Annual Report on the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act

2015–16
Annual Report on the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act 2015–16
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Introduction

Section 38.1 of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act (PSDPA) requires that the Chief Human Resources Officer prepare an annual report for the President of the Treasury Board to table in Parliament. The report must provide information on activities related to the disclosures made in public sector organizations that are subject to the Act. This report, the ninth annual report under the PSDPA, covers the reporting requirements for the period of April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

The PSDPA establishes procedures for handling allegations of wrongdoing and complaints of reprisal, and provides concrete support for grounding public sector culture firmly in values and ethics. For an overview of the Act and definitions of key terms used in this report, please refer to Parts E and F of the Appendix.

This report includes information on disclosures made according to internal procedures established under the Act, as reported to the Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer (OCHRO) by the senior officers for disclosure or the chief executives of public sector organizations. It does not include disclosures or reprisal complaints made to the Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada, which are reported separately by the Commissioner to Parliament.

Reported Disclosure Activity

There are 134 active organizations in the federal public sector that are currently subject to the Act. Of these organizations, 116 have informed OCHRO of their senior officer for disclosure appointments made under the Act. Pursuant to subsection 10(4) of the Act, 18 organizations have declared that they would not establish internal disclosure procedures or appoint a senior officer for disclosure because the size of the organization made it impractical to do so.

Subsection 38.1(1) of the Act requires chief executives to prepare a report on the activities related to disclosures made in their organizations and to submit it to the Chief Human Resources Officer within 60 days after the end of every fiscal year. The following is a summary of these reports. Statistics from previous years are included for comparison.

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1. This figure does not include the three organizations excluded from the definition of “public sector” in the Act (the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and Communications Security Establishment Canada) or the organization that requires an order-in-council to become subject to the Act (the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of active organizations</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of general inquiries related to the Act</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organizations that reported inquiries</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of disclosures received under the Act</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>194&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organizations that reported disclosures</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of referrals resulting from a disclosure made in another public sector organization</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cases carried over on the basis of disclosures made the previous year</td>
<td>99&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of disclosures handled</strong> (new disclosures + referrals + cases carried over)</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>287&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of disclosures received that were acted upon&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>123&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of disclosures received that were not acted upon&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of investigations commenced as a result of disclosures received</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of disclosures received that led to a finding of wrongdoing</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organizations that reported findings of wrongdoing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of disclosures received that led to corrective measures</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organizations that reported corrective measures</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organizations that reported finding systemic problems that gave rise to wrongdoing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organizations that did not disclose information about findings of wrongdoing within 60 days</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Disclosures where action was taken to determine whether wrongdoing has occurred, including preliminary analysis, fact finding and investigation, and where that determination was made during the reporting period (as defined in Part F of the Appendix). Does not include disclosures received that have been carried over into 2016–17.

<sup>b</sup> Disclosures received that were immediately rejected or that were immediately referred to another more appropriate recourse mechanism (as defined in Part F of the Appendix).

<sup>c</sup> This figure has been amended to reflect files received in 2014–15 and carried over to 2015–16 that were further determined to include either additional disclosures or fewer disclosures than initially identified. As a result, the 2015–16 figure for “Number of cases carried over on the basis of disclosures made the previous year” has been amended.

<sup>d</sup> Figures have been amended to reflect that a file received in 2013–14 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), initially identified as including 1 disclosure, was further determined to include 13 disclosures. As a result of this determination, amendments have been made to the 2013–14 figures corresponding to “Number of disclosures received under the Act,” “Total number of disclosures handled” and “Number of disclosures received that were action upon.” The figures that appear in the column for 2014–15 have been adjusted to reflect this information.
In accordance with paragraph 11(1)(c) of the Act, it is the responsibility of organizations to provide public access to information describing findings of wrongdoing and any follow-up action taken. Consequently, OCHRO does not collect or report on the specifics of findings of wrongdoing by organizations.

