



**May 23, 2014**

**Statement from B.C. Privacy Commissioner regarding Bill C-13**

**VICTORIA**—B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham released the following statement in response to media inquiries regarding the federal government Bill C-13, *Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*:

“Cyberbullying and the non-consensual distribution of intimate images can have a devastating effect on a person’s life, self-esteem and feelings of self-worth. We need to take a comprehensive approach to address cyberbullying. That being said, legislative remedies to address cyberbullying should not be bundled with broad changes to law enforcement powers.

“I am deeply concerned about the privacy implications of Bill C-13 and the proposed changes to law enforcement powers. Similar provisions were introduced by the federal government in Bill C-30, the so-called lawful access legislation. Bill C-30 was vigorously opposed by many Canadians and civil society groups, and was also a cause of great concern to Privacy Commissioners across Canada. Ultimately, the Bill was withdrawn. While some issues have been addressed, I have the same fundamental concerns about the law enforcement provisions of Bill C-13 as I had with Bill C-30.

“The government should separate the provisions addressing cyberbullying from those that extend law enforcement powers. Any proposed increase to those powers must be critically examined and vigorously debated. It is up to government and law enforcement agencies to make the case to Canadians as to why increased police powers are necessary. We need an informed public debate about the law enforcement provisions of this Bill.”

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