



communiqué

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PRIVACY REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURES

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today released a review he had commissioned from Mr. Gerald Baldwin, a distinguished former M.P., on the policies and procedures of the Department of External Affairs in discharging its responsibilities under the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act. Mr. Baldwin also proposed changes to these laws.

In releasing the study, Mr. Clark reaffirmed his commitment to the principles of this legislation and his intention to give close attention to Mr. Baldwin's findings in light of his responsibilities for the conduct of Canada's external relations. At the same time, Mr. Clark noted he had benefitted from Mr. Baldwin's advice in connection with the three-year parliamentary review of the legislation which is currently underway. Mr. Clark added that he had forwarded Mr. Baldwin's views to Mr. Blaine Thacker, M.P., Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee responsible for the review.

Copies of the Report may be obtained from the Press Office (613) 995-1874.