

CBC News

# Who's who? McGill University hospital \$22.5M bribery case

Targets of 'the biggest fraud and corruption investigation in Canadian history,' says Sûreté du Québec

By Dave seglins and John Nicol, [CBC News](#) Last Updated: Sep 03, 2014 5:00 AM ET

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## PIERRE DUHAIME

Forced to resign as CEO of SNC-Lavalin in March 2012 amid internal audits, **Duhaime was arrested** later that year on charges of fraud, conspiracy and issuing false documents. Police allege he ordered secret payments to a shell company Sierra Assessment Management contracted to help SNC win the \$1.4-billion contract to build the McGill University super hospital in Montreal.

## RIADH BEN AISSA

Ben Aissa was forced to resign as SNC-Lavalin executive vice-president of construction in February 2012 and was arrested two months later in Switzerland accused of bribery and corruption in dealings with Libya. **Surete du Quebec await his extradition** back to Canada and have issued an arrest warrant for him on charges of fraud and issuing false documents, alleging he ordered \$22.5 million in kickbacks to help SNC-Lavalin win the MUHC contract.

## DR. ARTHUR PORTER

Dr. Arthur Porter, oncologist and businessman, became director of MUHC in January 2004. Prime Minister Stephen appointed him in September 2008 to also sit on the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC), which oversees Canada's spy agencies. In 2009, SNC-Lavalin hired Porter's Bahamian company, purportedly for work in North Africa, but Quebec police believe the \$22.5-million SNC paid to the "consulting company" went to kickbacks to Porter and other hospital executives. In late 2011 Porter quit the MUHC and SIRC, where he had become chairman, and returned to the Bahamas where his family lived. He was arrested at the airport in Panama in May 2013. He is being held **in jail there while he fights extradition back to Canada.**

## **PAMELA PORTER**

Pamela Porter is a radiation technologist and wife of 32 years to Dr. Arthur Porter. She lived in the Bahamas raising their four children until her arrest alongside her husband in Panama. She was extradited to Canada where she says she is being held “as a pawn” pending trial in Montreal on charges of money laundering tied to emails and money transfers she sent at her husband's behest.

## **YANAI ELBAZ**

Yanai Elbaz is a former director of redevelopment for the McGill University Health Centre who worked closely with executive director Arthur Porter. **He was arrested in February 2013** and charged with conspiracy to commit fraud. He is listed as a director, alongside his brother, Yohann Elbaz, of Pan Global Holdings, which police allege received \$11.25 million in illicit payments according to testimony before the Charbonneau commission.

## **ST. CLAIR ARMITAGE**

St. Clair Armitage is a British consultant specializing in “public-private partnerships” who wrote a report influencing the granting of the \$1.4-billion MUHC mega project. He was **released on \$75,000 bail in June 2014** in Montreal and allowed to return to England awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy, fraud and breach of trust.

## **YOHANN ELBAZ**

Yohann Elbaz is a lawyer and brother of former MUHC director of redevelopment Yanai Elbaz. Police allege he was director, with his brother, in the shell company Pan Global Holdings, which received \$11.25 million in illicit payments. He was **arrested in April 2013 and charged** with a string of offences including fraud and money laundering.

## **JEREMY MORRIS**

Jeremy Morris is a Bahamian lawyer alleged to have been a principal in Sierra Asset Management and who helped to open Pan Global Holdings. According to police, they were shell companies used to funnel \$22.5 million in illicit payments from SNC-Lavalin to former MUHC executives. **Morris surrendered to police in Montreal in March 2013** but was allowed to return to the Bahamas to await trial on charges of fraud, conspiracy and laundering proceeds of crime.

CBC News, Charbonneau Commission