

Minister of Transport and Leader of
the Government in the House of Commons



Ministre des Transports et leader du
gouvernement à la Chambre des communes

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A3

August 10th, 2026

Dear _____,

Thank you for your email dated June 17, 2026 regarding the privacy policy requirements of federal political parties. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Prime Minister as the Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions.

As you know, federal political parties are unique democratic actors who play a critical role in our democracy, helping Canadians make informed voting decisions through activities such as canvassing, fundraising and polling. While undertaking these activities, federal political parties receive access to and utilize Canadians' personal information, which Canadians rightfully expect will be protected and secured.

With the passage of Bill C-4, the *Making Life More Affordable for Canadians Act*, Parliament clarified that federal political parties' dealings with personal information for electoral purposes is governed exclusively under the *Canada Elections Act* (CEA), and has been since May 31, 2000. The bill also made -for the first time- non-compliance with a party's policy for the protection of personal information a violation of the CEA, enforceable by the Commissioner of Canada Elections.

Most recently, through Bill C-25, the *Strong and Free Elections Act*, the Government introduced, as a condition of registration under the CEA, new requirements that must be included in the federal political party's policy for the protection of personal information, to better protect and safeguard Canadians' personal information. Federal political parties have until September 18, 2026 to provide the Chief Electoral Officer with the party's policy for the protection of personal information. The policy must protect the personal information that is under the party's control by:

- strengthening physical, organizational, and technical safeguards;

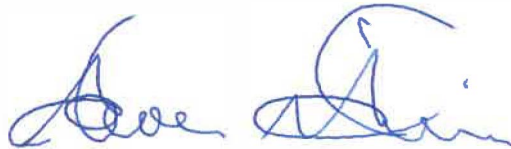
Canada

- taking appropriate steps in the case of the loss, or unauthorized access or disclosure of personal information as a result of a breach, and informing affected individuals if there is a real risk of significant harm to them;
- prohibiting the selling of personal information; and
- prohibiting the provision of false or misleading information to individuals about the purposes for which the party collects personal information.

As you may also be aware, federal political parties must designate a privacy officer to oversee compliance with their policy for the protection of personal information, and must make the privacy officer's name and contact information publicly available.

We know that in a healthy democracy, there is always more work to do, but we have many reasons to be proud. Thank you again for taking the time to write, and for your active engagement in Canada's democracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve MacKinnon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and the last name "MacKinnon" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, P.C., M.P.
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