Statistics on reports of organizational activities related to disclosures made under the Act are available in Part A of the Appendix. These statistics provide a useful snapshot of activity under the PSDPA. The following considerations should be noted:

- Disclosures can be made to a supervisor, a senior officer for disclosure or the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner. The choice of a particular channel for disclosure cannot be construed as a reflection of a lack of trust in other channels.
- It is difficult to compare statistics across organizations because their cultures vary. Issues may be dealt with through different mechanisms in different organizations.
- Given that an anonymous disclosure does not meet the definition of a “disclosure made under the Act,” this report does not include situations where information about a possible wrongdoing is provided anonymously.2
- When completing their annual report under the PSDPA, organizations are asked to count each allegation of wrongdoing as a separate disclosure and report it as such in their submission to OCHRO. As a result, the report captures the number of potential incidents of wrongdoing to be investigated, which is a higher number than that of public servants making disclosures.
- The following are the most common reasons provided by organizations for not acting upon disclosures:
  - The individual making the disclosure was referred to another, more appropriate, recourse mechanism because of the nature of the allegation(s) (e.g., grievance procedure); and
  - The disclosure did not meet the definition of wrongdoing under section 8 of the Act.vi
- Although the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) are excluded from the PSDPA, under section 52vii they are required to establish procedures applicable to their organization for the disclosure of wrongdoing, including the protection of persons who disclose wrongdoing. These procedures must, in the opinion of the Treasury Board, be similar to those set out in the PSDPA. CSIS procedures were approved in December 2009, CSEC’s procedures were approved in June 2011, and the CAF’s procedures were approved in April 2012.

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2. To trigger the protections of the Act, a public servant must be identifiable as the source of the disclosure or be involved in a disclosure investigation.
Appendix: Summary of Organizational Activity Related to Disclosures Under the Act

A. Organizations reporting activity under the Act in 2015–16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Disclosures</th>
<th>Disclosures that led to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General inquiries</td>
<td>[Disclosures]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atomic Energy of Canada Limited</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of Canada</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Border Services Agency</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Economic Development Agency for Quebec Regions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Revenue Agency</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Air Transport Security Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Food Inspection Agency</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Grain Commission</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Space Agency</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Service Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Justice Canada</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and Social Development Canada</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>General inquiries</td>
<td>Received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Climate Change Canada⁵</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Affairs Canada⁴</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Canada</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada⁴</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada⁴</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada⁴</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Atlantic Inc.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Capital Commission</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>National Defence</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Energy Board</td>
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<td>Natural Resources Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Auditor General of Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks Canada</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Agency of Canada</td>
<td>4</td>
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### Disclosures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>General inquiries</th>
<th>Disclosures carried over from 2014–15</th>
<th>Acted upon</th>
<th>Not acted upon</th>
<th>Carried over into 2016–17</th>
<th>Investigations commenced</th>
<th>A finding of wrongdoing</th>
<th>Corrective measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Services and Procurement Canada¹</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28ʰ</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Canadian Mounted Police</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4ᵇ</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Services Canada</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff of the Non-Public Funds, Canadian Forces</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Safety Board of Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport Canada</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs Canada</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIA Rail Canada Inc.</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Western Economic Diversification Canada</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. In 2015, the name of the organization was changed from Environment Canada to Environment and Climate Change Canada.

b. In 2015, the name of the organization was changed from Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada to Global Affairs Canada.

c. In 2015, the name of the organization was changed from Citizenship and Immigration Canada to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

d. In 2015, the name of the organization was changed from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

e. In 2015, the name of the organization was changed from Industry Canada to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

f. In 2015, the name of the organization was changed from Public Works and Government Services Canada to Public Services and Procurement Canada.

g. Upon assessment of the files carried over from 2014–15, it was determined that these files included fewer disclosures than initially identified.

h. Upon assessment of the files carried over from 2014–15, it was determined that these files included additional disclosures to those initially identified.

i. Upon assessment of the files carried over from 2014–15, two files were not acted upon, because they were referred to another more appropriate recourse mechanism.
B. Organizations that reported no activities related to disclosure in the reporting period

1. Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada
2. Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
3. Atlantic Pilotage Authority Canada
4. Business Development Bank of Canada
5. Canada Council for the Arts
6. Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation
7. Canada Development Investment Corporation
8. Canada Post
9. Canada School of Public Service
10. Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation
11. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
12. Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety
13. Canadian Commercial Corporation
14. Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
15. Canadian Heritage
16. Canadian Institutes of Health Research
17. Canadian Museum for Human Rights
18. Canadian Museum of History and Canadian War Museum
19. Canadian Museum of Nature
20. Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
21. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
22. Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
23. Canadian Tourism Commission
24. Canadian Transportation Agency
25. Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP
26. Courts Administration Service
27. Defence Construction Canada
28. Department of Finance Canada
29. Energy Supplies Allocation Board
30. Export Development Canada
31. Farm Credit Canada
32. Farm Products Council of Canada
33. Federal Bridge Corporation
34. Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
35. Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada
36. Great Lakes Pilotage Authority Canada
37. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
38. Indian Oil and Gas Canada
39. International Development Research Centre
40. International Joint Commission (Canadian Section)
41. Laurentian Pilotage Authority Canada
42. Library and Archives Canada
43. Military Police Complaints Commission of Canada
44. National Arts Centre
45. The National Battlefields Commission
46. National Gallery of Canada
47. National Research Council Canada
48. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
49. Northern Pipeline Agency Canada
50. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
51. Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs Canada
52. Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada
53. Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada
54. Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada
55. Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada
56. Office of the Secretary to the Governor General
57. Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada
58. Pacific Pilotage Authority Canada
59. Parole Board of Canada
60. Patented Medicine Prices Review Board Canada
61. Polar Knowledge Canada
62. PPP Canada
63. Privy Council Office
64. Public Prosecution Service of Canada
65. Public Safety Canada
66. Public Sector Pension Investment Board
67. Public Service Commission of Canada
68. RCMP External Review Committee
69. Ridley Terminals Inc.
70. Royal Canadian Mint
71. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
72. Statistical Survey Operations
73. Status of Women Canada
74. Veterans Review and Appeal Board

3. Polar Knowledge Canada was created on June 1, 2015, and combines the resources and knowledge of the former Canadian Polar Commission and the Science and Technology program at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.
C. Organizations that do not have a senior officer for disclosure or internal procedures as of the end of the reporting period, pursuant to subsection 10(4) of the Act

1. Canada Lands Company Limited
2. Canadian Dairy Commission
3. Canadian Human Rights Commission
4. Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat
5. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
6. Canadian Race Relations Foundation
7. Copyright Board Canada
8. Financial Consumer Agency of Canada
9. Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation
10. Military Grievances External Review Committee
11. National Film Board
12. Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada
13. Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages
14. Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
15. Security Intelligence Review Committee
16. Standards Council of Canada
17. Telefilm Canada
18. Truth and Reconciliation Commission

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4. In 2015, the name of the organization was changed from Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
D. Inactive organizations for the purposes of reporting

1. Canada Emission Reduction Incentives Agency
2. Canada Employment Insurance Commission
3. Canada Investment and Savings
4. Communication Canada
5. Director of Soldier Settlement
6. Jacques-Cartier and Champlain Bridges Inc.
7. Law Commission of Canada
8. The Director, The Veterans’ Land Act
9. Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority
E. Overview of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act

Introduction

Section 38.1 of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act viii (PSDPA) requires that the President of the Treasury Board annually table the following information in Parliament for the activities respecting disclosures made in public sector organizations that are subject to the Act:

- Number of general inquiries relating to the Act;
- Number of disclosures received under the Act, and whether they were acted upon;
- Number of investigations commenced;
- Whether any systemic problems were found that led to wrongdoing; and
- Any other matter that the Chief Human Resources Officer deems necessary.

Key elements of the Act

The PSDPA encourages employees in the public sector to come forward if they have reason to believe that serious wrongdoing has taken place, and it provides protections for employees against reprisal when they do so.

The Act allows any person to provide the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner with information about possible wrongdoing in the public sector. It also allows employees to make disclosures to their supervisors or to the senior officer for disclosure designated for their organization. The Act created the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Tribunal to address alleged cases of reprisal.

Through these provisions, the PSDPA enhances the ability of organizations to identify and resolve incidents of wrongdoing, while supporting employees who disclose wrongdoing and protecting them from reprisal.

The PSDPA requires allegations of wrongdoing to be treated with an appropriate degree of confidentiality. Organizations must protect any information they collect about disclosures, including the identities of those making disclosures and of other parties involved, subject to other Acts of Parliament and the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. In this way, the PSDPA provides a fair and objective process for those against whom allegations are made.

The PSDPA amended the Access to Information Act ix and the Privacy Act x to ensure that information created for the purpose of making a disclosure, or in the course of an investigation into a disclosure or reprisal complaint, cannot be released in response to requests for information under either of those Acts. To balance these provisions with the need for transparency for public sector wrongdoings, the PSDPA requires that chief executives and the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner provide prompt public access to information that describes incidents of wrongdoing found as a result of disclosures made under the Act, and any corrective action taken as a result.
The PSDPA establishes a procedure for the disclosure of alleged wrongdoing and complaints of reprisal in the public sector. More broadly, the Act supports a positive public sector culture that is grounded in values and ethics. It requires that the Government of Canada establish a code of conduct applicable to the entire federal public sector, and that each public sector organization establish a code of conduct consistent with the public sector code.

