

Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

JAN 27 2016

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Chief's Office / Bureau du chef
JAN 28 2016
File / Dossier 16-21996

The Honourable Jean-Pierre Plouffe  
Communications Security Establishment Commissioner  
90 Sparks Street, Suite 730  
PO Box 1984, Station B  
Ottawa ON K1P 5B4

Dear Commissioner Plouffe:

I am writing in response to your letter of October 5, 2015, where you informed my predecessor and the former Attorney General of Canada of your findings related to your review of certain metadata activities conducted by the Communications Security Establishment (CSE). I have reviewed your report and letter on this matter and confirm that I accept your recommendations.

I am reassured that your findings confirm the metadata minimization errors that CSE identified were unintentional and that you are satisfied with CSE's proactive measures of suspending the sharing of information with its partners and informing both our offices. I consulted the Attorney General of Canada. She is supportive of my decision to accept your recommendations as the best way forward to address this matter.

CSE has a mandate to protect Canada but also the privacy of Canadians. The protection of the privacy of Canadians is a fundamental principle for CSE, guiding its mission to contribute to the security of our nation and our citizens while maintaining the public interest. I also appreciate that you note in your findings that CSE was "candid, cooperative and forthcoming" throughout your review.

I thank you and your staff for your ongoing work in providing a trusted, independent review of CSE's activities.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP

c.c. Greta Bossenmaier, Chief, Communications Security Establishment  
c.c. Jody Wilson Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

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