



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS KEEP BC'S FOI LAW AT THE FOREFRONT, SAYS INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Victoria—Information and Privacy Commissioner David Loukidelis applauds the report of the all-party Special Committee to Review the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“Act”), tabled today in the Legislature. Calling on the government to implement the recommendations as soon as possible, the Commissioner said: “The Committee has produced excellent recommendations which, when they become law, will ensure British Columbia’s access and privacy law remains at the cutting edge in Canada.”

The Commissioner said he is “particularly encouraged by the Committee’s recommendations around routine disclosure of information, especially using new information technologies.” He said, “The Committee’s recommendation to require programs for routine and automatic disclosure of information generated at taxpayer expense makes sense to me—such programs can get information out more quickly and more cost-effectively.”

Loukidelis also applauded the Committee’s recommendation that public bodies should be encouraged to use privacy-enhancing technologies: “As more and more personal information finds its way into government databases, we have to force governments to collect and use only what they absolutely need, but also to use the best available technologies to protect privacy.”

Thanking the Committee for its work, Loukidelis urged the Minister of Management Services, the Hon. Joyce Murray, to introduce legislation to implement the Committee’s recommendations at the earliest opportunity.

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