

# NEWS RELEASE

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## All parties respond to questions about Freedom of Information and Privacy

Party responses show good knowledge of the issues and hope for much-needed reforms, says Campaign Director

Vancouver – The B.C. Liberals, NDP, Greens and Conservatives have all responded to a questionnaire on freedom of information and privacy issues sent by the Campaign for Open Government.

“We asked ten detailed questions, and got detailed answers from the four major parties,” said campaign director Darrell Evans. “The time and thought they put into providing answers to these questions shows they have given a lot of thought to FOI and privacy issues, and the responses give us some hope that badly-needed reforms are possible.”

As might be expected, the governing Liberals stand on their record, promising no major new reforms. However, they point to a recently-announced initiative to centralize the government’s FOI operations and improve response times. “We believe we can improve responsiveness in measurable ways.” They state.

The NDP pledges significant reforms and point to a private member’s bill on FOI reform introduced by environment critic Shane Simpson.

The Greens and Conservatives provided interesting answers, showing a commitment to both open government and privacy.

“The responses are up on the Campaign for Open Government and FIPA websites,” Evans said. “We urge everyone concerned about accountability and transparency in government to look them over before voting.”

**See Party responses at FIPA website:**

[http://fipa.bc.ca/library/Law\\_Reform\\_Activities/Campaign\\_for\\_Open\\_Government/](http://fipa.bc.ca/library/Law_Reform_Activities/Campaign_for_Open_Government/)

**Campaign for Open Government website:** [www.opengovernment.ca](http://www.opengovernment.ca)