

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

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February 11, 2003

Mr. Joe Fontana, M.P.
Chair, Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration
Room 672
180 Wellington Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Fontana:

Proposal for a National ID Card

I was encouraged by the news today that there is what appears to be a singular lack of support for a proposal that Identity Cards be issued to all Canadians.

I wish to join my fellow privacy commissioners in expressing my concern for the proposal.

We are all aware of the need for special security measures to combat terrorism. But, as I'm sure you have heard from others, there is now a more pressing need than ever to strike the right balance between security and personal privacy.

This may not be an issue that will arouse concerns from many Canadians. That's because, in my view, we have taken our rights to privacy for granted and will not react to any lessening of those rights until, as individuals, we experience the loss of some of them. It is incumbent on Members of Parliament to be vigilant on behalf of their constituents.

Canadians now carry identification cards, for example, drivers' licenses, because they choose to. If they choose not to drive or not to carry credit cards, they can, if they wish, carry no identification cards. It may be inconvenient but there's no law says they must carry some identification. Without any evidence of the necessity or effectiveness of ID Cards, there should be no support for their introduction.

Thank you.

Darce Fardy
Review Officer.

cc: The Hon. Denis Coderre
Mr. Bill Farrell, Clerk of the Committee