

Background on the *Transparency Act*

The *Transparency Act* will achieve the five following reforms:

1. Require that meetings of the House of Commons' Board of Internal Economy be open by default. Today, MPs are making decisions about the regulations that govern their own spending with insufficient public scrutiny. This is a reform initiative that the Liberal Party called for in 2013 with its Open Parliament Plan. The Board would still be permitted to operate in camera for confidential personnel matters or when dealing with contracts.
2. Amend Section 2 of the *Access to Information Act* ("Purpose" section) so that all government data and information must be made open by default in machine readable format.
3. Eliminate all fees associated with the Access to Information process, except for the initial \$5 filing fee. This fee would, however, be refunded to the individual if their request were not fulfilled within 30 days.
4. Expand the role of the Information Commissioner by amending the mandate to include the ability to issue binding orders for disclosure.
5. Order a full legislative review of the Access to Information system, to begin within 90 days. This review would explore how the current Canadian system should be updated to better reflect the realities of a modern information age. Further statutory reviews of the *Access to Information Act* would be mandated every five years.