

Response from the Communist Party of Canada to CIPPIC's questions for the Election 2006

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Copyright Law and Technical Protection Measures

Question: Do you agree that we need legislation to protect Canadians from harmful technologies like the Sony-BMG rootkit DRM?

Answer: Yes. While recognizing the legitimacy of intellectual property rights it must be balanced to protect citizen's privacy rights as well.

Copyright Revision and Innovation

Question: Do you support Canadian innovators' rights to reverse engineer or otherwise deal with a work for the purposes of security or interoperability research?

Answer: Yes but measures must be put in place to protect intellectual property rights within reason.

Spyware

Question: Do you agree that we need stronger laws and enforcement mechanisms to protect Canadians from unwanted behaviours associated with spyware?

Answer: Spyware and all other software designed to secretly invade citizen's computers and other cyber-media devices should be illegal.

Spam

Question: What would your government, if elected, do to stop the flood of spam that continues to plague Internet users?

Answer: Legislation must be put in place to declare the illegality of "spam" and there must be a method put in place that will determine the most effective method of enforcement.

Lawful Access

Do you agree with civil liberties groups that:

1. There should be no increase in state surveillance without full justification, including clear evidence of the need for such new capacities and powers and of their likely effectiveness?

Answer: Yes.

2. Searches and surveillance should require judicial authorization on a "reasonable and probable cause to believe" standard; and that exceptions to this rule must be narrowly limited, subject to strict conditions and safeguards, and should not be expanded to include subscriber data?

Answer: Yes.

3. All state search and surveillance activity should be subject to rigorous oversight by an independent body to guard against police abuse of these intrusive powers?

Answer: Yes.

Privacy

Questions:

1. How would you reform Canadian privacy laws in order to provide meaningful privacy protection in the Internet era?

Answer: The collection, archiving and distribution of personal information collected without consent should be outlawed and the offenders punished under law. Encryption of data should be encouraged and facilitated.

2. Do you support amendments to PIPEDA that would allow for class actions and penalties, so that companies are held accountable for privacy breaches affecting large numbers of Canadians?

Answer: Yes.

Identity Theft

Question: Do you support a Canadian law requiring companies to notify individuals of security breaches that expose the individuals to identity theft?

Answer: Yes.

Telecom Policy

Questions:

1. Do you support continued government and regulatory intervention in telecommunications so as to ensure that Canadians of all income levels and in all regions of the country, including those with disabilities, have access to good quality, reliable, and functional telecommunications services at affordable and reasonable prices?

Answer: Yes.

2. Do you agree that the following policy objectives currently set out in the *Telecommunications Act* are fundamentally important and should remain the guiding principles of Canadian telecommunications policy:
s.7(a) "to facilitate the orderly development throughout Canada of a telecommunications system that serves to safeguard, enrich and strengthen the social and economic fabric of Canada and its regions";
s.7(b) "to render reliable and affordable telecommunications services of high quality accessible to Canadians in both urban and rural areas in all regions of Canada"?

Answer: Yes.

3. Do you agree that any reforms to the *Telecommunications Act* should be subject to a full public review five years after they have been enacted?

Answer: There should also be changes that would facilitate and encourage more public input and debate of any proposed reforms before they are enacted.