

Valoree McKay

From: Wayne.Easter.A4@parl.gc.ca
Sent: April-02-15 11:43 AM
To: Valoree McKay
Subject: RE: CLA Concerns with C-51

Valoree,

Thank you for your letter concerning C-51.

The concerns you lay out were raised in the hearings into this anti-terrorism Bill. Sadly, as witnesses indicated, while there is a need for new security measures the Conservative government has failed to allow amendments which would have brought a better balance to the bill. Such is the dysfunction of Parliament under the leadership of this Prime Minister that Members on the government side did not act on the concerns expressed by many witnesses.

I would note as well that over three quarters of the witnesses recognized the need for greater security measures but also wanted a better balance with Civil Liberties and expressed a desire for better oversight.

While indirectly some of our amendments were accepted, we have made it clear that we will as part of our election platform:

1. Establish a national security oversight committee of parliamentarians, similar to our allies in the Five Eyes Alliance. Based on two Liberal Private Members' Bills, this would provide regular, ongoing oversight of our national security agencies;
2. Ensure that the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC) annually reviews all – as opposed to only some – operations performed by CSIS;
3. Require the Privacy Commissioner to provide the government with an annual report on information sharing between departments and agencies, the result of which would then be made public.

Thank you again for your letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to express your concerns.

Sincerely;

WE

The Hon. Wayne Easter P.C, M.P
Public Safety and National Security Critic for the Liberal Party
Member for Malpeque