

2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

on the Access to Information Act

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada 112 Kent Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1H3

(613) 947-1698, 1-800-282-1376 Fax (613) 947-6850 TDD (613) 992-9190 Follow us on Twitter: @privacyprivee

This publication is also available on our Web site at www.priv.gc.ca.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Mandate / Mission of the OPC	2
Organizational Structure	4
ATIP Unit Activities	8
Access to Information Act Statistical Report and Interpretation	9
Appendix A – Access to Information Act Delegation Order	12
Appendix B – Additional Reporting Requirements	16

Introduction

The Access to Information Act (ATIA) came into effect on July 1, 1983. It provides Canadian citizens, permanent residents and any person and corporation present in Canada a right of access to information contained in government records, subject to certain specific and limited exceptions.

When the *Federal Accountability Act* received Royal Assent on December 12, 2006, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) was added to Schedule I of the ATIA along with other Agents of Parliament. So, while not initially subject to the ATIA, the OPC became so, on April 1, 2007.

Section 72 of the ATIA requires that the head of every federal government institution submit an annual report to Parliament on the administration of the *Act* within their institutions during the fiscal year.

The OPC is pleased to submit its sixth Annual Report which describes how we fulfilled our responsibilities under the ATIA during the fiscal year 2012-2013.

Mandate / Mission of the OPC

The mandate of the OPC is to oversee compliance with both the *Privacy Act* (PA) which covers the personal information-handling practices of federal government departments and agencies, and the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA), Canada's private sector privacy law.

The OPC's mission is to protect and promote the privacy rights of individuals.

The Commissioner works independently from any other part of the government to investigate privacy complaints from individuals with respect to the federal public sector and certain aspects of the private sector. In public sector matters, individuals may complain to the Commissioner about any matter specified in Section 29 of the PA.

For matters relating to personal information in the private sector, the Commissioner may investigate complaints under Section 11 of PIPEDA except in the provinces that have adopted substantially similar privacy legislation, namely Québec, British Columbia, and Alberta. Ontario, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador now fall into this category with respect to personal health information held by health information custodians under their respective health sector privacy laws. However, even in those provinces with substantially similar legislation, and elsewhere in Canada, PIPEDA continues to apply to personal information collected, used or disclosed by all federal works, undertakings and businesses, including personal information about their employees. PIPEDA also applies to all personal data that flows across provincial or national borders, in the course of commercial activities.

The Commissioner focuses on resolving complaints through negotiation and persuasion, using mediation and conciliation if appropriate. However, if voluntary co-operation is not forthcoming, the Commissioner has the power to summon witnesses, administer oaths and compel the production of evidence. In cases that remain unresolved, particularly under PIPEDA, the complainant or the Commissioner may take the matter to Federal Court and seek a court order to rectify the situation.

As a public advocate for the privacy rights of Canadians, the Commissioner carries out the following activities:

- Investigating complaints and issuing reports with recommendations to federal government institutions and private-sector organizations to remedy situations, as appropriate;
- Pursuing legal action before Federal Courts where appropriate to resolve outstanding matters;

- Assessing compliance with obligations contained in the PA and PIPEDA through the conduct of independent audit and review activities;
- Advising on, and reviewing, Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) of new and existing government initiatives;
- Providing legal and policy analyses and expertise to help guide Parliament's review of evolving legislation to ensure respect for individuals' right to privacy;
- Responding to inquiries of Parliamentarians, individual Canadians and organizations seeking information and guidance, and taking proactive steps to inform them of emerging privacy issues;
- Promoting privacy awareness and compliance, and fostering understanding of privacy rights and obligations through: proactive engagement with federal government institutions, private-sector organizations, industry associations, legal community, academia, professional associations, and other stakeholders;
- Preparing and disseminating public education materials, positions on evolving legislation, regulations and policies, guidance documents and fact sheets for use by the general public, federal government institutions and private sector organizations;
- Conducting research and monitoring trends in technological advances and privacy practices, identifying systemic privacy issues that need to be addressed by federal government institutions and private sector organizations and promoting integration of best practices; and
- Working with privacy stakeholders from other jurisdictions in Canada and on the international scene to address global privacy issues that result from ever-increasing transborder data flows.

