



Steve Anderson
Executive Director
OpenMedia

September 15, 2015

Dear Steve and the entire OpenMedia staff,

More and more Canadians are using the internet to weave a digital fabric for Canada - one that is revolutionizing the way our society works. The web supports entire economies, empowers social movements and shapes the national conversation. And, in a country as vast as Canada, it revitalizes the promise of Confederation: bringing neighbours, friends and families closer from coast to coast to coast. Our web grows stronger every day with each new voice.

But I'm worried about the future of our Internet.

The Harper Conservatives have begun to dismantle the promise of our digital age. In C-13 and S-4, two bills passed in the last Parliament, the government fought to expand the practice of warrantless, voluntary disclosure of subscriber information. This despite the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Spencer* that Canadians have a *Charter* right to the reasonable expectation of digital privacy. CSEC continues to collect millions of internet communications from all Canadians - regardless of due process or rule of law.

And then there's C-51. Our own Privacy Commissioner - who was blocked by the Harper Conservatives from giving testimony at committee - slammed the bill as "[clearly excessive](#)" and failing to balance our security with our privacy rights. It completely overhauls the way government handles our personal data with absolutely no independent oversight.

The Green Party of Canada wants legislative infrastructure for an internet that reflects Canadian values. In our recently released [platform](#), we commit to repealing C-51 in its entirety, ceasing the intolerable mass surveillance of Canadians by our security organizations, and expanding access to the web so all Canadians can contribute to a creative, free and open internet. Our platform strongly supports Net Neutrality and vigorously opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Digital rights are human rights. As the web grows and evolves, we will face new legislative and regulatory challenges. We need politicians who are willing to defend those rights, stand up for

users and passionately advocate for an internet that is open and free, where Canadians have a right to privacy.

We need Green Members of Parliament to protect Canada's digital future.

As you have outlined in your crowdsourced plan, [Canada's Digital Future](#), privacy, free expression and affordable access are all critical for the future of Canada's internet. I fully support this plan and promise to make these continued priorities for the Green Party moving forward. That's why I am endorsing OpenMedia's pro-internet plan and encourage all Green Party candidates to do the same.

OpenMedia's advocacy work and commitment to participatory democracy is vital to Canadian society. I commend your organization's efforts and wish you the best of luck with your campaign this election.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth May
Incumbent candidate for Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

