



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

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News Release

**For Immediate Release
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Commissioner makes five recommendations to improve personal information practices for B.C. Government and the B.C. Liberal Party

VICTORIA — In an investigation report released today, Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham confirmed that her office did not find evidence of personal information being shared between the B.C. Government and the B.C. Liberal Party, as contemplated by the Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan.

“Following the public release of the Outreach Plan and a subsequent report by the Premier’s deputy minister John Dyble, I initiated an investigation to determine whether personal information was improperly shared between the B.C. Government and the B.C. Liberal Party. My investigators thoroughly reviewed all available documents, and also conducted four interviews under oath.

“Our investigation did not find evidence that information was shared between government and the B.C. Liberal Party. However, it did reveal the exchange of government information using personal email accounts, particularly among individuals in government departments who have roles closely tied to the governing party.”

The Commissioner has made five recommendations to help the government and the B.C. Liberals implement better information management and training practices to address these issues. The Commissioner has also previously released a guidance document that outlines the use of personal email accounts for government business.

“When citizens entrust government with their personal information, they expect that information will only be used for government purposes as permitted by law. Likewise, when citizens give political parties personal information it is expected that information will be handled as required by law.

“There is an inherent potential for the overlapping of duties by individuals serving in these dual roles. They have the technology at their fingertips to share information at the touch of a button, which is why training and awareness about public and private sector privacy laws is essential.”

Investigation Report F13-04: Sharing of Personal Information as Part of the Draft Multicultural Strategic Outreach Plan, is available at: www.oipc.bc.ca

The Commissioner will be available for one-on-one interviews beginning at 9:30 a.m. To request an interview, contact:

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