

Tom Lukiwski, M.P.
Chair
Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Lukiwski:

Pursuant to Standing Order 109 of the House of Commons, please accept this as the Government Response to the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates entitled, “Strengthening the Protection of the Public Interest within the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*.”

I would like to thank the Committee for its informative study of the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*, and its administration and operation, and express my appreciation to all who took the time to appear before the Committee to share their views. The Committee’s advice is important to the Government’s work to improve the disclosure regime and the protection from acts of reprisal within the federal public sector, and to strengthen Canadians’ confidence in the integrity of the federal public sector.

I agree with the opinion of the Committee and its witnesses that improvements are required to the disclosure and protection regime under the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*. We will move forward to implement improvements to the administration and operation of the internal disclosure process and the protection from acts of reprisal against public servants, which will include greater guidance for the internal disclosure process, increased awareness activities and training for public servants, supervisors and managers, and enhanced reporting related to the internal disclosure process and acts of founded wrongdoing. Additionally, within the Open Government Portal, we are implementing a central website where Canadians will be able to access information about acts of founded wrongdoing within federal institutions.

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The Government remains committed to providing public servants and the public with a secure and confidential process for disclosing serious wrongdoing in the federal public sector and enhancing protection from acts of reprisal. We remain committed to promoting and sustaining an ethical workplace culture, and to supporting and strengthening Canadians' confidence in the integrity of the federal public sector. The Government recognizes the importance of making continuous and meaningful improvements to the disclosure regime and to the protection from acts of reprisal.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and the members of the Standing Committee again for your important work.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Scott Brison, P.C., M.P.