

Office of the Public Sector  
Integrity Commissioner  
of Canada



Commissariat à l'intégrité  
du secteur public  
du Canada

# **Annual Report on the Access to Information Act 2020-2021**

**From April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021**

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## **Introduction**

The *Access to Information Act* (ATIA – the Act) gives Canadians the broad legal right to information contained in federal government records.

The Act provides government institutions with 30 days to respond to access requests. Additional time may be granted if there are many records to examine, other government agencies to be consulted, or third parties to be notified. Access rights are subject to specific and limited exemptions.

This annual report to Parliament is submitted by the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada (the Commissioner) pursuant to section 72 of the ATIA. On April 15, 2007, the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act* (PSDPA) came into force. It created the Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada (the Office). The new legislation replaced the Treasury Board *Policy on the Internal Disclosure of Information Concerning Wrongdoing in the Workplace*.

The Office is mandated to establish a safe, independent and confidential process for public servants and members of the public to disclose potential wrongdoing in the federal public sector. The Office also deals with reprisal complaints from public servants coming from their disclosures or their participation in related investigations.

The Commissioner is an independent Agent of Parliament.

## **Description of the institution's structure**

The Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Coordinator is the only employee dedicated, on a part-time basis, to fulfil the *Access to Information Act* responsibilities. The Coordinator is assisted by a contractor for the processing of the requests, for training and education, and for reporting activities.

## **Delegation**

The Commissioner, as the head of the government institution, has designated, pursuant to section 73 of the ATIA, the persons holding the positions set out in the delegation order, or the persons occupying on an acting basis those positions, to exercise the powers, duties or functions of the Commissioner as specified therein. A copy of the delegation order is included in Appendix A.

## **Interpretation of the annual statistical report**

Appendix B provides a statistical report on the ATIA applications processed by the Office between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Six formal requests received and closed during this reporting period, one of which required an extension under section 9(1)(a) of the ATIA. Five of these requests originated from the Public and one from academia. None were carried over from the previous period and none were informal requests.

Two requests were fully disclosed, one request was partially exempted under the provisions of section 16.4(1)(b) of the ATIA, and another one was fully exempted under section 16.4(1)(a). The two remaining requests were transferred to another institution.

Some 408 pages were processed of which 76 were fully disclosed. These records were provided on paper, none electronically.

Fees were collected for four of the requests and those for the remaining two were waived.

No translations were required to respond to the requests.

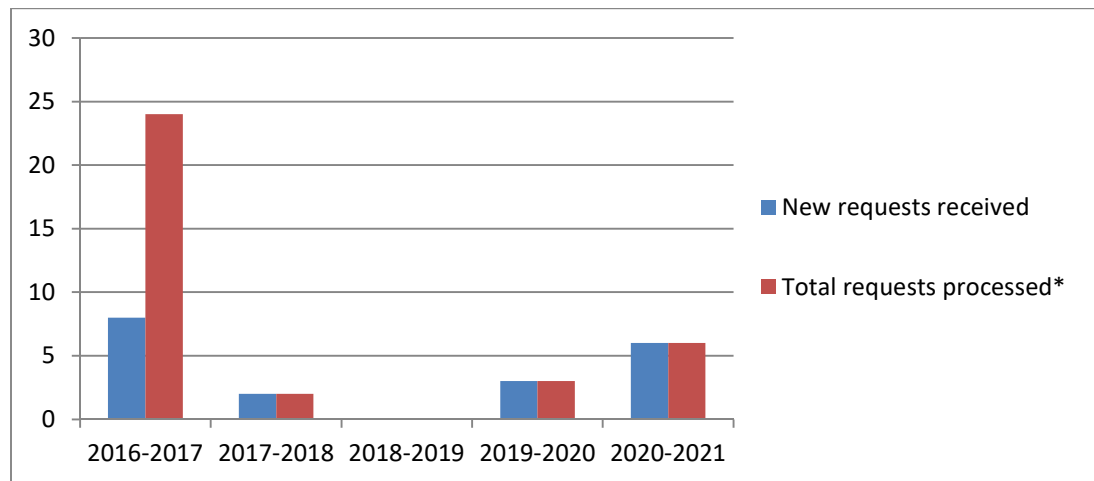
No requests of a vexatious, bad faith or abusive of right nature were received.

Seven consultations consisting of 32 pages were received from other federal

government institutions and processed within the allocated timeframe. No exemptions were recommended to be applied under the ATIA. No consultations were received from other sources.

