



Rob Holmes  
President  
British Columbia Civil Liberties Association  
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MAR 30 2009

Dear Mr. Holmes:

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2009, in which you express concerns about the involvement of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) in security preparations for the 2010 Olympic Games.

The CSIS's mandate, as set out in the *CSIS Act*, is to investigate threats to the security of Canada and to advise the Government about those threats. In carrying out that important investigative mandate, CSIS conducts itself in accordance with the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *CSIS Act*, other relevant legislation, Ministerial directions issued under section 6 of the *CSIS Act*, and policies reviewed and approved by senior CSIS management. Please be assured that CSIS works diligently to protect Canada's national security while respecting the rule of law, as well as the rights of citizens to lawful advocacy, protest and dissent.

The *CSIS Act* establishes a carefully constructed system of controls and review mechanisms, both within and without CSIS, to ensure that both the security of the state and the rights and freedoms of Canadians are protected. Two bodies in particular, the Security Intelligence Review Committee and the Inspector General, exist to ensure that CSIS activities are conducted in accordance with Ministerial Direction, and Service policy.

I trust that the foregoing has been of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

John M. Dunn  
Director General  
Communications Branch