Organizational Structure

The Privacy Commissioner is an Officer of Parliament who reports directly to the House of Commons and the Senate. The Commissioner is assisted by an Assistant Commissioner, who has delegated responsibilities under both the PA and PIPEDA.

The OPC is comprised of eight distinct branches:

Privacy Act Investigations Branch

The PA Investigations Branch receives and investigates complaints from individuals who claim a breach of the PA, or complaints that are initiated by the Commissioner. The Branch also receives notifications of breaches from federal government organizations, and receives and reviews public interest disclosures made by them. The Branch is headed by Ms. Sue Lajoie, Director General, PA Investigations.

PIPEDA Investigations Branch

The PIPEDA Investigations Branch is divided between Ottawa and Toronto. In Ottawa, the Branch receives and investigates complaints of national scope by individuals or initiated by the Commissioner, from anywhere in Canada. In Toronto, the Branch investigates complaints particularly from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and coordinates public education and stakeholder outreach activities in the GTA. The Branch is headed by Mr. Brent Homan, Director General, PIPEDA Investigations, and the Toronto Office is headed by Mr. Lorne MacDougall, Director.

Audit and Review Branch

The Audit and Review Branch audits organizations to assess their compliance with the requirements set out in the two federal privacy laws. The Branch also analyses and provides recommendations on Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) submitted to the OPC pursuant to the Treasury Board Secretariat Policy on Privacy Impact Assessments. The Branch is headed by Mr. Steven Morgan, Director General.

Communications Branch

The Communications Branch focuses on providing strategic advice and support for communications and public education activities for the OPC. In addition, the Branch plans and implements a variety of public education and communications activities through media monitoring and analysis, public opinion polling, media relations, publications, special events, outreach activities and the OPC web sites. The Branch is also responsible for the OPC's Information Centre, which responds to requests for information from the public and organizations regarding privacy rights and responsibilities. The Branch is headed by Ms. Anne-Marie Hayden, Director General.

Legal Services, Policy and Research Branch

The Legal Services, Policy and Research Branch (LSPR) provides strategic legal and policy advice and conducts research on emerging privacy issues in Canada and internationally. More specifically, the Branch provides strategic legal advice to the Commissioners and various Branch Heads on the interpretation and application of the PA and PIPEDA in investigations and audits, as well as general legal counsel on a broad range of corporate and communication matters. The Branch represents the OPC in litigation matters before the courts and in negotiations with other parties both nationally and internationally. It reviews and analyzes legislative bills, government programs, public and private sector initiatives and provides strategic advice to the Commissioners on appropriate policy positions to protect and advance privacy rights in Canada. The Branch prepares for, represents and supports the Office in appearances before Parliament and in its relations with Parliamentarians. The Branch conducts applied research on the privacy implications of emerging societal and technological issues to support and inform the development of OPC policy guidance and best practices for relevant stakeholders. The Branch administers the OPC Research Contribution program, which was launched in 2004, to advance knowledge and understanding of privacy issues and to promote enhanced protection of personal information. Also housed in the Branch is the OPC Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Unit responsible for responding to formal requests for information from the public pursuant to the Access to Information and Privacy Acts. The ATIP Unit is also responsible for developing internal policies and ensuring compliance relative to these Acts. The Director of the ATIP Unit is also the Chief Privacy Officer for the OPC. The Branch is headed by Ms. Patricia Kosseim, Senior General Counsel and Director General.

Human Resources Management Branch

The Human Resources Management Branch is responsible for the provision of strategic advice, management and delivery of comprehensive human resource management programs in areas such as staffing, classification, staff relations, human resource planning, learning and development, employment equity, official languages and compensation. The Branch is headed by Ms. Maureen Munhall, Director.