The Office spent some \$15,900 in resources administering the ATIA.

**Table 1 – Five-year trend of access requests**



\*Total requests processed includes any requests carried over from previous reporting periods.

## **Interpretation of the supplemental statistical report**

Appendix C provides a statistical report on the COVID-19 measures applied by the Office between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

## **Education and training activities**

No formal briefing sessions covering the provisions of the ATIA were delivered to PSIC employees as a group during this reporting period. However, advice was provided on an individual basis as required.

## **Overview of new or revised institutional policies and procedures**

No new or revised institutional policies or procedures were implemented during this reporting period which would have had an impact on access to information.

## **Key issues relating to access to information complaints and/or investigations**

No complaints were received from the Office of the Information Commissioner during this reporting period.

## **Time monitoring for processing access to information requests**

Though no formal time monitoring was conducted during this reporting period, the Office uses a case management system to track processing times regarding access to information requests. This tool assists the Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator and the contractor dedicated to this function in monitoring timelines to ensure compliancy with legislated deadlines.

# Appendix A

## Delegation Order

Office of the Public Sector  
Integrity Commissioner  
of Canada



Commissariat à l'intégrité  
du secteur public  
du Canada

### Access to Information Act Delegation Order

### Loi sur l'accès à l'information Arrêté sur la délégation

The Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada, as the head of the government institution, hereby designates pursuant to section 95(1) of the *Access to Information Act*, the person holding the position set out below, or the persons occupying on an acting basis those positions, to exercise the powers, duties or functions of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner as specified below.

Positions	Sections of <i>Access to Information Act</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Deputy Commissioner</li><li>▪ ATIP Coordinator</li></ul>	Full Authority – pre and post C-58 Full Authority – pre and post C-58

I hereby name **Denis Bilodeau** as Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator.

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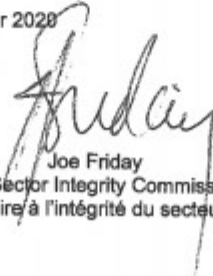
En vertu de l'article 95(1) de la *Loi sur l'accès à l'information*, le commissaire à l'intégrité du secteur public du Canada, en sa qualité de responsable de l'institution, délègue aux titulaires des postes mentionnés ci-dessous ou aux personnes occupant à titre intérimaire les dits postes, les pouvoirs et attributions du commissaire à l'intégrité du secteur public tels que décrits ci-dessous.

Postes	Articles de la <i>Loi sur l'accès à l'information</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sous-commissaire</li><li>▪ Coordonnateur AIPRP</li></ul>	Autorité absolue - pré et post C-58 Autorité absolue - pré et post C-58

Je nomme **Denis Bilodeau** comme coordonnateur de l'Accès à l'information et à la Protection des renseignements personnels.

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Date: February 12, 2020 / le 12 février 2020

  
Joe Friday  
Public Sector Integrity Commissioner  
Commissaire à l'intégrité du secteur public

## Appendix B

### Annual Statistical Report

#### Statistical Report on the *Access to Information Act*

Name of institution: Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada

Reporting period: 2020-04-01 to 2021-03-31

#### Section 1: Requests Under the *Access to Information Act*

##### 1.1 Number of requests

	Number of Requests
Received during reporting period	6
Outstanding from previous reporting period	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>
Closed during reporting period	6
Carried over to next reporting period	0

##### 1.2 Sources of requests

Source	Number of Requests
Media	0
Academia	1
Business (private sector)	0
Organization	0
Public	5
Decline to Identify	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

##### 1.3 Informal requests

Completion Time							Total
1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	Than 365 Days	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Note:** All requests previously recorded as "treated informally" will now be accounted for in this section only.



**Section 2: Decline to act vexatious, made in bad faith or abuse of right requests**

	Number of Requests
Outstanding from previous reporting period	0
Sent during reporting period	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>
Approved by the Information Commissioner during reporting period	0
Declined by the Information Commissioner during reporting period	0
Carried over to next reporting period	0

**Section 3: Requests Closed During the Reporting Period**

3.1 Disposition and completion time

Disposition of Requests	Completion Time							Total
	1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	More Than 365 Days	
All disclosed	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Disclosed in part	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
All exempted	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
All excluded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No records exist	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Request transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neither confirmed nor denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
approval of the Information Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

