



10 April 2012: For immediate release

## Canada: CLD Expands RTI-Rating to Provincial Laws

The Centre for Law and Democracy today released the results of a comparative assessment of right to information rules in four Canadian provinces. The assessment was done using the RTI-Rating, an analytical tool designed to assess the strength of legal frameworks for the right to information, developed by Access Info Europe and CLD. On 28 September 2011 the two organisations released a rating of all (then) 89 national right to information laws globally. Last month, the two organisations rated international treaties and model laws.

*“This assessment demonstrates the broad utility of the RTI Rating,”* said Toby Mendel, Executive Director of the Centre for Law and Democracy. *“We are hoping to create upward competition to improve RTI laws within Canada, by identifying the relative strengths and weaknesses of the different laws.”*

The study found significant differences between the overall strengths of the provincial laws, while concluding that all four had deficiencies. The province of British Columbia topped the rankings, scoring 97 points out of a possible 150, while Alberta came in last, with 80 points. CLD plans to apply the RTI Rating to all 14 Canadian jurisdictions – the federal level, the ten provinces and the three territories, all of which have adopted right to information laws – in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the situation in the country.

The results of the provincial study are available at: <http://www.law-democracy.org/?p=1875>.

More information on the RTI Rating tool is available at: <http://www.RTI-Rating.org>.

### ***For further information, please contact:***

Michael Karanicolas  
Legal Officer  
Centre for Law and Democracy  
email: [michael@law-democracy.org](mailto:michael@law-democracy.org)  
tel: +1 902 448-5290  
[www.law-democracy.org](http://www.law-democracy.org)  
Twitter: @Law\_Democracy