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The best thing you can do whether you are wearing hearing instruments or not is to use effective listening strategies. Even people with normal hearing have difficulty in some situations. Don't get discouraged. The following are some effective listening strategies you can implement easily:

- Make sure the person you are communicating with is facing you and not turned away or in another room.
- Make sure the background noise is kept to a minimum when trying to communicate.
- Have people try to get your attention before they start to speak to you.

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■ OPINION WE NEED ANSWERS ON TOP-SECRET WINNIPEG LAB

PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNTRY HAVE A RIGHT TO THE WHOLE STORY, WRITES MICHAEL CHONG



MICHAEL CHONG Column

The Trudeau government is refusing to answer questions about national security at its top-secret lab in Winnipeg, where the world's most dangerous viruses are handled.

In July 2019, federal government scientists Dr. Xiangguo Qiu and her husband Dr. Keding Cheng, along with their students, were escorted by the RCMP out of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratorv (NML) in Winnipeg over what was initially described as an administrative matter. The NML is Canada's only level 4 lab. Since then, troubling information has come to light.

We have learned that seven government scientists at the lab in Winnipeg collaborated with Chinese scientists on some of the world's most dangerous viruses. Some of the research was paid for by China's government and some of these scientists are part of China's military.

We know Canada's na-

tional security agency, CSIS, raised alarm bells about all of this. We also know that Dr. Qiu and Dr. Cheng were subsequently terminated in January of this year.

We know that Dr. Matthew Gilmour, scientific director general of the lab, quit suddenly on May 15 last year, just eight weeks into the global pandemic, and that Ms. Tina Namiesniowski, president of the Public Health Agency of Canada, suddenly resigned on last September 18, while Parliament was prorogued.

It's clear from what little we do know that CSIS raised national security concerns. When the government fails to uphold national security, Parliament has a responsibility to get more information to find out exactly what happened to hold the government accountable, and ensure it doesn't happen again.

To that end, the House of Commons ordered the government to turn over documents related to this matter.

The Trudeau government refused to comply with providing documents to the House, saying it would give uncensored records only to the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, which is not a committee of Parliament.

We still don't know exactly what happened at the Winnipeg lab.

What's clear is that the Trudeau government is refusing to answer questions. By defying the House of Commons and refusing to hand over the documents, the government is also showing its disrespect for Parliament.

Many outstanding questions remain that need to be answered.

Michael Chong is the MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, and the shadow minister of foreign affairs for the official opposition. He can be reached at michael.chong.a3@parl.gc.ca.

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