### 3.2 Exemptions

Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests
13(1)(a)	0	16(2)	0	18(a)	0	20.1	0
13(1)(b)	0	16(2)(a)	0	18(b)	0	20.2	0
13(1)(c)	0	16(2)(b)	0	18(c)	0	20.4	0
13(1)(d)	0	16(2)(c)	0	18(d)	0	21(1)(a)	0
13(1)(e)	0	16(3)	0	18.1(1)(a)	0	21(1)(b)	0
14	0	16.1(1)(a)	0	18.1(1)(b)	0	21(1)(c)	0
14(a)	0	16.1(1)(b)	0	18.1(1)(c)	0	21(1)(d)	0
14(b)	0	16.1(1)(c)	0	18.1(1)(d)	0	22	0
15(1)	0	16.1(1)(d)	0	19(1)	0	22.1(1)	0
15(1) - I.A.*	0	16.2(1)	0	20(1)(a)	0	23	0
15(1) - Def.*	0	16.3	0	20(1)(b)	0	23.1	0
15(1) - S.A.*	0	16.31	0	20(1)(b.1)	0	24(1)	0
16(1)(a)(i)	0	16.4(1)(a)	1	20(1)(c)	0	26	0
16(1)(a)(ii)	0	16.4(1)(b)	1	20(1)(d)	0		
16(1)(a)(iii)	0	16.5	0				
16(1)(b)	0	16.6	0				
16(1)(c)	0	17	0				
16(1)(d)	0						

\*I.A.: International Affairs Def.: Defence of Canada S.A.: Subversive Activities

### 3.3 Exclusions

Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests
68(a)	0	69(1)	0	69(1)(g) re (a)	0
68(b)	0	69(1)(a)	0	69(1)(g) re (b)	0
68(c)	0	69(1)(b)	0	69(1)(g) re (c)	0
68.1	0	69(1)(c)	0	69(1)(g) re (d)	0
68.2(a)	0	69(1)(d)	0	69(1)(g) re (e)	0
68.2(b)	0	69(1)(e)	0	69(1)(g) re (f)	0
		69(1)(f)	0	69.1(1)	0

### 3.4 Format of information released

Paper	Electronic	Other
3	0	0

### 3.5 Complexity

#### 3.5.1 Relevant pages processed and disclosed

Number of Pages Processed	Number of Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests
408	76	4

### 3.5.2 Relevant pages processed and disclosed by size of requests

Disposition	Less Than 100 Pages Processed		101-500 Pages Processed		501-1000 Pages Processed		1001-5000 Pages Processed		More Than 5000 Pages	
	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed
All disclosed	2	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disclosed in part	0	0	1	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
All exempted	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All excluded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neither confirmed nor denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Declined to act with the approval of the Information Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### 3.5.3 Other complexities

Disposition	Consultation Required	Assessment of Fees	Legal Advice Sought	Other	Total
All disclosed	0	0	0	0	0
Disclosed in part	0	0	0	0	0
All exempted	0	0	1	0	1
All excluded	0	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0	0
Neither confirmed nor denied	0	0	0	0	0
Declined to act with the approval of the Information Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

### 3.6 Closed requests

#### 3.6.1 Number of requests closed within legislated timelines

	Requests closed within legislated timelines
Number of requests closed within legislated timelines	5
Percentage of requests closed within legislated timelines (%)	83.3

### 3.7 Deemed refusals

#### 3.7.1 Reasons for not meeting legislated timelines

Number of Requests Closed Past the Legislated Timelines	Principal Reason			
	Interference with Operations / Workload	External Consultation	Internal Consultation	Other
1	1	0	0	0

#### 3.7.2 Requests closed beyond legislated timelines (including any extension taken)

Number of Days Past Legislated Timelines	Number of Requests Past Legislated Timeline Where No Extension Was Taken	Number of Requests Past Legislated Timeline Where an Extension Was Taken	Total
1 to 15 days	1	0	1
16 to 30 days	0	0	0
31 to 60 days	0	0	0
61 to 120 days	0	0	0
121 to 180 days	0	0	0
181 to 365 days	0	0	0
More than 365 days	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

### 3.8 Requests for translation

Translation Requests	Accepted	Refused	Total
English to French	0	0	0
French to English	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## Section 4: Extensions

### 4.1 Reasons for extensions and disposition of requests

Disposition of Requests Where an Extension Was Taken	9(1)(a) Interference With Operations	9(1)(b) Consultation		9(1)(c) Third-Party Notice
		Section 69	Other	
All disclosed	0	0	0	0
Disclosed in part	0	0	0	0
All exempted	1	0	0	0
All excluded	0	0	0	0
No records exist	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0
Decline to act with the approval of the Information Commissioner	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### 4.2 Length of extensions