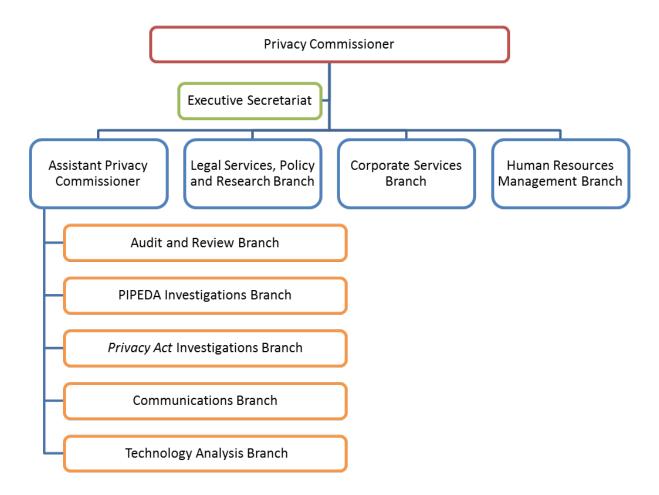
Corporate Services Branch

The Corporate Services Branch provides advice and integrated administrative services such as corporate planning, resource management, financial management, information management/technology and general administration to managers and staff. The Branch is headed by Mr. Daniel Nadeau, Director General and Chief Financial Officer.

Technology Analysis Branch

The Technology Analysis Branch identifies and analyzes technological trends and developments in electronic platforms and digital media. The Branch conducts research to assess the impact of technology on the protection of personal information in the digital world. It also provides strategic analysis and guidance on complex, varied and sensitive technological issues involving breaches in the security of government and commercial systems that store personal information. As a corporate centre of expertise, the Branch analyzes current and emerging issues and trends in national security and public safety. The electronic media and their impact upon the privacy rights of Canadians represent another key area of interest for the Branch. The technological expertise concentrated in the Branch also supports core functions of the OPC, including audits, investigations and PIA reviews. The Branch is headed by Mr. Noël Lachance, Director.

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada



The ATIP Unit is housed within the LSPR Branch. ATIP is headed by a Director who is supported by one Senior Analyst.

Under section 73 of the ATIA the Privacy Commissioner, as the head of the OPC, has delegated her authority to the Senior General Counsel / Director General of the LSPR Branch and to the ATIP Director with respect to the application of the ATIA and its *Regulations*. A copy of that Delegation Order is attached as Appendix A.

The ATIP Director also serves as the OPC's Chief Privacy Officer.

ATIP Unit Activities

In the reporting fiscal year, ATIP Training Sessions were offered to all OPC employees. The OPC had committed to training 85% of its staff by the end of 2012-2013 fiscal year. At the conclusion of the year, 95.2% of employees had participated in the training sessions. In addition to the refresher training offered to existing employees, new employees also received ATIP Awareness training tailored to highlight their responsibilities with respect to access and privacy legislation.

As the OPC is a relatively small organization, sessions are also given on an as-needed basis as well.

Throughout the year, the ATIP Unit has been active in providing advice to all OPC staff with respect to informal requests for information. ATIP has also continued to support the Information Management function by providing advice on internal information handling practices.

During the final quarter of the year, the ATIP Unit successfully implemented a paperless filing system. This will enable the division to reduce its consumption of paper and storage space. All release packages are now scanned and housed in a centralized database for ease of access. This has resulted in the division's ability to respond more efficiently to repeat requests.

