

# Letters to the Editor

## Privacy legislation needed

I read your article on "Speeding Towards a Privacy Disaster" in the Autumn 2008 edition of *Canadian Perspectives* and the reality is that we are already there.

Let me explain: the large companies and multinationals are already breaching privacy policies. I have watched how managers, consultants, IT professional, auditors, outsource companies, the government and foreign contractors handle our confidential data. This is not an isolated occurrence; it is happening regularly. Personal data is sent unencrypted or with low levels of encryption over the Internet by emails. The recipients never complain when they receive unencrypted data. Some do encrypt files but use easy passwords like the first name of the recipient or common dictionary words. These are easy to decrypt taking only a couple of seconds with programs freely available on the Internet.

We need some legislation and regulation to protect what, where and how personal information is stored and kept and who has and had access to it.

*B. Sine*  
Toronto, Ontario

## Nuclear insight

I want to thank you for your recent articles on nuclear power in past issues of *Canadian Perspectives*. Unfortunately, the nuclear option is growing like mushrooms in North America. New sites are being built in Georgia and Maryland, and here in Québec the Gentilly 2 site will be rebuilt despite the united protests of environmentalists. In Ottawa, the Harper government as part of the Nuclear Suppliers Group voted for the U.S.-Indian nuclear deal that allows nuclear fuel to be imported without on-site inspections. India refuses to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). We have formidable opponents, but maybe the new U.S. Congress will save us from this one.

*Edward Napier*  
Montreal, Quebec



**Council of Canadians' Atlantic Regional Organizer Angela Giles and National Water Campaigner Meera Karunanathan look out at Sandy Pond, a freshwater lake that is slated to become a toxic dump site for Vale**

## Think about how we use water

I think that water as a human right does not clearly indicate that, whether rich or poor, people ought to have access to drinking and washing water. I sense the golf-course-watering people also think they need water as a human right. A term needs to be found between universal access to personal water usage and excess water usage such as that in swimming pools and golf courses. Why do people need swimming pools and golf courses today? In past eras we used creeks and homebound game boards for entertainment and exercise. Today we need private sources of distraction. I believe we must look more broadly at personal needs than at water alone. Our economic system has led to corporations, and our lifestyles in Canada and the U.S. are based more on consuming than on caring. Perhaps water is the stimulus to raise these issues.

*Barry Hammond*  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Inco mining company. Visit our website at [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org) to take action and oppose "Schedule 2," a loophole that allows mining companies to use Canadian lakes as toxic dump sites.**

## Send us your letters!

If you have something to say about an article you have read in *Canadian Perspectives*, or an issue you think would interest our readers, please write to us. We reserve the right to edit your letter for clarity and length. Letters must include your full name, address and phone number.

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