

For immediate release

January 26, 2026

BC Information and Privacy Commissioner releases statement for Data Privacy Day 2026

VICTORIA – BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael Harvey released the following statement for Data Privacy Day, January 28, 2026:

“This year’s Data Privacy Day comes at a pivotal time for our personal information rights, which face pressures from multiple fronts: rapid advances in AI that rely on massive amounts of personal information, increasing polarization in our society, and the spread of surveillance.

“In the Information Age, our personal information, our data, is no longer just about us – it **is** us. Nearly every aspect of how we live flows from our personal information – from our social lives and our education to our healthcare and our democratic participation. Our personal information is central to our identities and having control over it means controlling how we participate in society – how we live our lives with dignity, as individuals with rights in our democracy.

“Advancing technologies provide us with challenges but also great benefits, including the opportunity to control our personal information more effectively than ever before. I call upon private and public sector organizations to innovate now, to enhance our privacy rights.”

OIPC Data Privacy Day/Week events

The OIPC will share helpful resources on our LinkedIn and Blue Sky pages leading up to Data Privacy Week to help individuals better protect their personal information.

Events this week

Commissioner Harvey has several public speaking engagements to mark this year’s Data Privacy Day.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

UBC Prism keynote

Commissioner Harvey will deliver opening remarks to the UBC’s Privacy and Information Security Management’s Data Privacy Week.

Statement

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

IAPP KnowledgeNet

Today, Commissioner Harvey will join his colleagues across Canada for an IAPP cross-Canada KnowledgeNet presentation that will explore the complexities of AI.

SD43 PAC presentation

Commissioner Harvey will speak to the BC SD43 PAC group about youth privacy.

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