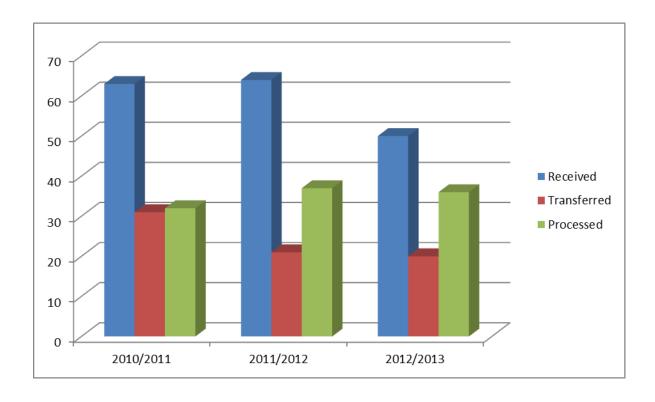
The ATIP Director has played a collaborative role in the planning, development and updating of OPC policies, procedures and directives. The ATIP Director also sits on several OPC committees; including the Policies and Priorities Working Group, the Horizontal Integration Forum and Policy Development Committee. The OPC's recognition of the importance of integrating the ATIP Director in its core decision-making committees has ensured that the *Access to Information Act* is respected.

Access to Information Act Statistical Report and Interpretation

The OPC's Statistical Report on the ATIA is attached in Appendix B.

The OPC received 50 formal requests under the ATIA during the fiscal year, which is 14 less than the previous year. Of those, 20 sought access to records which were not under the control of the OPC and they were, therefore, transferred to the appropriate federal institutions for processing. The majority of transfers were made to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Canada Revenue Agency, the Correctional Service of Canada, Health Canada, National Defence and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Requests under the ATIA



In 2012-13, the ATIP Unit responded to 30 new requests and six that were carried forward from the previous fiscal year. The 36 completed requests constituted 9,550 pages of information.

Extensions were claimed with respect to 11 requests. In all, the OPC responded to 24 requests within the first 30 days and 11 requests within the extended time period, four of which were for more than 30 days.

Of the 36 requests completed during the fiscal year, seven were for information relating to human resources, six were for copies of OPC Briefing Notes and related material, six were for the contents of PA or PIPEDA investigation files, three were for records related to Privacy Impact Assessment submissions, one was for records regarding the operation of the Privacy Commissioner ad hoc and the remainder were for miscellaneous information.

The OPC endeavors to release as much information as possible. Of the 36 requests processed, in seven cases the documents were released in their entirety. In 20 cases the OPC made partial releases and in only one instance was the information withheld entirely. Of the remaining requests, four were abandoned by the applicants and four were not processed because the records did not exist.

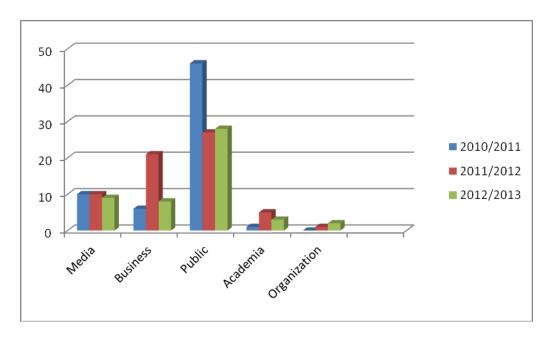
Section 16.1(1)(d) of the ATIA prohibits the OPC from releasing information it obtained during the course of its investigations or audits, even after the matter and all related proceedings have been concluded. The OPC, however, cannot refuse to disclose information it created during the course of an investigation or audit, once they and any related proceedings are completed – and subject to any applicable exemptions. With respect to requests for access to PA and PIPEDA investigation files, none were disclosed in their entirety—all had some information withheld under section 16.1(1)(d) and, in some cases, information was withheld under one or more of sections 19(1), 20(1)(b), 20(1)(c), 21(1)(a), 21(1)(b) and 23 as well.

As was the case in the previous reporting years, the exemption provision invoked most often was section 19(1) concerning the personal information of others, followed closely by section 16.1 with respect to information the OPC received or created during the course of an investigation and section 23 with respect to solicitor-client information. However, in other cases this year the OPC also withheld information under one or more of sections 14, 15(1), 16(1)(a), 16(1)(c), 16(2)(c), 20(1)(b), 20(1)(c), 20(1)(d), and sections 21(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the ATIA.

