

Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness



Ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

AOUT 21 2017
AUG 21 2017

Tamir Israel
tisrael@cippic.ca

Dear Tamir Israel:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 29, 2017, on the subject of encryption and cooperation between Canada and its international partners. I would also like to thank you and your colleagues for your contributions to the 2016 public consultations on Canada's national security framework, as well as your participation in a roundtable discussion on the matter of basic subscriber information in March 2017.

The use of encryption technologies by the subjects of criminal and national security investigations created significant challenges for law enforcement and national security agencies. Lawfully-obtained information is often completely unintelligible to investigators, depriving them of intelligence and evidence on the intentions and activities of groups or individuals that may present a threat to public safety and national security. Canada shares these challenges with our allies in the Five Eyes and other likeminded countries.

In spite of these challenges, the Government also recognizes the fundamental importance of encryption for cyber security, for the digital economy, and for the exercise of Canadians' rights and freedoms online. For these reasons, it is in Canada's best interest that encryption technologies remain robust and widely-used.

Moving forward, the Government will continue to examine options to ensure that security and intelligence agencies have the necessary tools to respond to encryption-related challenges. We will avoid taking steps that would jeopardize cyber security, and agencies will continue to operate within robust accountability frameworks that safeguard privacy and other fundamental rights.

Canada

Your correspondence also discusses the recent Five Country Ministerial in Ottawa. Canada will continue to work with the Five Eyes and other close allies in order to address shared threats and challenges, while upholding cybersecurity and individual rights and freedoms.

Thank you for writing on these important matters. I hope this information addresses your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.