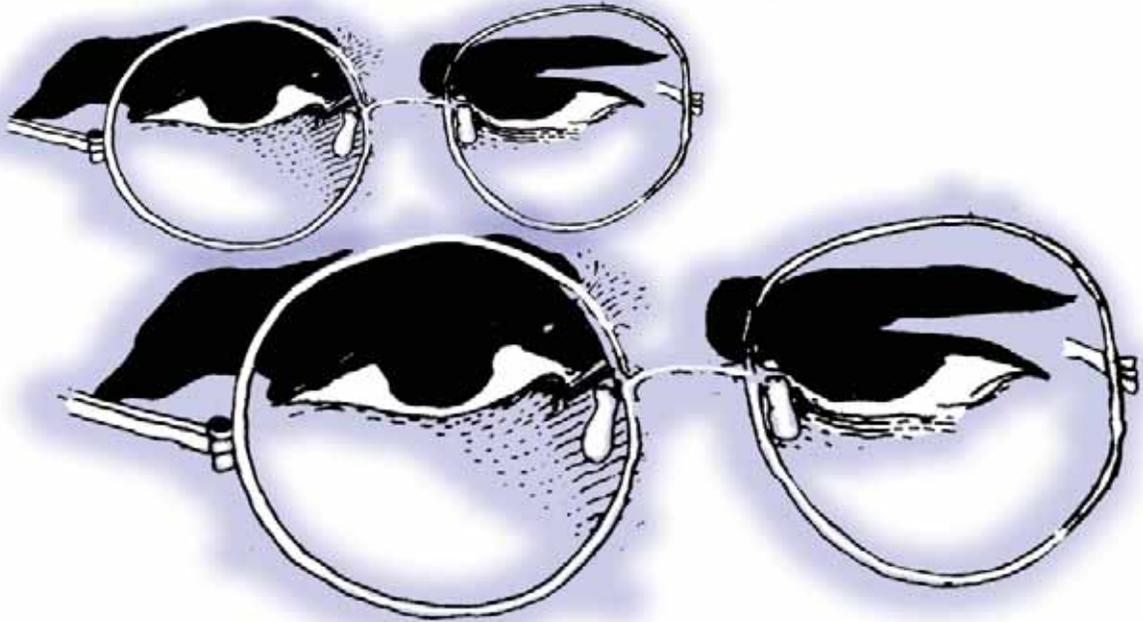


WHO WATCHES



THE WATCHERS

BILL C-51
Goes too far!



*Those who surrender freedom for security
will not have either one — Benjamin Franklin*

We all want to feel safe. We all want to live in communities where we're free to enjoy doing things with our friends and our family without fear.

But if the Conservative government's Bill C-51 (a.k.a. the "anti-terrorism bill") is passed into law, we'll end up less safe and have more to fear. That's why a growing number of Canadians are now speaking up loudly against it.

Bill C-51 could soon be the law of the land. Here are three (and a half) good reasons why you should help us stop that from happening:

1. It will compromise our safety, trash our reputation, and waste our money

Bill C-51 gives our spies a lot of extra powers, but no extra oversight

You know you've gone too far out on a limb when a group of former Prime Ministers—both Liberal and Conservative—take the highly unusual step of writing an open letter urging you to go back to the drawing board before irrevocable damage is done.

Joe Clark, Jean Chretien, Paul Martin, and John Turner all say that Bill C-51's lack of oversight provisions "poses serious problems for public safety and human rights."

They say the lack of oversight does real damage. "This results not only in devastating personal consequences for the individuals, but a profoundly negative impact on Canada's reputation as a rights-respecting nation."

And they say it will cost us all in the long run. "Independent oversight and effective review mechanisms help ensure that resources devoted to national security activities are being utilized effectively and efficiently."

2. It will make us all guilty until proven innocent

Bill C-51 makes it too easy for police and spies to arrest and detain law-abiding and innocent Canadians

Right now, police need some measure of proof before arresting people suspected of plotting to commit a crime. If Bill C-51 is passed, suspicions will become enough to make an arrest; police and spies who “believe a particular activity constitutes a threat to the security of Canada ... may take measures within or outside Canada to reduce that threat.”

Worse, Bill C-51’s definition of “a threat to the security of Canada” is so vague that our secret police and spies will be able to wield their new powers of arrest and detention against Canadians peacefully protesting a pipeline, Aboriginal peoples calling for their treaty rights to be respected, or trade unionists defying unconstitutional “back-to-work” legislation.

3. We’ll be kissing our privacy goodbye

Bill C-51 will let government officials violate your privacy whenever they want

A variety of government departments and agencies keep a library of information about you. Right now, there are clear rules governing how that information can be shared, striking a careful balance between your right to privacy and government’s power to peer deep into your life.

Bill C-51 tips the balance too far in government’s favour. “This Act would seemingly allow departments and agencies to share the personal information of all individuals, including ordinary Canadians who may not be suspected of terrorist activities,” warns federal Privacy Commissioner Daniel Therrien.

3½. It’s all just a smokescreen anyway

The real purpose of Bill C-51 is to scare up election support

The federal Conservatives say there is widespread support for laws that reduce the threat of terrorism here in Canada. But the polling also shows that Canadians are actually much less worried about terrorism than they are about our crumbling infrastructure, our lack of good jobs, and our underfunded health care system.

A creative and hopeful government will tackle issues of crime and violence with meaningful mental health strategies and community supports. This government seems instead to be using violence as a way to scare up support in advance of its bid for reelection.

Help stop Bill C-51

**Add your name to the more than 20,000
Canadians who have already signed the
federal NDP's petition against Bill C-51:**

www.ndp.ca/c-51

**Take part in Leadnow's online Reject Fear
campaign against C-51:**

www.leadnow.ca/campaigns

Write to Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6 (no postage required)
Fax: 613-941-6900
stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca

Write to Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6 (no postage required)
Fax: 613-995-9926
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

**Write to your MP (and the likely Liberal
and Conservative candidates in the
upcoming federal election).**



**national
union**

NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

- B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union
- Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union
- Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers
- New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
- PEI Union of Public Sector Employees
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees

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The National Union of Public and General Employees is an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress and a member of the Public Services International.

