

July 16 2014

Re: Supreme Court Ruling on Warrantless Disclosures

I am writing to you as you are a representative for a company who possibly responded as one off the 9 of the 12 Telecommunications companies to the Privacy Commissioner's office informing Canadians of the 1.2 million requests made by the government for Canadians personal information.

In its recent ruling, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that in opposition to this governments claims, the requested information, such as an IP address, is indeed private. The court also reaffirmed that the government and police agencies must have a warrant to lawfully request this information.

In this landmark ruling, the Supreme Court has upheld the quasi-Constitutional rights of Canadians to privacy specifically in relation to the practices of the companies you represent. This ruling is exceptionally pertinent, considering Bills S-4 and C-13, the legislation that is currently in front of parliament to further expand the government's ability to request this information without a warrant.

I understand that this places telecommunications companies in a very difficult place as they feel compelled to answer government requests, even if on a voluntary basis. In respect of the court ruling and Canadians' privacy rights the government should stop making these voluntary requests except for in exceptional circumstances. That should end the difficult place that your companies have been placed in being asked to contravene Canadians privacy rights as protected by the Charter or denying the government requests for information.

Nevertheless, I am writing to you to ask how your company will be responding to the court's ruling? How will the practices of your company be changing to respect the recent court ruling? Will your company continue to hand over the personal information of Canadians to the government when requested without a warrant and under what parameters?

Furthermore, how much do these requests cost your companies and depending on the requestor how much of these costs have you recovered?

I look forward to working with you in order to ensure that Canadians privacy rights are respected.

Sincerely,



Charlie Angus
MP Timmins-James Bay