Length of Extensions	9(1)(a) Interference With Operations	9(1)(b) Consultation		9(1)(c) Third-Party Notice
		Section 69	Other	
30 days or less	1	0	0	0
31 to 60 days	0	0	0	0
61 to 120 days	0	0	0	0
121 to 180 days	0	0	0	0
181 to 365 days	0	0	0	0
365 days or more	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Section 5: Fees

Fee Type	Fee Collected		Fee Waived or Refunded	
	Requests	Amount	Requests	Amount
Application	4	\$20	2	\$10
Other fees	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$10</b>

## Section 6: Consultations Received From Other Institutions and Organizations

### 6.1 Consultations received from other Government of Canada institutions and organizations

Consultations	Other Government of Canada Institutions	Number of Pages to Review	Other Organizations	Number of Pages to Review
Received during reporting period	7	32	0	0
Outstanding from the previous reporting period	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	7	32	0	0
Closed during the reporting period	7	32	0	0
Carried over to next reporting period	0	0	0	0

### 6.2 Recommendations and completion time for consultations received from other Government of Canada institutions

Recommendation	Number of Days Required to Complete Consultation Requests							Total
	1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	More Than 365 Days	
Disclose entirely	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Disclose in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exempt entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exclude entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consult other institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7

### 6.3 Recommendations and completion time for consultations received from other

Recommendation	Number of Days Required to Complete Consultation Requests							Total
	1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	More Than 365 Days	
Disclose entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disclose in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exempt entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exclude entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consult other institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Section 7: Completion Time of Consultations on Cabinet Confidences

### 7.1 Requests with Legal Services

Number of Days	Fewer Than 100 Pages		101-500 Pages		501-1000 Pages		1001-5000 Pages		More Than 5000	
	of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed
1 to 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 to 30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 to 60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61 to 120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
121 to 180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
181 to 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### 7.2 Requests with Privy Council Office

Number of Days	Fewer Than 100 Pages Processed		101-500 Pages Processed		501-1000 Pages Processed		1001-5000 Pages Processed		More Than 5000 Pages	
	of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed
1 to 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 to 30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 to 60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61 to 120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
121 to 180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
181 to 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Section 8: Complaints and investigations

Section 32 Notice of intention to investigate	Subsection 30(5) Ceased to investigate	Section 35 Formal representations	Section 37 Reports of finding received	Section 37 Reports of finding containing recommendations issued by the Information	Section 37 Reports of finding containing orders issued by the Information
0	0	0	0	0	0

## Section 9: Court Action

### 9.1 Court actions on complaints received before June 21, 2019 and on-going

Section 41 (before June 21, 2019)	Section 42	Section 44
0	0	0

### 9.2 Court actions on complaints received after June 21, 2019

Section 41 (after June 21, 2019)				
Complainant (1)	Institution (2)	Third Party (3)	Privacy Commissioner (4)	Total
0	0	0	0	0

## Section 10: Resources Related to the Access to Information Act

### 10.1 Costs

Expenditures		Amount
Salaries		\$5,200
Overtime		\$0
Goods and Services		\$10,700
• Professional services contracts	\$10,500	
• Other	\$200	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,900</b>

### 10.2 Human Resources

Resources	Person Years Dedicated to Access to Information Activities
Full-time employees	0.030
Part-time and casual employees	0.000
Regional staff	0.000
Consultants and agency personnel	0.050
Students	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.080</b>

Note: Enter values to three decimal places



## Appendix C

### Supplemental Statistical Report

#### Section 1: Capacity to Receive Requests

Enter the number of weeks your institution was able to receive ATIP requests through the different channels.

	Number of Weeks
Able to receive requests by mail	52
Able to receive requests by email	52
Able to receive requests through the digital request service	52

#### Section 2: Capacity to Process Records

2.1 Enter the number of weeks your institution was able to process paper records in different classification levels.

	No Capacity	Partial Capacity	Full Capacity	Total
Unclassified Paper Records	0	0	52	52
Protected B Paper Records	0	0	52	52
Secret and Top Secret Paper Records	0	0	52	52

2.2 Enter the number of weeks your institution was able to process electronic records in different classification levels.

	No Capacity	Partial Capacity	Full Capacity	Total
Unclassified Electronic Records	0	0	52	52
Protected B Electronic Records	0	0	52	52
Secret and Top Secret Electronic Records	0	0	52	52