



October 27, 2022

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

I am writing to you on behalf of OpenMedia, a community-based non-profit organization that works to keep the Internet open, affordable, and surveillance-free. We work toward informed and participatory digital policy by engaging hundreds of thousands of people in protecting our online rights. Our community comprises approximately 235,000 people throughout Canada.

Please find a petition with more than 11,000 signatures attached. It calls on you to make the implementation of strong digital privacy protections – for private and public sectors – an urgent priority. Unfortunately, your government's latest effort to enact new private sector privacy laws (Bill C-27) don't offer the sufficient protections we need for our modern digital economy.

Bill C-27 introduces a whole new host of exceptions to consent that drastically reduce the ability of people in Canada to exercise control over their own information. In an era where trust in digital systems is essential to accessing services – like those related to healthcare, education, and finances – it's important that Canadian privacy laws empower people to understand and to be able to make their own choices about their data.

As well, Bill C-27's *Consumer Privacy Protection Act* misses the mark by failing to effectively recognize privacy as a fundamental human right. Instead, the Act explicitly prioritizes the commercial benefits for companies that collect, use, and sell the sensitive data of people in Canada. The recognition of privacy as a fundamental human right that outweighs commercial interests is an essential feature of effective privacy legislation that puts people before profits.

Nearly 6,000 members of the OpenMedia community have sent letters to their MPs asking for the important amendments to Bill C-27.

It's been more than three years since you promised strong privacy protections through the introduction of the Digital Charter. Since then, your government has twice proposed misguided and outdated private sector privacy laws (the former Bill C-11 and the current Bill C-27) that will actually weaken privacy protections for people in Canada. We're asking your government to introduce significant amendments to improve the weaknesses of Bill C-27, including removing the *Artificial Intelligence and Data Act*, so the promises of your Digital Charter can be realized.

Sincerely,

Bryan Short  
Digital Rights Campaigner  
OpenMedia