Of the 50 requests received this fiscal year, 28 were submitted by the public (56 %), nine by the media (18 %), eight by businesses (16 %), three by academia (6 %) and two by an organization (2 %).

The OPC was notified of five complaints under the ATIA during the fiscal year compared to 14 the previous fiscal year. Findings were issued by the Office of Information Commissioner (OIC) with respect to three complaints; in those cases the OIC concluded these complaints were "not substantiated". The two other complaints are still ongoing.

Requests under the ATIA by Source



In addition to processing its own ATIA requests, the OPC was consulted on 26 occasions on a total of 531 pages. The Canada Border Services Agency consulted us on five occasions; Industry Canada on four occasions; Public Works and Government Services Canada on four occasions; the Office of the Information Commissioner on three occasions; Passport Canada on two occasions; Public Safety on two occasions; and we were consulted once by each of the following institutions: Canadian Air Transport Security Authority; Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Health Canada; the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages; the Privy Council Office and the Treasury Board Secretariat. In 23 of the 26 cases, the OPC ATIP division recommended full disclosure of the requested records.

With respect to application fees, they amount to \$145.00. None of the requests required the assessment of reproduction fees, search fees, preparation fees or computer processing time.

In most cases where records were provided, electronic copies were given to the individuals. No one asked to be given access by viewing the records.

For additional information on the OPC's activities, please visit www.priv.gc.ca.

Additional copies of this report may be obtained from:

Director, Access to Information and Privacy Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada 112 Kent Street Ottawa, ON K1A 1H3

Appendix A – Access to Information Act Delegation Order



Access to Information Act Delegation Order

The Privacy Commissioner of Canada, as the head of the government institution, hereby designates pursuant to section 73 of the *Access to Information Act*, the persons holding the positions set out below, or the persons occupying on an acting basis those positions, to exercise the powers, duties or functions of the Privacy Commissioner as specified below and as more fully described in Annex A:

Position	Sections of Access to Information Act
Senior General Counsel/Director General, Legal Services, Policy and Research	Act: 7(a), 8(1), 9, 11(2) to (6), 12(2) and (3), 13 to 24, 25, 26, 27(1) and (4), 28(1), (2) and (4), 29(1), 33, 35(2), 37(1) and (4), 43(1), 44(2), 52(2) and (3), 71(2), 72(1);
Director, ATIP	Regulations: 6(1) and 8.

In order to ensure independence of decision-making by the Senior General Counsel/Director General, Legal Services, Policy and Research, when exercising the powers under this delegation instrument, legal advice for the institution on specific matters included herein shall be provided by the Director, Legal Services and Senior Counsel.

This delegation of authority supersedes any previous delegation of the powers, duties and functions set out herein.

Dated at the City of Ottawa, this [day of covi , 2012

Original signed by

Jennifer Stoddart

Privacy Commissioner of Canada

Access to Information Act

7(a)	Respond to request for access within 30 days; give access or give notice
8(1)	Transfer of Request to government institution with greater interest
9	Extend time limit for responding to request for access
11(2), (3), (4),	(5), (6) Additional fees
12(2)(b)	Decide whether to translate requested record
12(3)	Decide whether to give access in an alternative format
13(1)	Shall refuse to disclose information obtained in confidence from another government
13(2)	May disclose any information referred to in 13(1) if the other government consents to the disclosure or makes the information public
14	May refuse to disclose information injurious to the conduct of federal-provincial affairs
15	May refuse to disclose information injurious to international affairs or defence
16	Series of discretionary exemptions related to law enforcement and investigations; security; and policing services for provinces or municipalities.
16.1(1)	In force April 1, 2007 - Specific to four named Officers of Parliament - Auditor General, Commissioner of Official Languages, Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner - shall refuse to disclose information obtained or created by them in the course of an investigation or audit
16.1(2)	In force April 1, 2007 - Specific to two named Officers of Parliament – Information and Privacy Commissioner - shall not refuse under 16.1(1) to disclose any information created by the Commissioner in the course of an investigation or audit once the investigation or audit and related proceedings are concluded
17	May refuse to disclose information which could threaten the safety of individuals

