up to \$5,400 of the proceeds to Joe's campaign.
- ✓ Skip going to university. A year of university costs upwards of \$5,400, which would be better spent on Joe's campaign.
- ✓ Don't have \$5,400? Consider getting adopted by wealthier parents.
- ✓ Have more than \$5,400 to give? No problem: just give the money to a friend or family member who's as committed to Joe's campaign as you are.
- ✓ Try taking a new generic prescription drug! Each dollar you spend helps raise money for Joe Volpe's leadership.



"Joe Volpe's deep commitment to integrity inspired me to support his campaign! I borrowed \$5,400 from my parents in a manner compliant with all campaign finance regulations as they then existed."
-Ann Lee, age 4, Calgary



"When I found \$5,400 in a brown envelope on a chair in a restaurant, I knew right away that the best way to use it was in support of Joe Volpe!"
-Andrew Cogliano, age 8, Montreal

Want to support Joe, but don't know if you can?

- ✓ Talk to your parents, you might have already done your part!



Donate to Joe

If you'd like to donate to Joe's campaign like so many other youth have done, all you need to do is fill in the following information:

Donation amount: \$5400
\$5400 \$5400

"We spent the last two years saving our money so we could help make a difference in the world. We decided to support Joe Volpe!"

-Chris & Toby Aggarwal, ages 6 and 5, Barrie

Is this *mommy's* or *daddy's* credit card?

Name on card:

Credit card number:

Expiry Date:

That all you have to do! Just remember, if any bad men come around asking questions, your parents gave you the money as a gift before you decided to make a generous donation to our campaign.

Volpe, Dingwall winners of dubious 'Teddy' award



Tasha Kheiriddin of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation acts as master of ceremonies for the annual 'Teddy' awards.



Former Immigration Minister Joe Volpe speaks with the media in Toronto as seen in this file photo. (CP / Adrian Wyld)



Former president of the Royal Canadian Mint David Dingwall holds up a pack of gum following his appearance before the government estimates committee on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. (CP / Tom Hanson)

CTV.ca News Staff

Updated: Wed. Mar. 1 2006 11:25 PM ET

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has declared Liberal MP Joe Volpe the winner of the federal "Teddy" award -- an honour bestowed upon the worst offender when it comes to government overspending.

"In a world where money is no object because other people are paying, taxis are free and there is always wine with dinner, Joe Volpe is right at home," said Tasha Kheiriddin, the CTF's Ontario director, at the federation's eighth annual "Teddies Waste Awards Ceremony" in Ottawa on Wednesday.

"Abusing the public purse at any level of government is unacceptable, and our Teddies are an appropriate way to give the people who fleece Canadian taxpayers the recognition they so richly deserve," added Kheiriddin, decked out in a black dress and a pearl collar in the spirit of Oscar season.

The CTF claims to be a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy group which fights for lower taxes, and greater government accountability. It says former immigration minister Volpe and his staff earned the award by racking up more than \$60,000 in travel and hospitality bills in just a few short months at the expense of taxpayers.

Some of the lavish dining expenses include:

- Treating friends to a dinner on March 21, 2005 that cost \$507.39.
- Just a few hours later, they ate again at an Italian restaurant for \$80.14.
- Spending \$138 on pizza for two one night, and \$207 a few nights later on pizza for three.

Other winners

David Dingwall, the onetime president of the Royal Canadian Mint, received a "Lifetime Achievement Teddy" for what the CTF described as his long-term lavish spending habits.

Dingwall resigned as Mint president after critics accused him of racking up exorbitant, six-figure expenses which included everything from extravagant foreign travel to a \$1.29 pack of gum in 2004 and 2005.

"David Dingwall is truly a taxpayer's worst nightmare," said Kheiriddin.

The government of Manitoba, meanwhile, won the provincial award for its taxpayer-funded tummy tucks and fat-reducing surgeries (\$981,000), and payments for Botox treatments (\$10,900) in 2003-04.

"Regrettably for taxpayers, as many Manitobans languish on wait lists for a variety of medically necessary procedures, the government sees nothing wrong with trimming tummies at public expense," said Kheiriddin.

In the cities category, Richmond, B.C., came out the winner for spending \$460,000 on world travel for council members -- as well as spending on a speed-skating oval for the 2010 Olympics.

The Teddies are named for Ted Weatherill -- a former senior public servant who was fired in 1999 for excessive expense claims as Chairman of the Canada Labour Relations Board.

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Canada



Immigration Minister Joe Volpe

Volpe bills taxpayers almost \$7,000 for 31 meals

Updated Wed. Sep. 21 2005 6:40 AM ET

Canadian Press

OTTAWA -- Immigration Minister Joe Volpe was just doing his job when he billed taxpayers nearly \$7,000 for restaurant meals during an 11-week period last spring, his spokesman says.

A government website shows Volpe was reimbursed \$6,880.70 for 31 meals between March 3 and May 17. Four of his aides paid for another eight meals with him and passed the sum of \$4,010.45 on to taxpayers.

Two members of Volpe's staff, including communications director Steven Heckbert, billed taxpayers for different working dinners with him on the same day.

The bill may look excessive, acknowledged Heckbert, but he said the minister has more than one responsibility that requires him to meet with many people.

"He is the Ontario political minister and, as such, he has a variety of meetings that he has with his fellow cabinet colleagues."

Volpe also meets regularly with people interested in Ontario issues and is the federal minister responsible for the Greater Toronto Area, Heckbert said.

With regard to the two meals in one evening, Heckbert billed for a dinner March 21 with Volpe at Ottawa's Carmello's restaurant for \$80.14.

Meanwhile, Earl Provost, head of parliamentary affairs for Volpe, was reimbursed for a dinner that night at Allegro, an upscale Ottawa restaurant, for \$507.39. The meal was billed as a working dinner with the minister.

Heckbert explained: "He sometimes has two meetings in the same night, in fact, and will go from one to the other as a result of trying to keep himself 120 per cent occupied."

"In this case he was at one event, one dinner, left that dinner to come over to join the other dinner that was already in progress."

"It's one of those things that happens to cabinet ministers. . . . He probably didn't eat very much at the second dinner."

Conservative immigration critic Diane Ablonczy angrily refused to buy that argument, accusing Volpe of cheating the system.

"This is clearly and evidently, to any rational person, huge abuse by a minister who of all ministers should be sending the right message," Ablonczy said.

"This is the same trick that the Liberals always pull. It's called plausible deniability," she added.

"They make up some story that you can't really disprove . . . and so that makes it all right. We shouldn't go for that anymore."



Video

- [CTV Newsnet: Volpe's meal expenses questioned 0:31](#)

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By comparison, Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew billed taxpayers \$3,282.80 for eight dinners and a reception during the same reporting period.

Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan submitted one of the lowest meal expense claims during the period, for five meals that cost taxpayers \$941.10.

Volpe's predecessor, Judy Sgro, reported spending \$3,257.48 on 23 meals between Mar. 2 and May 18 last year.

It's time the prime minister has a word or two with Volpe about his expenses, offered John Williamson, president of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

"When you stack up what he's spending next to his cabinet colleagues, Mr. Volpe's spending is out of line and he should be reined in," said Williamson.

"The double dinner in one night raises all kinds of questions," he added.

"Were there, in fact, two dinners, or was it staffers who are (improperly) billing?"

"That's why we have this reporting mechanism to shine a light on what's going on and to ask additional questions about how appropriate these expenses are."

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