



Information and Privacy
Commissioner of Ontario
Commissaire à l'information et à la
protection de la vie privée de l'Ontario

August 30, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Marit Stiles
Leader of the Official Opposition
Room 381, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear MPP Stiles,

Thank you for your letter dated August 18, 2023, expressing concerns about the Government of Ontario's record retention practices and associated transparency issues outlined in the Auditor General's *Special Report on Changes to the Greenbelt*.

As you are aware, records relating to government business, regardless of the medium in which they are created, sent, or received, are subject to Ontario's access and privacy laws. The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA) govern the handling of such records and are in place in part to safeguard the public's right to know and to ensure transparency of government decisions and actions. The particular access to information issues raised in the Auditor General's report fall within my area of jurisdiction and are subject to my office's oversight.

Further to this mandate, my office has already received several access to information appeals under FIPPA regarding the Greenbelt matter. It is anticipated that the processing of these appeals will address the records retention and access to information issues raised in the Auditor General's report and referred to in your letter.

Records retention is a key component of protecting the public's right to access information and is critical to ensuring transparency and accountability of government decisions and actions. The IPC is committed to conducting fair and impartial inquiries into these issues in the context of the appeals before it and to making their outcome known through a public order once they conclude.

I would like to thank you once again for bringing forward your concerns to my office. In the interests of transparency, this letter will be publicly posted on my office's website.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kosseim
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario



2 Bloor Street East
Suite 1400
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4W 1A8

2, rue Bloor Est
Bureau 1400
Toronto (Ontario)
Canada M4W 1A8

Tel/Tél : (416) 326-3333
1 (800) 387-0073
TTY/ATS : (416) 325-7539
Web : www.ipc.on.ca