



**Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy
Review Office**

February 28, 2003

Mr. Peter O'Brien
Chair, FOIPOP Review Committee
c/o Department of Justice
5151 Terminal Road
Box 7
Halifax NS
B3J 2L6

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

With the attached I draw your attention to a recent breach in the security of personal information on the Government's web site.

While this was not deliberate it serves to raise the consciousness of those in government to the importance of ensuring the protection of personal information. The Committee has a specific mandate to come up with recommendations for improving its privacy legislation.

I note that the Government has had a draft police for web site privacy policy for some time but has not been in a position to publish it. Such policies are found on many web sites and should be on the Governments. I don't know the reason for the delay in moving from a draft to a policy.

I hope the committee will agree to the need I have already expressed for an amendment to the Act to provide the Review Officer with the explicit powers to investigate privacy complaints and to audit Government measures with respect to the protection of personal privacy. As it happens I was consulted on the web site policy which is not yet in effect.

Yours truly,

Darce Fardy
Review Officer

Attch: