

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., députée
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

APR 12 2017

Mr. Blaine Calkins
Chair
Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Calkins:

Pursuant to Section 109 of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons, please accept this as the Government of Canada's Response to the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics, entitled "Protecting the Privacy of Canadians: Review of the *Privacy Act*".

I would like to thank the Committee for its timely work. The Committee has drawn on thoughtful testimony of expert witnesses, many of which support the proposals of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. The Government appreciates the respectful and productive approach the Committee took in its hearings and Report.

The Government is mindful of the Commissioner's warnings about the risks of antiquated law in this area. The *Privacy Act* should give effect to Canadians' rights and expectations of privacy, promote public trust and facilitate good governance for our 21st century democracy.

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Therefore, as indicated to your Committee on November 24, 2016, I am leading a thorough review towards modernizing the *Privacy Act*. I will work closely with the President of the Treasury Board and my other colleagues to examine options for reforming this quasi-constitutional statute that touches almost every function of government. We will engage Canadians, experts, organizations, and advocates as the review progresses, drawing on the considerations set out in your Report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JWR", enclosed within a large, loopy blue oval stroke.

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada