



September 23rd, 2015

Dear representatives of Arab organizations, Muslims Organizations and individuals from the Muslim and Arab communities across Canada,

On behalf of the Green Party of Canada, please find below our responses to the points raised in your letter dated September 17th, 2015.

Repeal Bill C-51 and any similar bills and laws resulting from them.

The Green Party of Canada is absolutely committed to repealing Bill C-51. We are deeply concerned with the passage of Bill C-51 as it expands the role of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) without any oversight, permits widespread information sharing without adequate restrictions, diminishes thresholds for preventative detention, and expands the no-fly list.

These changes seriously threaten Canadians' civil liberties, including their rights to due process, privacy, and freedom of expression, not to mention that the bill will make Canadians less safe. There are no elements of Bill C-51 that make Canadians safer. It must be repealed in its entirety. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, has been clear that in any power-sharing agreement, a repeal of Bill C-51 would be among the Green Party's highest policy priorities.

Repeal articles in Bill C-24 that imply or result in different levels of citizenship and/or represent any form of discrimination between Canadians and any similar bills and laws resulting from them.

The Green Party will repeal Bill C-24. It represents a dangerous departure from our fundamental understanding of what it means to be a citizen. It runs contrary to international commitments that Canada has made under the Convention on Statelessness and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It arguably also runs contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in treating classes of Canadian citizens differently from each other.

If somebody obtains his or her Canadian citizenship by fraud, there are already ways in which that citizenship can be revoked because it was obtained fraudulently. However, for Canadian citizens who arguably might or might not be dual citizens of another nation, to lose their citizenship from Canada is a dangerous and slippery slope.

Change the archaic Canadian electoral system to a proportional representation system and repeal the "Fair Elections" act.

Archaic is the exact term to describe our current first-past-the-post system (FPTP) of electing MPs. It makes voters feel as if their vote does not count. The FPTP system has lost the confidence of Canadians, and it is time to replace it.

The Green Party believes that Canada must shift immediately to a proportional voting system that fairly and directly translates all votes into representation in Parliament. We will legislate the end of first-past-the-post voting and establish an all-party Democratic Voting Commission to conduct a public consultation on the style of proportional representation best suited to Canada. This commission will make recommendations to Parliament for the necessary democratic voting reform, including draft legislation, within one year.

The Green Party would also repeal the "Unfair Elections Act," which made it harder for young people, First Nations, the poor, and seniors to vote. This bill relegated Elections Canada to a purely administrative role and ended the practice of "vouching" for voters without proper ID at the polling station. Greens would engage in real democratic reform, that would increase voter turnout and democratic participation, while making our government more responsive to the needs of Canadians.

Seriously and equally address all forms of racism (including Islamophobia and Antisemitism) and treat them and all hate speech and crimes motivated by prejudice as hate crimes.

Violence and intimidation continue to be everyday realities of the Islamic and Jewish communities. With each new tragedy perpetrated against these groups, we are reminded that we need robust protections in our laws from cruelty and hate. Greens strongly believe that criminal code provisions are required to target hate crimes, and propose amending the code to include gender identity and gender expression in the hate sentencing and hate propaganda provisions. We must continue to seriously and equally address all forms of hate crimes in Canada.

Make it a criminal offense to accuse any person or group of terrorism without adequate evidence acceptable by a Canadian court or law, in an open and fair trial.

While Bill C-51, and the rhetoric surrounding the passage of the bill, have been consistently islamophobic, we must respond to these attacks on civil discourse by strengthening the freedom of expression, and not use tools that could inadvertently serve to weaken our Charter rights. Greens condemn the use of parliamentary privilege to make indefensible and false accusations



of terrorist-affiliations and will work collaboratively with members of the Arab and Muslim communities of Canada to find ways to face these challenges together.

Base Canada's trade & economic support to other countries on the said country's respect of democracy, universal principles of Human Rights, Justice and the rule of law.

The Green Party supports fair trade that puts sovereignty, human rights, and the environment first and does not support trade agreements that put rights of multinational corporations first.

Respect, support and defend governments that come to power through a democratic process and that apply the rule of law, have an independent judicial process and respect Human Rights; and will not tolerate regimes that seize power through undemocratic means.

The Green Party will support any democratically elected national government that respects human rights. We will attempt to engage productively and negotiate with the ones that do not, to push these administrations to act according to the principles of fundamental justice. While isolation stands to cement radical or authoritarian beliefs, the Green Party believes respect, diplomacy, and engagement can help improve global democracy and liberate marginalized sections of undemocratic societies.

Actively advocate for international law to be applied everywhere around the world.

Respect for international law and international conventions is not only the baseline for moral activity but it is the foundation of a just and secure world. International law only works if UN member states actively respect and uphold it. Sadly, violations of international law by states that profess to uphold its principles are all too common.

The Green Party supports applying the principles of international law in all domestic activities. We also support the role of the UN in diplomatic intervention and international peacekeeping, including acting with a "responsibility to protect" framework in situations where a state refuses to protect its own citizens from violence, such as in Darfur.

Greens believe Canada can and must increase its commitment to the UN and that there must be significant UN reform to make the organization more effective, especially within the UN Security Council. The Security Council vetoes must be re-examined in a post-Cold War context. We must also seek greater balance in north-south representation within the Security Council.



Will legalize pursuing foreign nationals, including officials and politicians, suspected of committing crimes against humanity in their own countries or against another people, in Canadian courts.

Crimes against humanity are the gravest violations of the fundamental sense of justice that all human beings share. They should be prosecuted to the fullest extent. These crimes are an affront to all peoples, and are best treated in the international courts. Instead of developing a patchwork system, we must strengthen international mechanisms to pursue foreign nationals suspected of crimes against humanity, to ensure that justice for the global community is properly served.

Will employ all available means, including political and economic means, to free Canadian Citizens or immigrants to Canada who are wrongly accused or indicted in other countries based on politically motivated charges.

Canadians should be able to depend on their government to defend their rights and freedoms. While we are relieved that Mohamed Fahmy was recently pardoned, the Harper Conservatives refusal to take strong action to secure his freedom was shocking, and violated the trust Canadians place in their government. The Fahmy case, and others like it, deserve to be addressed with urgency and perseverance. We received wonderful news today that Mr. Fahmy has been released, but the Harper Conservatives' inaction prolonged his hardship. This is not how the Canadian government should respond when the freedom of its people is threatened. The Green Party will use all tools at our disposal to ensure that Canadians who are wrongfully accused or indicted on politically motivated charges in other countries are freed and are able to obtain justice.