18	May refuse to disclose information related to economic interests of Canada
18.1(1)	May refuse to disclose confidential commercial information of Canada Post Corporation, Export Development Canada, Public Sector Pension Investment Board, or VIA Rail Inc.
18.1(2)	Shall not refuse under 18.1(1) to disclose information relating to general administration of the institution
19	Shall refuse to disclose personal information as defined in section 3 of the <i>Privacy Act</i> , but may disclose if individual consents, if information is publicly available, or disclosure is in accordance with section 8 of <i>Privacy Act</i>
20	Shall refuse to disclose third party information, subject to exceptions
21	May refuse to disclose records containing advice or recommendations
22	May refuse to disclose information relating to testing or auditing procedures
22.1	May refuse to disclose draft report of an internal audit
23	May refuse to disclose information subject to solicitor/client privilege
24	Shall refuse to disclose information where statutory prohibition (Schedule II)
25	Shall disclose any part of record that can reasonably be severed
26	May refuse to disclose where information to be published
27(1),(4)	Third party notification
28(1),(2),(4)	Receive representations of third party
29(1)	Disclosure on recommendation of Information Commissioner
33	Advise Information Commissioner of third party involvement
35(2)	Right to make representations to the Information Commissioner during an investigation
37(1)	Receive Information Commissioner's report of findings of the investigation and give notice of action taken

37(4)	Give complainant access to information after 37(1)(b) notice
43(1)	Notice to third party (application to Federal court for review)
44(2)	Notice to applicant (application to federal Court by third party)
52(2)(b)	Request that section 52 hearing be held in the National Capital Region
52(3)	Request and be given right to make representations in section 51 hearings
71(2)	Exempt information may be severed from manuals
72(1)	Prepare annual report to Parliament

Access to Information Regulations

- Procedures relating to transfer of access request to another government institution under 8(1) of the Act
- 8 Form of Access

Appendix B – Additional Reporting Requirements

Access to Information Act

In addition to the reporting requirements addressed in form TBS/SCT 350-62 "Report on the *Access to Information Act*", institutions are required to report on the following using this form:

Part III - Exemptions invoked

Paragraph 13(1)(e) / not invoked

Subsection 16.1(1)(a) / not invoked

Subsection 16.1(1)(b) / not invoked

Subsection 16.1(1)(c) / not invoked

Subsection 16.1(1)(d) This subsection was invoked in 12 requests

Subsection 16.2(1) / not invoked

Subsection 16.3 / not invoked

Subsection 16.4(1)(a) / not invoked

Subsection 16.4(1)(b) / not invoked

Subsection 16.5 / not invoked

Subsection 18.1(1)(a) / not invoked

Subsection 18.1(1)(b) / not invoked

Subsection 18.1(1)(c) / not invoked

Subsection 18.1(1)(d) / not invoked

Subsection 20(1)(b.1) / not invoked

Subsection 20.1/ not invoked

Subsection 20.2/ not invoked

Subsection 20.4/ not invoked

Subsection 22.1(1) / not invoked

Part IV – Exclusions cited

Subsection 68.1/ not invoked

Subsection 68.2(a) / not invoked

Subsection 68.2(b) / not invoked

Subsection 69.1(1) / not invoked

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

REPORT ON THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT RAPPORT CONCERNANT LA LOI SUR L'ACCÈS À L'INFORMATON

			INALI ON LONGE	MAN LA LOI SON LA	CCLS A L IIII ONIMATON
Institution Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada				Reporting period / Période visé 04/01/2012 to/à 03/31/201	
Source	Media / Médias 9	Academia / Secteur universitatire 3	Business / Secteur commercial 8	Organization / Organisme 2	Public 28

