



Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Attn: Prime Minister-designate Justin Trudeau, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister-designate Trudeau,

I am writing on behalf of OpenMedia, a community-based 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.

First of all, we just wanted to send you a note to say congratulations on your successful election campaign. It was surely a long, hard, and exhausting campaign for your team. We're looking forward to getting back to work and focusing on the issues that matter most to residents of Canada, as we're sure you are too.

To kick things off, we'd like to address the biggest issue that we think your new government should immediately address – how to fix the mess that your predecessor left behind with Bill C-51.

We've heard that you're planning on moving quickly to address this problematic legislation, which is positive news to us and people across Canada. We are pleased to see that this issue is high on your agenda, and will be addressed quickly.

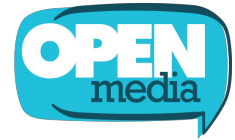
Back in May, we sat down with you to discuss your response to Bill C-51 and our [Crowdsourced Privacy Plan](#). Now that you have formed government we'd like to meet to discuss how we can effectively rein in Bill C-51 and move to strengthen the privacy rights of Canadians.

We are happy to have an open discussion but we continue to believe that C-51 is reckless, dangerous, and ineffective legislation that ought to be fully repealed. As one of our supporters named Adam put it: "The Liberals could very easily scrap C-51 and offer another piece of legislation to amend security gaps their government feels are missing in Canada."

Given the ubiquitous nature of networked devices in modern society, and the highly revealing nature of our data trails, it's more important than ever to ensure Canadians have up-to-date protections against government intrusion. It's not just C-51 that moves us in the wrong direction, but also Bill C-13, which Liberal Justice Critic Sean Casey promised your party would reopen upon forming government.

Even before these pieces of legislation moved our privacy rights backwards, federal government agencies had seen over 3,000 breaches of the sensitive private information of an estimated 750,000 innocent Canadians in recent years. And, as I conveyed to the Parliamentary Committee that haphazardly held hearings on C-51, privacy is security in its most basic and individualistic sense.

Hundreds of Canadians have come forward detailing how their personal or professional lives have been ruined due to information disclosures. These residents of Canada had their rights and security violated despite the fact that they had never broken the law. One woman, Diane, came forward to the Toronto Star in



understandable, "...disbelief, shock and a lot of anger," after her career mobility was severely limited due to highly sensitive information about her private life being made available to her employer.

Concerning C-51, a community of over 300,000 Canadians has been incredibly outspoken in expressing concerns about the bill, and can't wait to see the damage of this legislation quickly undone. These passionate advocates led perhaps the largest grassroots education campaign of a generation and are now joined by a strong majority of Canadians.

While I'm certain you're planning a significant committee review process down the road, I would like to invite you to sit down with the Canadians above that have been actively engaged and know the issues raised by Bill C-51 before you begin the legislative process.

I know representatives from civil society, security experts, artists, business leaders, and everyday Internet users are eager to talk about your plan to address this problematic legislation with a new government. OpenMedia would be happy to arrange representatives of each of these constituencies to join the meeting.

Right now, Canada has serious privacy gaps as a result of the previous government. I believe that this privacy deficit is the result of a democratic deficit. You can begin to address both by meeting engaged constituencies prior to tabling legislation. Engagement early in the legislative process is a key pillar of a more participatory democracy, and I believe that is what Canadians are looking for with your government.

OpenMedia has sought to model crowdsourced processes for policy making that we think parliament should explore under your government. I hope we can count you to embrace this deeper form of democracy to address our privacy concerns – one of the most important issues of our time.

We hope a meeting can be arranged quickly.

Yours sincerely,

[original signed]

Steve Anderson
Executive Director, OpenMedia