

Democratic Good Government Pledge

Dear politician, candidate, political staff person, appointee and public servant,

Set out on the following two pages is a six-point Good Government Pledge for you to sign.

As you will see, it covers all of the key areas that surveys show a large majority of Canadians are concerned about the way in which their politicians, political staff people, government appointees and public servants act and make decisions.

Please pass it on to any and all Canadian politicians, political staff people, appointees and public servants you know or for which you have contact information.

Please sign on to the pledge, or at the very least parts of the pledge, by sending a message by reply email to <campaigns@democracywatch.ca> with your full name, position, contact information (and, if applicable, details concerning which parts of the pledge you are signing on to).

If there is any reason why you won't sign the pledge, please let Democracy Watch know by reply email to <campaigns@democracywatch.ca>.

Sincerely,

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Since 1993, cleaning up and making governments and corporations more responsible and accountable to you, and making Canada the world's leading democracy

Democratic Good Government Pledge

I, _____ am a politician/candidate/political staff person/ appointee/public servant and I pledge to act as follows:

1. I will be honest, including not making a promise unless I know I will keep it, and including answering all questions from anyone or any organization fully, and not speculating if I do not have clear evidence, and including not “spinning” in the statements I make in any way that misleads, and including not switching parties between elections unless my party has completely failed to keep its key promises, and including not abusing the immunity from prosecution (for libel, slander etc.) that I have when speaking in a legislature or before a legislative committee by claiming anything, especially that anyone has done anything wrong, unless I have clear evidence.
2. I will be ethical, including following the spirit of all ethics rules and laws that apply to me, and including not soliciting or accepting gifts or benefits of any kind (not even small ones) from anyone except my family and close friends (especially not from anyone (including my family and close friends) if they are trying to influence my decisions or actions in any way), and including not taking part in decision-making processes on matters in which I have a financial or other private interest (even if the matter affects not just me but also many other people and/or organizations), and including not using government property or government information to help me, my family or close friends, or my riding association or political party.
3. I will be more open than the access to information law for my jurisdiction requires (whether or not the law applies to me) recognizing fully the public’s right to know all the details about their government’s operations, and including disclosing regularly on my or another appropriate website the detailed receipts of all my spending of public money (showing exactly what was bought and by whom), and disclosing all the details about whom I meet or communicate with if they are trying to influence my decisions or actions in any way, and disclosing all the documents I receive concerning government decision-making processes (the only exceptions being communications and documents that contain very personal, private, sensitive information about myself or someone else, or information that, if disclosed, would clearly harm someone’s personal security, health or safety or the security of a community, province, territory or the country).

4. I will be representative, including (before any decision or action) taking the time to understand the proposals of every stakeholder according to the well-established standards of logic and evidence, and including providing the same amount of assistance to everyone I represent and/or provide service to when they request assistance, and including (especially if I am political party leader) not even trying to force any politician to vote on any matter in any way other than what a majority of their constituents want.
5. I will be waste-preventing, including always seeking the lowest financial cost for effectively accomplishing anything, and including using competitive processes for all hirings, appointments, contracting and procurement in which I participate, and including not abusing in any way the privileged public service position I hold (a position that is paid for by all citizens).
6. I will be respectful, and always engage in reasonable discussions with others based on evidence and logic and principles, and based on listening to the other person's facts and figures and point of view, and not interrupting or heckling or shouting over the other person, and I will refrain from attacking people with exaggerated claims.
7. I will support proposals and bills, regardless of the individual or party that proposes them, to make changes to require the democratic good government actions set out in the rest of the Pledge.

Sections of the Pledge agreed to: 1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____ 5.____ 6.____ 7.____

Signed this _____ day of _____, 201____

Signature

Position _____

Print name