Requests under the Access of Demandes en vertu de la Loi		
Received during reporting period / Reçues pendant la période visée par le rapport	50	
Outstanding from previous period / En suspens depuis la période antérieur	6 e	
TOTAL	56	
Completed during reporting period / Traitées pendant la période visées par rapport	le 56	
Carried forward / Reportées	0	

II	Dispositon of requests complete Disposition à l'égard des deman		ées		
1.	All disclosed / Communication totale	7	6.	Unable to process / Traitement impossible	4
2.	Disclosed in part / Communication partielle	20	7.	Abandoned by applicant / Abandon de la demande	4
3.	Nothing disclosed (excluded) / Aucune communication	0	8.	Treated informally / Traitement non officiel	0
4.	Nothing disclosed (exempt) / Aucune communication (exemption)	1	тота	L	56
5.	Transferred / Transmission	20			

Exemptions invoked / Ex	ceptions invo	quées					
S. Art. 13(1)(a)	0	S. Art 16(1)(a)	1	S. Art. 18(b)	0	S. Art. 21(1)(a)	6
(b)	0	(b)	0	(c)	0	(b)	5
(c)	0	(c)	2	(d)	0	(c)	1
(d)	0	(d)	0	S. Art. 19(1)	15	(d)	0
S. Art. 14	2	S. Art. 16(2)	3	S. Art. 20(1)(a)	0	S. Art.22	0
S. 15(1) International rel. / Art. Relations interm.	4	S. Art. 16(3)	0	(b)	1	S. Art 23	9
Defence / Défense	0	S. Art. 17	0	(c)	2	S. Art. 24	0
Subversive activities / Activités subversives	0	S. Art. 18(a)	0	(d)	1	S. Art 26	0

/ Art. 69(1)(c) (d)	0
(d)	0
(u)	0
(e)	0
(f)	0
(a)	1
	(f) (g)

V Completion time /Délai de traitement	
30 days or under / 30 jours ou moins	45
31 to 60 days / De 31 à 60 jours	7
61 to 120 days /De 61 à 120 jours	2
121 days or over / 121 jours ou plus	2

VI	Extens	sions /Prorogations des délais			
		30 days or under / 30 jours ou moins	31 days or over / 31 jours ou plus		
Searching / Recherche		1	1		
Consultation		6	3		
Third party / Tiers		0			
TOTA	L	7	4		

VII	Translatio	ns /Traduction	
Translations requested /			0
Traductions demandées			
Trar	nslations	English to French /	0
pre	pared /	De l'anglais au français	
Tra	ductions	French to English /	0
pré	parées	Du français à l'anglais	

VIII	Method of access /Méthode de consultation		
Copies given /		27	
Copies de l'original			
Examination /		0	
Examen de l'original			
Copies and examination /		0	
Copies	et examen		

X Fees /Frais			
	Net fees collected / Frais	s net perçus	
Application fees / Frais de la demande	\$145	Preparation / Préparation	\$0.00
Reproduction	\$0.00	Computer processing / Traitement informatique	\$0.00
Searching / Recherche	\$0.00	TOTAL	\$145.00
Fees w Dispense		No. of times / Nombre de fois	\$
\$25.00 or under / 25 \$ ou moins		0	\$0.00
Over \$25.00 /De plus de 25 \$	3	0	\$0.00

Over \$25.00 /De plus de 25 \$	0	\$0.0
TBS/SCT 350-62 (Rev. 1999/03)		

Χ	Costs / Coûts		
	Financial (all reasons) / Financiers (r	aisons	s)
Salary / Traitement	1	\$	174,669.69
	tion (O and M) / tion (fonctionnement et maintien)	\$	25,422.14
TOTAL		\$	200,091.83
Person year utilization (all reasons) / Années-personnes utilisées (raison)			
,	ar (decimal format) / ersonnes (nombre décimal)		2.45

