

Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

SECRET

Cerriid # 10117659

AVR 30 2014  
APR 30 2014

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

Dear Commissioner Plouffe:

I am writing to respond to your 31 March 2014 letter reporting the results of your annual review of the Communications Security Establishment's (CSE) disclosure of Canadian Identity Information to Government of Canada clients, Second Party partners and non-Five-Eyes recipients for 2012-2013.

I am pleased to note that your review found that CSE's disclosure activities were conducted in accordance with the law and in a manner that includes measures to protect the privacy of Canadians, and that the requests reviewed were authorized, justified and well documented.

I have been advised by the Chief that CSE will implement best practices to its documentation for disclosure requests from Second Parties. The fact that four Second Party reports which, unknown to CSE, inadvertently released CII were brought to CSE's attention by your staff demonstrates the effectiveness of the review process. The Second Party partner was unaware it had inadvertently released CII and upon notification by CSE, immediately agreed to cancel and re-issue the reports according to established policies in place to protect the identity of Second Party Partner entities. The inadvertent releases of CII by the Second Party partner and the subsequent response have been documented in CSE's Privacy Incident File. I understand that the Privacy Incident File is subject to annual review by your office.

Thank you for advising me of the results of this review.

Yours truly,

Hon. Rob Nicholson, PC, QC, MP

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