

Toronto mayor smoked crack cocaine

8th November, 2013



The beleaguered mayor of Toronto Rob Ford has finally admitted he smoked crack cocaine. After weeks of allegations from the press and denials by Mr Ford,

Toronto's leader confessed in an emotional press conference yesterday. Fighting back the tears, Ford apologised to all citizens of Toronto, whom he felt he had let down. He admitted smoking the drug while he was in a "drunken stupor" and added that a one-time mistake did not make him a drug addict or an alcoholic. Mr Ford finally came clean after his own police force announced it had video of him at a Toronto drug den, apparently of him actually smoking the drug. The media had been running stories of the allegations for months but Ford continually denied them.

In spite of his confession and amid calls for his resignation, Mr Ford told reporters he would stay in office. Furthermore, he vowed to fight for a second term in office at the next election. He announced: "I was elected to do a job and that's exactly what I'm going to continue doing." He added: "I know I have to regain your trust and confidence." He tried to reassure the public that there would be no repeat occurrence of his misdemeanour. He told the packed press conference: "Folks, I have nothing left to hide. I would do anything, absolutely anything to change the past, but the past is the past and we must move forward. I want to be crystal clear. These mistakes will never, ever, ever happen again."

Sources: Canadian TV / BBC

Writing

Any public official known to use drugs, even once, should be fired. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

beleaguered / mayor / Toronto / allegations / apologized / drug addict / the media / confession / the next election / trust / confidence / press conference / crystal clear

True / False

- a) Toronto's mayor admitted using drugs following years of allegations. T / F
- b) The Mayor said the people of Toronto had let him down. T / F
- c) He said he only used the drug because he was very drunk. T / F
- d) The mayor admitted using drugs after the police videoed him doing so. T / F
- e) The mayor said he would not resign and wanted to stay in office. T / F
- f) He said he knew he had the trust and confidence of the people. T / F
- g) The mayor suggested there were no more secrets about him. T / F
- h) He couldn't promise he would repeat his mistakes. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. beleaguered | a. promised |
| 2. allegations | b. disappointed |
| 3. let down | c. told the truth |
| 4. came clean | d. admission |
| 5. media | e. under pressure |
| 6. confession | f. completely |
| 7. vowed | g. misconduct |
| 8. regain | h. accusations |
| 9. misdemeanour | i. get back |
| 10. absolutely | j. press |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is worse, the mayor taking drugs or telling the public he didn't?
- c) What's the mayor of your town like?
- d) Is being in a "drunken stupor" an excuse for using cocaine?
- e) Should mayors ever get in a "drunken stupor"?
- f) What message does a mayor using drugs give to people?
- g) What should Mr Ford do to make amends?
- h) Should Mr Ford be arrested?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The beleaguered | a. the tears |
| 2. After weeks of | b. for his resignation |
| 3. Fighting back | c. clean |
| 4. He admitted smoking the drug while | d. allegations from the press |
| 5. Mr Ford finally came | e. be no repeat occurrence |
| 6. amid calls | f. mayor of Toronto |
| 7. he vowed to fight | g. clear |
| 8. I know I have to regain your | h. for a second term |
| 9. reassure the public that there would | i. he was in a drunken stupor |
| 10. I want to be crystal | j. trust and confidence |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you think people will vote to re-elect him?
- What can he do to repair his reputation and regain trust?
- What would happen to a mayor in your country if he/she used cocaine?
- Will people believe he has "nothing left to hide"?
- What message should Mr Ford tell people about drugs?
- What will Ford's political opponents do about him?
- Is Mr Ford being responsible?
- What questions would you like to ask Rob Ford?

Spelling

- The gaelueebrd mayor of Toronto
- After weeks of nailoetlags from the press
- snfoeecsd in an emotional press conference
- a drug addict or an aciclholo
- ... taarlepny of him actually smoking
- Ford aylltnciuno denied them
- amid calls for his anirneosigt
- a second term in fefico
- I was cetldee to do a job
- trust and nefdchoice
- there would be no repeat cocerucen
- I want to be alsrcty clear

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. c	5. j
6. d	7. a	8. i	9. g	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Using drugs

You think using drugs is the worst thing a mayor can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): stealing public money, being racist or being in a sex scandal.

Role B – Stealing public money

You think stealing public money is the worst thing a mayor can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): using drugs, being racist or being in a sex scandal.

Role C – Being racist

You think being racist is the worst thing a mayor can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): stealing public money, using drugs or being in a sex scandal.

Role D – Sex scandal

You think being in a sex scandal is the worst thing a mayor can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): stealing public money, being racist or using drugs.

Speaking - Election

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important thing for an election candidate at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| • intelligence | • hungry for change |
| • non scandals | • can show past successes |
| • nice smile | • experience as a leader |
| • ideas | • ability to listen |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.