



Liberal Party of Canada | Parti libéral du Canada

81 rue Metcalfe Street, Suite 600
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

April 26, 2011

Vincent Gogolek, Executive Director
B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Association

Troy Lanigan, President
Canadian Taxpayers' Federation

John Hinds, President and CEO
Newspapers Canada

By e-mail to: fipa@vcn.bc.ca

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the Access to Information Act. The Conservatives, who campaigned on accountability, have established a systematic pattern of violating Canada's Access to Information laws. Liberals on the other hand, believe that openness and transparency of government information fuel innovation and a better democratic system.

The Liberal Party has a plan for democratic renewal, and a key element of this plan is Open Government. Liberals will adopt a new approach to information, issuing government-wide direction that the default position for all departments and agencies will be to release information to the public, both proactively and responsively, after privacy and other legal requirements are met.

A Liberal government will:

- Post all Access to Information requests, responses, and response times online at accesstoinformation.gc.ca;
- Immediately restore the long-form census;
- Make as many government datasets as possible available to the public online free of charge at opendata.gc.ca in an open and searchable

format, starting with Statistics Canada data, including data from the long-form census; and

- Make information on government grants, contributions and contracts available through a searchable, online database at accountablespending.gc.ca.

For more details on our plan for Open Government, please view our platform at <http://www.liberal.ca/open>.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Liberal Party of Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred Aapps', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alfred Aapps, President
Liberal Party of Canada