



## OPEN LETTER

Airdrie, Alberta  
August 20, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

**Re: Waiving Solicitor-Client Privilege on High River Forced Entries Records Being Withheld**

In your 2015 election campaign you promised more openness, transparency and fairness in your government. You said on the Liberal Party website: *"As the saying goes, sunlight is the world's best disinfectant. Liberals will shed new light on the government and ensure that it is focused on the people it is meant to serve: Canadians."* Justin Trudeau <http://www.liberal.ca/openness-and-transparency/>

On August 11, 2015, the Globe and Mail published the following:

- *"We will make information more accessible by requiring transparency to be a fundamental principle across the federal government,"* Trudeau said in Montreal on Day 10 of the election campaign.
- The Liberal leader accused the outgoing prime minister of leading the *"most secretive, divisive and hyper-partisan government in Canada's history."* *"We will clean up his mess."*

I am writing to you today to ask you clean up a mess in High River, Alberta and to make good on your 2015 election promises for openness, transparency and fairness. [The four telephone polls we took of High River residents between 2014 and 2016 show](#) the trust in the RCMP is still broken. The raft of questions left unanswered in the reports released by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP did not fix this broken trust. RCMP Commissioner Lucki defended the Commission's flawed report in response to [the six-point plan I sent her that would go a long way to rebuilding the broken trust in the RCMP in High River.](#)

You can start to repair this broken trust by making public the hundreds and hundreds of pages of records on the High River Forced Entries and rights violations withheld by your government using the solicitor-client privilege exemption. Please give the authority to your Ministers of Justice and Attorney General, Public Safety and Defence and the Judge Advocate General to waive privilege on these records. I would also ask you to direct the Minister of Public Safety to expedite the processing and release of 2,280 pages of High River rights violations records I requested from the RCMP in 2016. See the details regarding the records being withheld and updates on my *Access to Information Act* requests attached.

If you, your staff, your Ministers or their staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am sending this letter to your e-mail addresses on Parliament Hill so that you will be able to easily access the embedded hyperlinks.

Sincerely,

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### **HIGH RIVER FORCED ENTRIES - RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RECORDS WITHHELD**

**JULY 12, 2019 - ATIP REQUEST 142 – DND FILE: ATIP REQUEST 142: NATIONAL DEFENCE REDACTS 29-PAGES OF INFO ON HIGH RIVER FORCED ENTRIES - Even the questions posed to the Judge Advocate General were withheld citing Solicitor-Client Privilege.** - National Defence ATIP response dated June 28, 2019 - Received July 12, 2019 by Dennis R. Young <https://dennisryoung.ca/2019/07/13/national-defence-redacts-29-pages-of-info-on-high-river-forced-entries/>

- July 21, 2019 – [Complaint filed with the Office of the Information Commissioner.](#)

**NOVEMBER 7, 2016 – ATIP REQUEST 137 – RCMP FILE A-2016-09452: HIGH RIVER LEGAL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL**

- March 18, 2017 – [Filed Delay Complaint with the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada](#)
- January 23, 2018 – Investigator for the Office of the Information Commissioner e-mailed an update advising the RCMP response consists of 2,840 pages of records. Quote: “Our office has proposed to meet with the RCMP to develop a spreadsheet so that we will have more info to work with and can hopefully give you a proposed response date soon.”
- July 13, 2019 – Sent e-mail to the Office of the Information Commissioner requesting a status report

**FEBRUARY 5, 2017 - ATIP REQUEST 142 – JUSTICE FILE A-2017-01882:  
WHY DIDN'T THE CHARTER PROTECT HIGH RIVER RESIDENTS?**

- November 22, 2017 – [Received 117 of 972 pages](#) – 885 pages withheld (669 pages withheld citing solicitor-client privilege)
- December 3, 2017 - [Complaint filed with Office of the Information Commissioner](#)
- December 18, 2017 – Acknowledgement letter from Info Commissioner
- August 19, 2019 – Sent e-mail to the Office of the Information Commissioner requesting a status report

**MAY 20, 2017 - ATIP REQUEST FILE 170 – JUSTICE FILE: A-2017-00340:  
HIGH RIVER ‘LEGAL AUTHORITIES QUESTIONS’ ASKED OF JUSTICE**

- November 1, 2017 – Received Justice response dated October 25, 2017 – Admit they received questions concerning rights violations in High River but “all information is exempted from release by virtue of solicitor-client privilege”

- November 3, 2017 – [Filed Complaint with the Office of the Information Commissioner](#)
- November 27, 2017 – Acknowledgement letter from Information Commissioner
- August 19, 2019 – Sent e-mail to the Office of the Information Commissioner requesting a status report

**JULY 7, 2017 – ATIP REQUEST FILE 175 – JUSTICE FILE A-2017-00560:**

**HIGH RIVER ‘BRIEFING NOTE’ & ‘TALKING POINTS’**

- October 4, 2017 – [Completely blanked out response citing solicitor-client privilege](#) dated Sept 27, 2017
- October 8, 2017 – [Complaint filed with Office of the Information Commissioner](#)
- October 19, 2018 – [Information Commissioner rules my complaint is ‘not well founded’](#)