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Airdrie, Alberta
December 17, 2017

MY FILE: 177

Ms. Suzanne Legault
The Information Commissioner of Canada
30 Victoria Street, 7th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1H3

Dear Ms. Legault:

Re: EXEMPTION 21(1)(a) COMPLAINT- JUSTICE FILE: A-2017-01408

Please find enclosed: (1) a copy of my original *Access to Information Act* request dated November 12, 2017, and (2) the Justice Department's response dated December 6, 2017.

<https://dennisryoung.ca/2017/12/13/trudeaus-promise-evidence-based-gun-control-takes-direct-hit/>

I wish to complain about the department's use of section 21(1)(a) to exempt two pages of 'evidence' used by the Justice Department officials to draft the Minister's statement to Parliament opposing E-Petition 421-01700.

Section 21(1) states: *The head of a government institution may refuse to disclose any record requested under this Act that contains (a) advice or recommendations developed by or for a government institution or a minister of the Crown.* However, on August 29, 2014 the Liberal Party of Canada sent this e-mail stating: "A Liberal government led by Justin Trudeau would not reinstitute the long-gun registry, however, like yourself we believe in balanced gun control that prioritizes public safety while ensuring that law-abiding firearms owners do not face undue treatment under the law. We will spend the time leading up to the federal election developing **evidence-based firearms policy** that is based on this approach." (see URL below)

A follow-up e-mail to me from the Liberal Party on September 2, 2014 stated: "Thank you for taking the time to write and for providing us with the journal articles related to firearms control. As per your message, we certainly agree that policies must be developed from an evidence based approach. To make sound decisions, governments need sound data. As our Mr. Trudeau has stated, **"The only ideology that must guide us is evidence - Hard, scientific facts and data. It may seem revolutionary in today's Ottawa, but instead of inventing the facts to justify the policies, we will create policy based on facts. Solutions can come from the left or the right, all that matters is that they work."** We appreciate your suggestion on this issue, and be assured that our policy team will engage in heavy research and gather the facts to formulate a balanced firearms control policy." (see URL below)

On February 11, 2016, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said the government plans to take a closer look at the number of guns in Canada stating: **"We're going to obviously be looking at all of the statistics of this kind," Goodale said. "We want to be an evidence-based government making sound decisions on the basis of hard facts."** (see URL below)

It's hard to see how the Prime Minister and his Minister of Public Safety can make these commitments to the people of Canada for firearms policies that are 'evidence-based' and based on 'hard facts' and then have the Justice Minister withhold these two pages of 'evidence' from the public.

Yours sincerely,

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cc The Honourable Jody-Wilson Raybold, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
 The Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
 The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

PUBLIC SAFETY MINISTER GOODALE REAFFIRMS JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S COMMITMENT TO 'EVIDENCE-BASED' GUN CONTROL POLICIES by Elizabeth Thompson, iPolitics - Feb 11, 2016
<https://ipolitics.ca/2016/02/11/number-of-restricted-guns-in-canada-shot-up-during-harpers-government/>

TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT MAKES MORE COMMITMENTS TO "EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING"
<http://dennisryoung.ca/2015/11/06/trudeau-government-makes-more-commitments-to-evidence-based-policy-making/>

JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S SUPPORT FOR 'EVIDENCE-BASED' GUN CONTROL LAWS
<http://dennisryoung.ca/2015/10/31/justin-trudeaus-support-for-evidence-based-gun-control-laws/>

LIBERAL PARTY REAL CHANGE PROMISE: EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

Government should base its policies on facts, not make up facts based on policy. Without evidence, government makes arbitrary decisions that have the potential to negatively affect the daily lives of Canadians. We need reliable economic indicators and data for sound economic policy, and to provide other governments, businesses, and civil society with the tools to enrich our national life. A Liberal government will ensure the federal government rebuilds its capacity to deliver on evidence-based decision-making.
<https://www.liberal.ca/openness-and-transparency/>