

17 June, 2026

The Right Honourable. Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre P.C., M.P.  
Leader of the Official Opposition

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet M.P., Leader, Bloc Québécois  
Mr. Avi Lewis, Leader, New Democratic Party  
Ms. Elizabeth May O.C., M.P., Leader, Green Party of Canada

CC: All Members of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

## **Bring Federal Political Parties Under Canada's Privacy Laws**

Dear Prime Minister and Honourable Leaders of the Opposition;

We, the undersigned organizations, experts and businesses, are writing to call on Parliament to close one of the most glaring gaps in Canadian privacy law: the absence of meaningful, enforceable rules governing how federal political parties collect, use, and share Canadians' personal information.

Federal political parties use detailed files on millions of people in Canada — our addresses, who we live with, what issues we care about, how we're likely to vote, and information about our religion, ethnicity, or health. They get this data from voter lists, door-knocks, phone calls, online forms, petitions, social media, and increasingly, from third-party data brokers.

Other major Canadian institutions that handle sensitive personal data — including hospitals, banks, school boards, private clinics, law enforcement, the RCMP and more — operate under privacy laws with independent oversight. Federal political parties do not. And rather than fixing this problem, recently passed legislation has entrenched this unhealthy status quo, attempting to shield parties retroactively from provincial privacy law.

This is not just a technical gap; it is a democratic one. An April 2026 [national Ipsos poll](#) found overwhelming public support for disrupting this impunity across every question asked:

- **80% of Canadians say federal political parties should follow the same privacy rules as businesses and public-sector organizations.** Only 10% disagree.
- **84% want the right to access the personal information parties hold about them. 85% want the right to correct or delete it.**
- **Only 5% support the status quo** of parties writing and enforcing their own privacy policies without external oversight.
- **Federal political parties are currently the least trusted institution tested** on handling personal information — trusted by just 33%, ranking below large private

companies (34%), federal departments (51%), independent privacy commissioners (52%), and nonprofits (54%).

The signatories of this letter are asking our leaders to act on overwhelming public opinion and include political parties in privacy law for good. Before the next federal general election, we call on Parliament to:

1. Apply **binding privacy law to federal political parties and their agents as called for in House of Commons petition e-7237**, ensuring they must abide by widely accepted Canadian privacy principles already followed by businesses and government;
2. Guarantee voters **meaningful rights of access to their own information** held by political parties — including the right to know what parties hold about them, to correct errors, and to ask for it to be deleted;
3. Ensure **independent oversight of the privacy practices of political parties** by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, with the authority to investigate complaints and enforce compliance;
4. Repeal and/or **reject legislation that purports to address political parties and privacy while falling short of this standard**, including Bills C-4 (now law) and C-25.

#### **Signed as Organizations:**

1. Apathy is Boring
2. BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA)
3. BC-FIPA
4. Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)
5. Centre for Digital Rights
6. Democracy Watch
7. Fair Vote Canada
8. GoodBot
9. Leadnow
10. National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)
11. Open North
12. OpenMedia
13. PEN Canada
14. Privacy and Access Council of Canada
15. Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
16. Public Interest Alberta (PIA)
17. Technologists for Democracy
18. Tech Reset Canada

#### **Signed as Experts:**

1. Sara Bannerman, Professor, Department of Communication Studies and Media Arts, McMaster University
2. Vass Bednar, Managing Director, The Canadian Shield Institute
3. Colin Bennett, Emeritus Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria
4. Andrew Clement, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto

5. Elizabeth Denham, former Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC and former Information Commissioner for the UK
6. David Fraser, McInnes Cooper and the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University
7. Michael Geist, Professor, Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law, University of Ottawa
8. Blayne Haggart, Professor, Department of Political Science, Brock University
9. Guy T. Hoskins, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Carleton University.
10. Constantine Karbaliotis, Counsel, nNovation LLP
11. Evan Light, Associate Professor, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto
12. Matt Malone, Balsillie Scholar, Balsillie School of International Affairs
13. Fenwick McKelvey, Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University
14. Kate Robertson, Senior Research Associate, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto
15. Laith Sarhan, Privacy Lawyer, Sarhan Data Law
16. Natasha Tusikov, Associate Professor, Department of Social Science, York University
17. Kenneth Werbin, Associate Professor, User Experience Design, Wilfrid Laurier University
18. Janet Wesselius, Professor of Philosophy, University of Alberta
19. Dwayne Winseck, Professor, Communication and Media Studies, Carleton University
20. David Young, Principal, David Young Law