The PSDPA also requires that the President of the Treasury Board promote ethical practices and a positive environment for disclosing wrongdoing in the public sector. Ultimately, the Act helps to sustain and support an ethical culture, thereby reinforcing the integrity of the federal public sector.
F. Key terms

For the purposes of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act\(^{xi}\) (PSDPA), and of this report, **public servant** denotes every person employed in the public sector. This includes the deputy heads and chief executives of public sector organizations, but it does not include other Governor in Council appointees (e.g., judges and boards of Crown corporations) or parliamentarians and their staff.

The PSDPA defines **wrongdoing** as any of the following actions in, or relating to, the public sector:

- Violation of a federal or provincial law or regulation;
- Misuse of public funds or assets;
- Gross mismanagement in the public sector;
- Serious breach of a code of conduct established under the Act;
- Act or omission that creates a substantial and specific danger to the life, health and safety of Canadians or the environment; and
- Knowingly directing or counselling a person to commit a wrongdoing.

A **protected disclosure** is a disclosure that is made in good faith by a public servant under the following conditions:

- In accordance with the Act, to the public servant’s immediate supervisor, senior officer for disclosure or the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner;
- In the course of a parliamentary proceeding;
- In the course of a procedure established under any other Act of Parliament; or
- When lawfully required to do so.

Furthermore, any person can provide information about public sector wrongdoing to the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner.

The PSDPA defines **reprisal** as any of the following measures taken against a public servant who has made a protected disclosure or who has, in good faith, cooperated in an investigation into a disclosure:

- Any disciplinary measure;
- Demotion of the public servant;
- Termination of the employment of the public servant;
- Any measure that adversely affects the employment or working conditions of the public servant; or
- A threat to do any of those things or to direct a person to do them.

Each organization subject to the PSDPA is required to establish **internal procedures** to manage disclosures made in the organization. Organizations that are too small to establish their own internal procedures can request an exception under subsection 10(4) of the Act.\(^{xii}\) In this case, disclosures related to the Act would be handled directly by the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner.
A **senior officer for disclosure** is the person appointed within each organization to receive and deal with disclosures made under the Act. Senior officers for disclosure have the following key leadership roles for implementing the Act in their organizations:

- Providing information, advice and guidance to public servants regarding the organization’s internal disclosure procedures, including the making of disclosures, the conduct of investigations into disclosures, and the handling of disclosures made to supervisors;
- Receiving and recording disclosures and reviewing them to establish whether there are sufficient grounds for further action under the PSDPA;
- Managing investigations into disclosures, including determining whether to deal with a disclosure under the PSDPA, initiate an investigation or cease an investigation;
- Coordinating handling of a disclosure with the senior officer of another federal public sector organization, if a disclosure or an investigation into a disclosure involves that other organization;
- Notifying, in writing, the person(s) who made a disclosure regarding the outcome of any review or investigation into the disclosure and regarding the status of actions taken on the disclosure, as appropriate; and
- Reporting the findings of investigations, as well as any systemic problems that may give rise to wrongdoing, directly to his or her chief executive, with recommendations for corrective action, if any.

**Other relevant terms**

**acting upon a disclosure:** Taking action to determine whether wrongdoing has occurred, including preliminary analysis, fact-finding and investigation. It also means that the determination of whether wrongdoing has occurred was made during the reporting period.

**allegation of wrongdoing:** The communication of a potential instance of wrongdoing through a disclosure as defined in section 8 of the PSDPA. The allegation must be made in good faith, and the person making it must have reasonable grounds to believe that it is true.

**disclosure:** The provision of information by a public servant to his or her immediate supervisor or to a senior officer for disclosure that includes one or more allegations of possible wrongdoing in the public sector, in accordance with section 12 of the PSDPA.

**general inquiries:** Inquiries about procedures established under the PSDPA or about possible wrongdoings, not including actual disclosures.

**investigation:** A formal investigation triggered by a disclosure.

**not acting upon a disclosure:** Any immediate rejection of the disclosure once it is received, including an immediate referral of the employee making the disclosure to another more appropriate recourse mechanism.
Endnotes

xiii. Section 8 of the PSDPA, http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-31.9/page-2.html#h-6