

Kia Stinger, Jaguar I-Pace Win Honours At Auto Show

TORONTO: The Kia Stinger was announced as the 2019 Canadian Car of the Year and the Jaguar I-Pace as the 2019 Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year, as selected by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) on Thursday at the Canadian International Auto Show. The Jaguar I-Pace has the distinction of being the first fully electric vehicle ever to be chosen for an overall award by AJAC members.

The two vehicles were awarded with Canada's highest automotive accolades at the opening ceremonies of the Canadian International AutoShow in Toronto. This followed months of testing and evaluation on roads and conditions from coast to coast by nearly 70 of the country's most-esteemed automotive journalists. The decision followed two rounds of voting scored anonymously on many different factors, including performance, features, technology, design, fuel consumption and value.

These winners were selected from across 55 entries, including last year's category winners and this year's next-generation or significantly updated vehicles. Voting data was collected anonymously from more than 1,500 ballots.

"It gives us great pride to declare the Kia Stinger to be the Canadian Car of the Year, and the Jaguar I-Pace to be the Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year, for 2019," said AJAC President Mark Richardson. "AJAC journalists are among the most objective and discerning automotive professionals in the country, and the fact that these two vehicles have risen to the top of our vigorous testing and voting protocol means that they're truly among the best available to Canadian buyers."

The AJAC is an association of professional journalists, writers, photographers, and corporate members connected to the Canadian automotive industry. AFAC objectives are to promote, encourage professionalism in Canadian automotive journalism and to ensure factual reporting about automotive issues to consumers.

This is achieved through the work of our members and AJAC's annual vehicle testing events, the Canadian Car of the Year and Utility Vehicle of the Year Awards (CCOTY and CUVOTY), Innovation Awards, and EcoRun.



Indigenous Groups Upset With PM's Actions

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a group that includes most British Columbia First Nations and tribal councils.

The group had a regularly scheduled meeting in Vancouver Wednesday, during which a statement was released questioning Trudeau's commitment to reconciliation.

Casimer said Wilson-Raybould's rise to prominence as justice minister and attorney general in Canada gave hope to Indigenous youth for a better future for themselves and their families, and watching her be cast aside is very damaging. The prime minister has a lot of work to do to rebuild trust," she said.

Indigenous voters were a factor in Trudeau's winning the last election. Casimer said some of the damage can be repaired if he and the government act on promises such as ensuring child-welfare legislation expected next week includes a recognition of First Nations jurisdiction. Moving forward on an Indigenous-rights framework and treaty negotiations would also help.

"He has all these nice words but now he needs to put action to those words," she said.

Many Indigenous leaders were particularly upset about comments from anonymous Liberals that was difficult to work with and was considered untrustworthy by fellow members



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds Jack Golden, 6 months, while campaigning in Burnaby South, for the Feb. 25 bi-election. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Darryl Dyck

of cabinet. Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Grand Chief Stewart Phillip told The Canadian Press Wednesday that Trudeau publicly humiliated" Wilson-Raybould by removing her as justice minister and moving her to veterans-affairs, and the smear campaign" initiated in Ottawa against her has angered Indigenous people across the country.

Everyone within the Indigenous community, rank and file, grass roots, in every single com-

munity, Facebook, social media, everyone is talking about how upset and angry they are at the prime minister's callous dismissal of such a committed, dedicated and principled person such as Jody Wilson-Raybould," Phillip said.

Those anonymous whispers about Wilson-Raybould have not abated. Nor has Trudeau, at least publicly, heeded calls from Indigenous leaders to apologize for the comments from Liberals and de-

mand that they stop.

Trudeau himself says that all conversations he had with Wilson-Raybould about the SNC-Lavalin prosecution were within the bounds of the law. He's said that if she ever felt she was being pressured to drop the prosecution, she should have brought those concerns to him and she never did.

Most Liberals are not willing to speak publicly about their own concerns about the situation, de-

spite several feeling they also deserve answers about exactly what went on between Trudeau's office and Wilson-Raybould.

"I'm hearing from several MPs they aren't happy with communications in general," said Greg MacEachern, a senior vice-president at Proof Strategies and a former Liberal staffer when Paul Martin was prime minister.

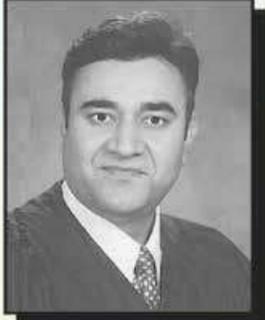
The Liberal caucus meets on Wednesday mornings but only when the House of Commons is sitting. This is a break week, which means MPs are in their constituencies and the next caucus meeting won't happen until Feb. 20. The next caucus meeting is going to be very important," said MacEachern.

Federal ethics commissioner Mario Dion has initiated his own investigation into the matter, specifically whether there's been a violation of the Conflict of Interest Act. In the wake of the allegations and Dion's review, SNC-Lavalin had its debt rating downgraded by Standard & Poor's to BBB- from BBB.

The agency cited the criminal charges against the engineering and construction giant and the possibility of a 10-year ban from bidding on federal contracts. Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, who is touring New Brunswick, repeated that message a short time later. "The truth is not partisan," he said.

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NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, right, hands out lucky red envelopes while participating in the Chinese New Year Parade in Vancouver on Sunday, Feb. 10.- THE CANADIAN PRESS/Darryl Dyck



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