

Commissioner Daniel Therrien  
Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada  
30 Victoria St.  
Gatineau, QC K1A 1H3

March 19, 2018

**Re: Facebook data breach by Cambridge Analytica**

Dear Commissioner Therrien,

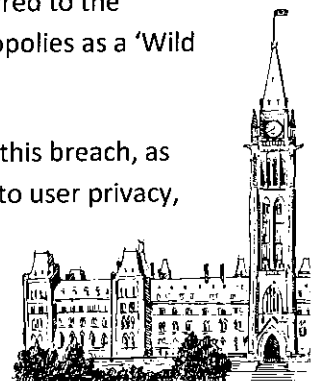
Over the weekend, the troubling news emerged that Cambridge Analytica, a firm owned by hedge fund billionaire Robert Mercer and linked to the presidential campaign of Donald Trump, was able to access tens of millions of Facebook users' private data without their consent for use in psychographic modelling for political purposes. Further, news outlets reported that Facebook had known about this breach since 2015, but had not informed its users about it. The reaction of Facebook's executives to this enormous breach of its users' privacy has been incredibly cavalier, considering both its scope and the lingering concerns around the role of digital skullduggery in the recent American presidential election and information warfare in elections across the globe.

In an era of globalized data and global online platforms, Canadians should be concerned by this nonchalant attitude towards user privacy by one of the biggest social media platforms in the world.

In particular, we request that your office broadly examine Facebook's compliance with the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) to ensure that Canadian Facebook users' information has not been compromised and that Facebook is taking measures adequate to protect Canadians' private data in the future.

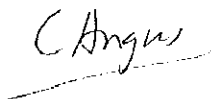
There is significant international attention about this troubling breach. The British Information Commissioner and a committee of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom are investigating it, as is the European Parliament, and an American state government and US Senator have called for both investigations and tougher standards. Politicians on both sides of the Atlantic have referred to the legislative and regulatory vacuum around the behaviour of the emerging platform monopolies as a 'Wild West.'

As Members of Parliament, we will also be calling for a Parliamentary investigation into this breach, as well as a broader review of the practices of large tech and media platforms with regard to user privacy, data storage, and market competition.



The largest companies have acted as *de facto* utilities of the information age, and it is time that they were subjected to appropriate scrutiny and oversight.

Sincerely,



Charlie Angus, MP  
Timmins—James Bay  
NDP Ethics Critic



Matthew Dubé, MP  
Beloeil—Chambly  
NDP Public Safety Critic



Brian Masse, MP  
Windsor West  
NDP Innovation, Science and  
Economic Development Critic