



March 16, 2011

The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux
Minister of Labour, Citizens Services and Open Government
PO Box 9056 Station Provincial Government
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Cadieux:

Re: Welcome and Congratulations

I am writing to you on behalf of the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association (FIPA) to extend our congratulations to you on your appointment to Cabinet and as Chair of the new cabinet committee on Open Government and Engagement.

As you are probably aware by now, there are a number of pressing issues facing this province in both the Freedom of Information and privacy spheres. We look forward to working with you as a new minister, and also as someone who played an active role on the Special Committee to review the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as well as chairing the committee to choose the new Information and Privacy Commissioner.

This is also an opportune time to bring to your attention an issue which could allow you to highlight the new approach to open government signaled by the Premier during the leadership campaign and in her acceptance speech. You may be aware that FIPA has been waiting for almost seven years for the release of the full Workplace Services Agreement with IBM. Last November, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner ordered the release of the contract, but the Ministry of Citizens Services saw fit to seek judicial review of part of the Commissioner's Order.

Both FIPA and the Commissioner herself have called for the government to routinely release this and all government outsourcing contracts. As Commissioner Denham stated:

These decisions demonstrate that public agencies should consider the routine release of these types of outsourcing contracts. Proactively releasing these contracts would save everyone considerable time, money and paperwork.
[OIPC News release Nov. 25, 2010]

Putting the currently releasable portions of the IBM contract on line would be an important signal that despite the ongoing litigation it will not be 'business as usual' under the new Minister and the new Premier.

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Please feel free to contact us at any time. We have been BC's leading proponent of research, public education and law reform on FOI and Privacy issues for 20 years, and we would be happy to offer our knowledge, expertise and assistance to you whenever you wish to engage in discussions with the public on these topics.

We wish you success, and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Vincent Gogolek
Executive Director

Cc Premier Christy Clark