

he was “extremely disappointed that Phillips travelled... and that the trip comes at a time when Ontario residents have been asked to make sacrifices.”

“I have let the minister know that his decision to travel is completely unacceptable and that it will not be tolerated again – by him or any member of our cabinet or caucus,” Ford said.

Ford’s office added in a press release that “Premier Ford was not aware of the minister’s trip, nor did he or his office approve it. The premier learned of the trip after the minister was already out of the country.”

Phillip’s office continued to post over the holidays pre-staged photographs of the minister in his riding giving his voters every indication he was celebrating Christmas at home in Ajax.

He has defended his decision to travel because he left the country before the lockdown was announced. It was not before all Ontarians were urged to stay home and shelter in place for the holidays.

Phillips is on his way back from his truncated holiday, and most expect the finance minister will issue a public apology but face no more discipline from the Conservative Party.

The premier’s Christmas public relations woes were compounded by Conservative back bencher and pandemic doubter Randy Hillier posting a picture to Facebook flaunting that his extended family of 15 had gathered for the holidays with no social distancing or masks to be seen.

Hillier has called the pandemic “a manufactured crisis.” He has also cast doubt on the upcoming vaccine with nary a whisper from the premier.

At the height of the blitz in the Second World War, with London under daily attack, Prime Minister Winston Churchill floated the idea that the royal family would be safer in Canada, and proposed to the King and Queen that they consider re-location.

The response from all four royals was a resounding “no.” The king and queen wanted to be positive role models for the nation.

At this time of provincial emergency we should expect our elected leaders to walk the walk, not just talk the talk, but many from the premier on down are falling disastrously short in example and action.

Ontarians deserve so much better.

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