

For Immediate Release September 22, 2025

Right to Know Week September 22-26, 2025 Commissioner Harvey calls on public bodies to prioritize access to information

VICTORIA—The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia (OIPC) has released the following statement for Right to Know Week 2025, which the office will mark from September 22-26, 2025:

"I am very pleased to join my colleagues around the world this week in celebrating Right to Know Week, an event that highlights the right to access government records and the essential role of access to information in our democracy," said Michael Harvey, Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia.

"A healthy democracy relies on engaged and informed citizens. A robust and well functioning access to information system builds trust between public bodies and the people they serve. It is our single strongest defence in the face of a bombardment of misinformation and disinformation and growing mistrust of institutions.

"All public bodies in the province benefit when they are transparent to the people they serve. They should do whatever they can to improve their FOI processes and other ways to get information in the hands of people that are interested in it. Right to Know Week is an ideal time to take a closer look at those processes."

The OIPC recently released <u>Guidance on FIPPA's FOI Process</u> to assist public bodies with their duties under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA).

Follow the OIPC on LinkedIn and BlueSky this week for tips to help public bodies meet their timelines and requirements under FIPPA. For more information about Right to Know Week across Canada, visit the Information Commissioner of Canada website.

Media contact:

Michelle Mitchell | Director of Communications
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC
250 217-7872 | mmitchell@oipc.bc.ca

BlueSky @oipcbc.bsky.social

LinkedIn: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia | LinkedIn