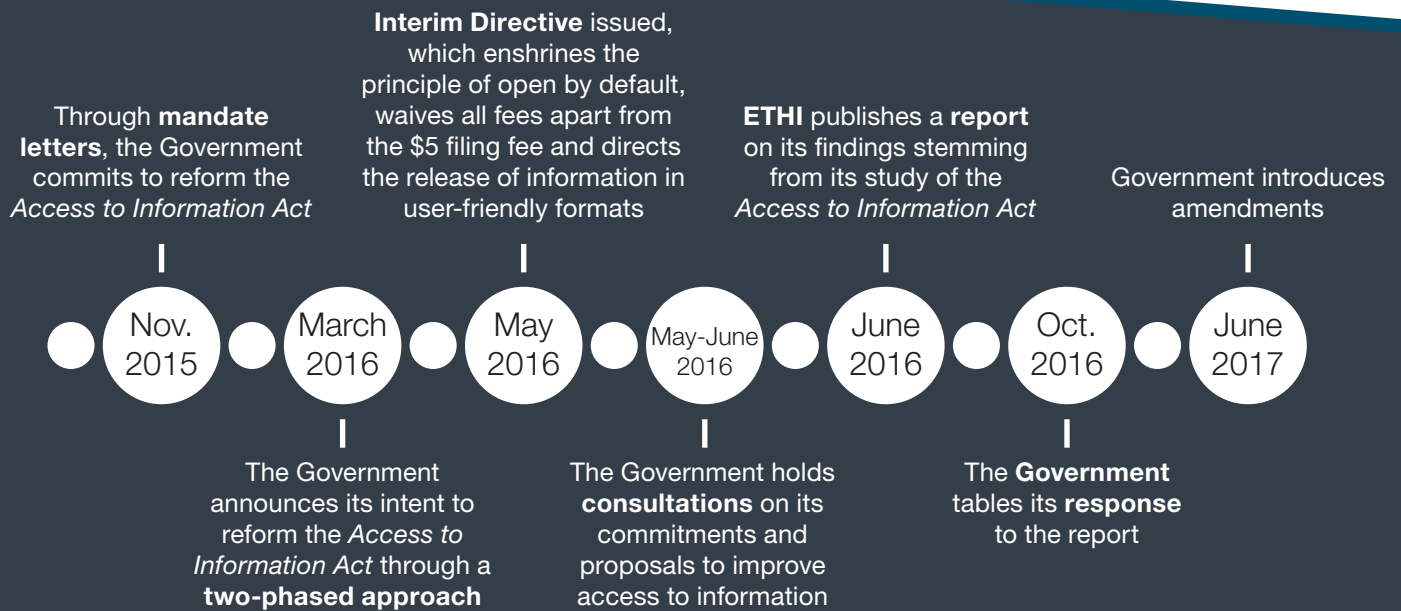




# Access to Information Act Milestones



The most significant changes to the Act since it was enacted in 1983. The legislation will:









- Provide the Information Commissioner with order-making powers
- Bring new legal requirements to proactively publish a broad range of information
- Require a review of the Act within one year of Royal Assent, and every five years afterwards
- Expand the coverage of the Act to new institutions not previously covered
- Strengthen performance reporting on access to information
- Improve the administration of the *Access to Information Act*





# Access to Information: Open by Default

If passed, these amendments to the *Access to Information Act* would legally require government institutions to proactively publish frequently requested information. Right now, most institutions disclose information voluntarily or as a matter of policy. The amendments also expand the requirement to proactively publish information to a greater number of institutions than ever before. Here is what would change:

## The Prime Minister's and Ministers' Offices

-  Mandate letters
-  Briefing packages for new Ministers (within 120 calendar days of appointment)
-  Titles and tracking numbers of briefing notes (monthly)
-  Question Period binders (within 30 calendar days following last sitting day in June and December)
-  Binders for Parliamentary Committee appearances (within 120 calendar days after appearance)
-  Travel and hospitality expenses (monthly)
-  Contracts over \$10,000 (quarterly)
-  Annual report of all expenses incurred by a Minister's office (within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year)

## Senators and Members of Parliament



-  Travel and hospitality (quarterly)
-  Service contracts – all amounts (quarterly)



## Government institutions





-  Briefing packages for new deputy heads (within 120 calendar days of appointment)
-  Travel and hospitality expenses (monthly)
-  Titles and tracking numbers of briefing notes (within 30 calendar days of end of month received)
-  Grants and contributions over \$25,000 (quarterly)
-  Reports tabled in Parliament (within 30 calendar days after tabling)
-  Reclassification of positions (quarterly)
-  Contracts over \$10,000 (quarterly)

## Administrative institutions that support Parliament\*

-  Travel and hospitality (quarterly)
-  Contracts – over \$10,000 (quarterly)

\*Library of Parliament, the Parliamentary Budget Officer, the Parliamentary Protective Service, the Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner, the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer, the administration of the Senate and the House of Commons

## Administrative institutions that support the courts\*

-  Travel and hospitality expenses of senior level officials (quarterly)
-  Contracts – over \$10,000 (quarterly)
-  Conference expenses (quarterly)
-  Expenses of superior court judges – expenses reimbursed as part of travel, conference, incidental and representational allowances (quarterly)

\*The Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Courts Administration Service, and the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs

All information that is considered a privilege of Parliament or that could pose a threat to security would be withheld as determined by the Speaker of the Senate or the House of Commons

All information which would interfere with judicial independence if disclosed would be withheld as determined by the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Chief Administrator of the Courts Administrative Services or the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs, as applicable