



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

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News Release

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Statement from B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner on Right to Know Week

VICTORIA – B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham released the following statement in honour of Right to Know Week:

“It is my pleasure to join my colleagues across Canada and the world in celebration of Right to Know Week, which takes place from Sept. 23 to 28, 2013.

“Right to Know Week is an international event to promote awareness and action on information rights. More than 40 countries celebrate Right to Know Week, and since 2006 Canada has been a part of that proud tradition.

“This year, British Columbia is celebrating a very important milestone – the 20th anniversary of B.C.’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, which came into force Oct. 4, 1993. This is an important moment in our province’s history, one that gives us pause to examine our past, but also to look forward to the future.

“While the principles and the values underlying our legislation have endured, the challenges to information and privacy rights have grown in scale and complexity. Big data, GPS navigation, mobile devices, and facial recognition are just a few examples of new technologies that can collect granular information about the day-to-day activities of individuals.

“New approaches, new tools and new strategies are necessary to address these challenges. Going forward, we must ensure that our laws are strong enough to address the unique challenges we face today, while continuing to protect the right to privacy and access to information for future generations.

“This year, on Oct. 10-11 I am proud to be hosting Privacy and Access 20/20: A New Vision for Information Rights, a conference my office has organized to celebrate the past but also look forward to the future, to consider what key access to information and privacy issues are on the horizon, and what reforms are necessary to move us forward into the 21st century.”

For more information about the conference, visit: www.privacyandaccess2013.ca

For more information about Right to Know Week, including events happening across Canada, visit <http://www.oic-ci.gc.ca/rtk-dai-eng/>

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