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August 4th, 2021

J.Y. (Jian Yang) Hoh
Legal Officer
Centre for Law and Democracy

Re: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Dear Mr. Hoh,

Thank you for taking the time to contact us about the *FOIPOP Act* and the need for us to increase government transparency and accountability.

We know that Nova Scotia's democracy is in trouble -- the Legislature did not meet once during the pandemic, and the government spent \$1 billion last year without the approval and oversight of the Legislature. Beyond this, the Liberals have used their majority to shut down debate, and they have broken their promise to introduce fixed election dates. All of this points to a larger problem with transparency and accountability that is in keeping with the refusal to modernize our privacy legislation to provide Nova Scotians with an adequate right to information.

An NDP government will make the necessary and recommended changes to Nova Scotia's privacy legislation, in line with what has been recommended by Nova Scotia's Privacy Commissioner in the past, and as outlined in Catherine Tulley's letter to the government in January 2019. Our NDP caucus introduced legislation to this effect in 2019, but it was not supported by the government. Among the necessary changes that an NDP government would make and that are contained in the referenced legislation would be to give the Privacy Commissioner order-making power, which makes their decisions legally binding.



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You can read the NDP's legislation [here](#).

Thank you for reaching out to us about this issue. We share your deep concerns about the state of our democracy in Nova Scotia.

With kind regards,

Nova Scotia's NDP