

Unlike the situation in some countries, the federally-regulated private sector is not subject to the *Privacy Act*. Having considered this state of affairs, the Committee recommends that those portions of the *Privacy Act* dealing with fair information practises and complaints to the Privacy Commissioner be extended to the federally-regulated private sector. The emphasis would be on self-regulation by the federally-regulated private sector, with the Privacy Commissioner being empowered to review and approve implementation schemes. In practise, this means that the basic principles of the *Privacy Act* would be extended to banks, cable television operators, airlines, federally-regulated telephone companies and others.

The Committee concludes Chapter 7 by making a number of observations and recommendations in relation to the impact of information technology on individual rights, the oversight of the use of microcomputers and the regulation of transborder data flows.

The Committee briefly discusses a number of other access issues in Chapter 8 of its Report. Among these issues are the *Official Secrets Act*, the documents classification system, the oath of secrecy, 'whistle-blowing' and 'sunshine' legislation. In relation to Crown Privilege and the *Canada Evidence Act*, the Committee recommends that section 36.3 of that Act be deleted and that Cabinet confidences in that context be subject to judicial scrutiny along the lines proposed in relation to the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*.

The final conclusions reached by the Committee in conducting its comprehensive review of the provisions and operation of the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* are set out in Chapter 9. The resource, budgetary, and personnel implications of separating the Commissioners' offices and adding to the Privacy Commissioner's responsibilities are discussed in this Chapter. The Committee concludes that many of the Privacy Commissioner's new responsibilities can be fulfilled with modest resource increases, especially if these new duties are phased in over a reasonable period of time.

The Committee expresses its satisfaction with the comprehensive review process it has just completed. It recommends that the Commissioners and government institutions be heard more frequently and more regularly by Parliament in relation to both the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*. Not only should government institutions continue to table their Annual Reports in Parliament, but the Committee also recommends that the Treasury Board Secretariat prepare Consolidated Annual Reports on both Acts to be tabled in Parliament. Finally, the Committee concludes that a further comprehensive review of the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* be undertaken by a parliamentary committee within 4 years of the tabling of this Report in the House of Commons.