

Our File: 1555

March 25, 2015

**BY COURIER**

Shayna Stawicki, Registrar  
Security Intelligence Review Committee  
122 Bank Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5N6

Dear Ms Stawicki:

**Re: British Columbia Civil Liberties Association ("BCCLA")  
Complaint re CSIS Surveillance and Information Sharing with the NEB  
SIRC File No.: 1500-481**

We are writing to inquire as to the status of above-noted complaint by the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association ("BCCLA"), which was first presented to the Review Committee on February 6, 2014.

It has now been more than three months since we last heard from the Review Committee, and BCCLA continues to await further information from SIRC regarding the next steps in this matter. As noted in our December 9, 2014 letter, BCCLA is prepared to proceed with its complaint before Mr Fortier, and looks forward to hearing from you soon to ensure that the Review Committee's inquiry into this important matter proceeds in a timely fashion.


We also take this opportunity to call the Review Committee's attention to additional records which have recently been disclosed under the *Access to Information Act*. These documents, copies of which are enclosed for Mr Fortier's review, provide further evidence of CSIS's ongoing involvement in gathering and sharing information and intelligence about protests concerning the petroleum industry, including the Northern Gateway Project. Perhaps most significantly, these records show that CSIS prepares reports and shares

information regarding protest activities, even where it recognizes that such actions are lawful and therefore outside the Service's statutory mandate under s.12 of the *CSIS Act*.<sup>1</sup>

As set out in BCCLA's initial complaint, such intelligence gathering and information sharing regarding legitimate and lawful environmental advocacy on issues of significant public debate is a disturbing trend that represents a significant threat to the freedoms of all Canadians as guaranteed under the *Charter*. It is also a clear sign that CSIS is acting well beyond its statutory mandate. As you know, Parliament has placed very clear limits the scope of the Service's intelligence-gathering activities, expressly providing that CSIS's mandate "does not include lawful advocacy, protest, or dissent."<sup>2</sup>

Given the foregoing, we would ask that you please provide copies of the enclosed documents to Mr Fortier. We look forward to hearing from you very soon regarding the next steps in Review Committee's inquiry into this serious and important matter.

Yours truly,



Paul Champ

encls.

c: J. Paterson, Executive Director, BCCLA

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Memorandum of Assistant Director Tom Venner to the Director re Meeting of the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Resources and Energy, Monday, 9 June 2014 at page 2 of 3: "The Service recognizes that many of these issues involve legitimate protest and dissent and as such, have no mandate nexus." Also see: Memorandum of Assistant Director Tom Venner to the Director re Meeting of the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Resources and Energy, Monday, 19 June 2014, at pages 1 and 3 of 4.

<sup>2</sup> *Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act*, RSC, 1985, c.C-23, s. 2.