

Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

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Kelly Moore  
Executive Director  
Canadian Library Association  
1150 Morrison Drive, Suite 400  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2H 8S9

Dear Ms. Moore:

Thank you for sharing the Canadian Library Association's views on telecommunications privacy in Canada. I can assure you that the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) operates in compliance of all Canadian laws including the *National Defence Act*, the *Privacy Act*, the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Criminal Code*.

CSEC collects foreign intelligence according to the priorities of the Government of Canada, which include protecting Canadians from foreign terrorist threats and defending against cyber-attacks. CSEC's mandate and authorities are defined in the *National Defence Act*.

Similar to all Federal departments and agencies, CSEC is subject to, and respects the *Privacy Act*. CSEC has cooperated with the Privacy Commissioner during past reviews of CSEC's handling of personal information. CSEC is also subject to reviews by the Auditor General of Canada.

The *National Defence Act* also sets out the mandate of CSEC's independent review body, the CSE Commissioner. The CSE Commissioner, who is a former judge, reviews CSEC activities to ensure that all CSEC activities comply with the law, including privacy requirements. The Commissioner submits annual, public reports to Parliament and has consistently reported that CSEC activities reviewed have complied with the law.

Reports issued by the Commissioner include positive findings related to CSEC's measures in place to protect the privacy of Canadians. The Commissioner specifically noted that "the protection of the privacy of Canadians is, in the eyes of CSEC and its employees a genuine concern" and lauded the "culture of respect for privacy". You may be interested to read a recent statement from the CSE Commissioner, which I have enclosed.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Peter G. MacKay, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of National Defence

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