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Dec. 6, 2012

**Statement from B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner
regarding a privacy breach at Vancouver Coastal Health Authority**

VICTORIA—B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham issued the following statement in response to numerous media inquiries about a privacy breach at Vancouver Coastal Health Authority:

“On December 5, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority notified my office of a privacy breach involving an employee who improperly accessed electronic health records. As a result, we are investigating the details of this case.

“It is deeply troubling when an employee who has legitimate access to personal information on the job abuses that privilege. What is most concerning about this case is that it involves sensitive, personal health data. Secure and controlled access to personal data is fundamental to building and maintaining trust in the health care system.

“My office’s investigation will include consulting with Vancouver Coastal to help them mitigate current and future risks, and hopefully prevent privacy breaches such as this one in the future,” said Denham.

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