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## Disgruntled Tories try to revive PC party

CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - A group of Tory activists is attempting to revive the federal Progressive Conservative name with an appeal to Elections Canada for party status, it was announced today.

Hanson Dowell, a Nova Scotia lawyer, is the self-proclaimed interim leader of the reconstituted party, with Toronto businessman Oscar Johvicas it's interim president.

The federal PC party was disbanded last month following a ratification vote that approved a merger between the Canadian Alliance and the Tories. The new merged entity is called the Conservative Party of Canada.

At the time, both merger participants said they retained the intellectual property rights to their old party names so that no one else could appropriate them.

That hasn't stopped more than 200 former Tories from signing a letter seeking to resurrect the federal PC brand.

"I know damn well it would be a long haul at the very best," Dowell said in an interview today.

"But the truth is there are people who need a (political) home."

Tory delegates voted 90 per cent in favour of the merger on Dec. 6. Dowell and others argue the winner-take-all system of choosing delegates in each riding meant hundreds of anti-merger Tories had no voice in the final decision.

"We're all lesser lights," he added with a laugh. "This is grassroots inspired."

Apart from the intellectual property rights question, Elections Canada also checks the names of new political entities to ensure they are not too similar - and thus confusing to voters - with other existing party names.

Dowell served as the last chairman of the Nova Scotia PC Federal Presidents Council, and Johvicas was the most recent PC riding president in Beaches-East York in Toronto.

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