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BC FREEDOM OF  
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April 6, 2011

Stephen Harper  
Leader, Conservative Party of Canada

**RE: Your party's position on reform of the Access to Information Act**

We are writing to you to find out your party's position regarding desperately needed improvements to the *Access to Information Act (ATIA)*.

The Information Commissioner has stated that the Access to Information system has hit "rock bottom". Other experts have stated that Canada has "fallen behind" or that our ATI system ranks "dead last" compared to other countries.

**Do you find this acceptable, and if not, what will your party do about it?**

In your response, please deal directly with the *ATIA* and the ATI system. We are interested in what you propose to do to allow citizens' to exercise their legal right to information from the federal government, not new websites to put government information on the internet (however useful these might be). We hope this will allow a response focused directly on the crisis facing the ATI system.

We will post your response to this simple question on our websites after April 18.

Sincerely yours,

Vincent Gogolek, Executive Director  
B.C. Freedom of Information  
and Privacy Association

Troy Lanigan, President  
Canadian Taxpayers' Federation

John Hinds, President and CEO  
Newspapers Canada