

Joanna Gualtieri

Global Affairs Canada



Biography

Joanna Gualtieri was a pioneer in the whistleblowing movement in Canada, advocating that honest employees must have the right to speak out about workplace wrongdoing that threatens the public interest.

In the 1990s, Gualtieri worked as an analyst at Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs. She identified what she believed to be systemic and widespread abuse of public monies for extravagant offshore diplomatic residences in violation of federal laws and policies and costing taxpayers billions of dollars. Unwilling to turn a blind eye, Gualtieri brought suit against the government to hold it accountable. In a landmark case spanning over a decade, Gualtieri fought for greater integrity, accountability and whistleblower rights. She was asked to sit on the Board of the Government Accountability Project (GAP) – the world's leading whistleblower organization – in Washington, D.C. and founded Canada's first whistleblower organization the Federal Accountability Initiative for Reform (FAIR). Gualtieri drafted federal whistleblower legislation and testified numerous times to Parliamentary and Senate committees.

Currently, Gualtieri is developing TIP (The Integrity Principle), a project to educate and embolden young people about the indispensable role of integrity in vocational life by engaging them in real-life stories of ordinary people living integrity in action.