



Treasury Board of Canada
Secrétariat

Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor
du Canada

Canada

Access to Information Act Review: Seeking input from Government Institutions

November 2020

GCDocs # 45986215



Purpose

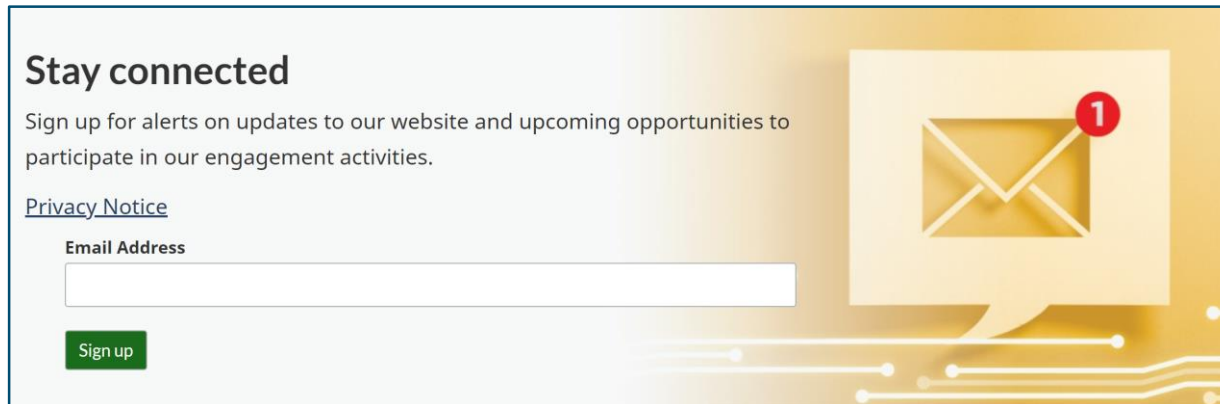
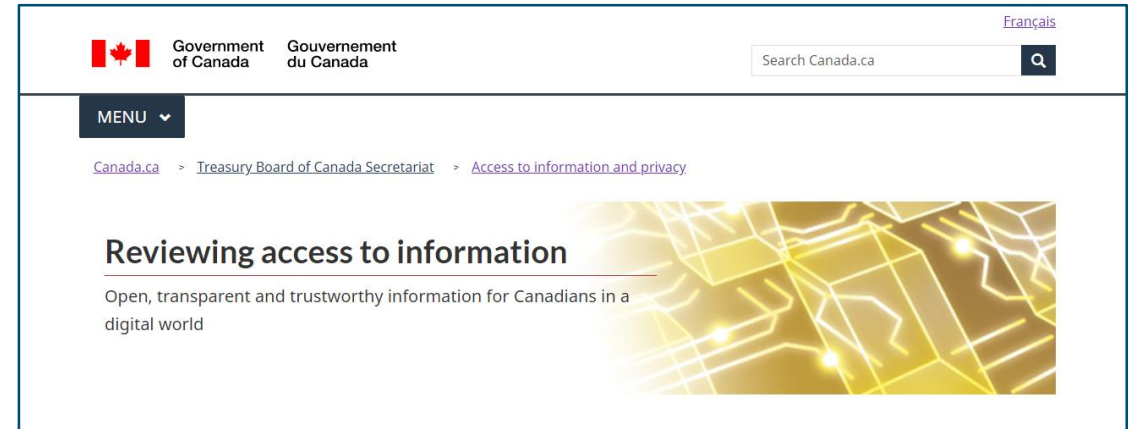
- Provide an overview of the *Access to Information Act* review
- Set out the approach to seeking feedback from government institutions

ATIA Review

- In 2016, Government committed to review the *Access to Information Act* in two phases
 - Phase I: Bill C-58 targeted amendments came into force June 2019
 - Phase II: full review of the Act
- Bill C-58 created legislative obligations for President of Treasury Board
 - Review the Act every 5 years, with first review starting by June 21, 2020
 - Table a report of the review in Parliament
- Senate and House standing committees also required to undertake reviews of the Act every 5 years

Review

- Review was launched on June 18, 2020
 - [Website](#)
 - [News release](#)
- Website includes:
 - Preliminary details about the review process
 - Background information on access to information in the federal government
 - Data on the impacts of COVID-19 on access to information
- Website also invites Canadians to subscribe to updates



Scope of review – three streams



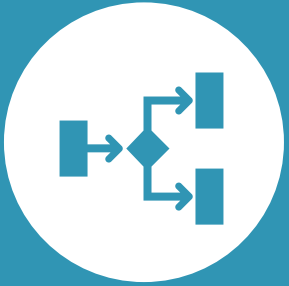
Legislation

Reviewing the legislative framework



Proactive Publication

Opportunities to improve proactive publication to make information openly available



Processes & Systems

Assessing processes and systems to improve service and reduce delays

Some areas to consider



Legislation

s. 24 (prohibitions against disclosure) Timeliness

Exemptions & exclusions

Public interest override

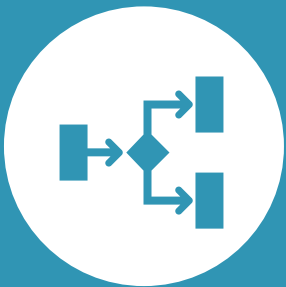


Proactive Publication

Refinements and additions

Digital tools

Retention periods



Processes & Systems

Causes of delays

Business processes

System costs – study

Potential benefits of technology

Engagement Audiences

Federal and PT

- 265+ federal government institutions subject to the *Access to Information Act*
- Provinces & Territories
- Department of Justice (links to *Privacy Act* Review)

External

- Canadians, system users, academics
- Bargaining agents
- Multi-stakeholder Forum on Open Government
- Office of the Information Commissioner
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner
- Parliamentarians

Indigenous

- National Indigenous Organizations
- Other Indigenous representatives, groups and institutions

Two-stage approach to seeking input from government institutions

Stage 1 – Issue identification (November – December 2020)

- Call out to Deputies seeking input on **key issues to be addressed** – November 2020
 - A single ADM-approved response per institution due in December 2020

Stage 2 – Detailed input (January 2021 – February 2021)

- Call out for more detailed input from institutions on identified issues, with responses due in February
- Summary of input will be published on the Review webpage
- Review Secretariat may reach out to institutions for additional information or discussion of specific issues beginning in mid-2021

Questions / Comments?

Please contact us at:

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