Dear Commissioner Legault,

The Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians (CAPAL) is a national non-governmental membership organization representing academic librarians and the profession of academic librarianship in Canada. We have members from universities across Canada.

We understand that you will be hosting a conference in late March on the topic of transparency with various panels of interest to researchers, teachers, and students at Canadian universities. As this conference is central to our professional principles, we would like to send two delegates as observers.

Librarians play an integral role in supporting the academic missions of post-secondary institutions. Amongst other important roles, we teach undergraduates students, graduates students, and faculty members how to effectively seek, evaluate, and use information to advance knowledge.

As professional librarians, we pursue core principles, including access to uncensored and unbiased information. Through access to uncensored information, Canadians are better able to participate in the democratic process, advance social knowledge, and contribute to society’s wellbeing.

Access to information legislation is important tool to these ends. Between 2009 and 2015, academic use of the Access to Information Act increased by 429 percent. In recent years, access to information legislation, has helped advance knowledge of Canadian

1 Statement of Principles http://capalibrarians.org/membership/#principles
2 Based on data acquired through InfoSource.gc.ca
multiculturalism\textsuperscript{3}, drug policy\textsuperscript{4}, fish habitat protection\textsuperscript{5}, and oil spill responses in Newfoundland and Labrador\textsuperscript{6}.

We look forward to opportunities to engage with you on our shared values.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors,
Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians / L'Association canadienne des bibliothécaires académiques professionnels

Colleen Burgess (Huron University College)
Douglas Fox (Victoria University in the University of Toronto)
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