

Peel Times
Parrish,
Carolyn
Mississauga News, April 2, 2003

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MP Parrish abdicates NATO chair

Mississauga MP Carolyn Parrish won't run again as chair of Canada's NATO parliamentary group, in the face of a strong campaign by her Liberal colleagues to oust her.

Parrish had indicated earlier she would seek re-election to the NATO post, despite the controversy surrounding her recent anti-American remarks that made headlines across Canada and the United States.

Parrish apologized to both Parliament

and the American ambassador to Canada after CHUM Television microphones in a media scrum caught her saying, "Damn Americans. I hate those bastards."

Parrish says she has an excellent relationship with parliamentarians in other NATO countries, but many of her Liberal colleagues don't think it is appropriate for her to continue.

They feel her anti-American comments could compromise her ability to fulfill the role.

The former chair of the Peel public school board told her colleagues earlier this week that she won't run for her former seat.

Parrish will be replaced by David Price, a Quebec MP who has been critical of Canada's decision not to join the American-led coalition fighting the war in Iraq.

In a recent appearance on Rogers Television, Parrish complained that the story of her anti-American comments, "has taken on a life of its own. I could

stand on my head and spit nickels and I couldn't fix this," she said.

She apologized a third time for her comments, which she said were inappropriate.

"I owe an apology for being flip and using inappropriate language," Parrish said.

Parrish also said she will be more careful in future dealings with the media. She wouldn't talk to Parliament Hill reporters this week about her decision.



PARRISH