



Federal Accountability Act and Action Plan



Commitments and Proposed Actions

This chart summarizes the actions the Government is introducing for consideration of Parliament through the Federal Accountability Act as well as the measures included in its companion Action Plan. For more information, visit www.accountability.gc.ca.

Commitment	Proposed Actions
Reform the financing of federal political parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New limits on individual donations to parties and candidates ✓ A ban on contributions from corporations, unions and organizations to parties and candidates ✓ A longer period to prosecute violations under the <i>Canada Elections Act</i>
Ban secret donations to political candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A ban on candidates accepting gifts that might be seen as influencing them ✓ A ban on transferring trust-fund money to candidates or political parties ✓ Powers for the new Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner to order that trusts not be used for political purposes or be wound up
Strengthen the role of the Ethics Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A new <i>Conflict of Interest Act</i> ✓ Functions of the Ethics Commissioner and Senate Ethics Officer combined to create a new position, the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner ✓ The new Commissioner, an individual with a judicial or quasi-judicial background, with powers to fine violators and consider public complaints ✓ A ban on voting by ministers on matters connected to their business interests ✓ An end to the use of “venetian blind” trusts
Toughen the Lobbyist Registration Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A five-year ban on lobbying for ministers, ministerial staffers and senior public servants ✓ A ban on the payment and receipt of success or contingency fees ✓ Requirements that contacts with senior public-office holders be recorded ✓ A new, independent Commissioner of Lobbying with a strong mandate to investigate violations under the new <i>Lobbying Act</i> and <i>Lobbyists’ Code of Conduct</i>

Commitment	Proposed Actions
Ensure truth in budgeting with a Parliamentary Budget Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A new Parliamentary Budget Officer to support Members of Parliament and parliamentary committees with independent analysis of economic and fiscal issues ✓ Quarterly updates of government fiscal forecasts from the Department of Finance
Make qualified government appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A consistent appointment process for Agents and Officers of Parliament with a meaningful role for Parliament ✓ A new Public Appointments Commission to oversee appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions ✓ An end to priority treatment for ministerial aides when they apply for public-service positions
Clean up the procurement of government contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A legislated commitment to fairness, openness, and transparency in the procurement process ✓ Inclusion of integrity provisions in all government contracts ✓ A Procurement Auditor to review procurement practices on an ongoing basis ✓ A <i>Code of Conduct for Procurement</i>
Clean up government polling and advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A requirement to publicly release, in writing, polling findings within six months ✓ A ban on verbal-only reports ✓ A legislated commitment to fairness, openness, and transparency in the procurement process for advertising and public opinion research
Provide real protection for whistleblowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Public Sector Integrity Commissioner with the power to enforce the <i>Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act</i> ✓ A new, independent tribunal with the power to order remedies and discipline ✓ Expanded whistleblower protection for all Canadians who report government wrongdoing ✓ More public information on wrongdoing

Commitment	Proposed Actions
Strengthen access to information legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expansion of <i>Access to Information Act</i> coverage to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seven Agents and Officers of Parliament: the Offices of the Information Commissioner, the Privacy Commissioner, the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner, and the Commissioner of Lobbying ○ Seven Crown corporations: Canada Post, Via Rail, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada, Export Development Canada, the National Arts Centre, and the Public Sector Pension Investment Board ○ Three foundations: Canada Foundation for Innovation, Canada Foundation for Sustainable Development Technology, and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation ✓ A draft bill that reflects the Information Commissioner’s recommendations and a discussion paper tabled for consideration and debate
Strengthen the power of the Auditor General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New powers for the Auditor General to audit individuals and organizations that receive federal money ✓ Ongoing departmental reviews of granting programs enshrined in law ✓ An independent blue-ribbon panel to identify barriers to access for recipients of government grants and contributions programs
Strengthen auditing and accountability within departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Designation of deputy ministers as accounting officers ✓ A clear process to resolve disputes between ministers and deputy ministers ✓ Strengthened internal audit functions within departments ✓ Strengthened governance structures in Crown corporations ✓ Tougher penalties for fraudulent misuse of public funds ✓ A consistent approach to promote legal and policy compliance and enforce disciplinary measures
Create a Director of Public Prosecutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A new, independent Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute criminal offences under federal law