

**For immediate release**

**February 26, 2026**

**Statement from BC Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding proposed amendments to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act***

**VICTORIA** – BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael Harvey issued the following statement in response to Bill 9: *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2026*, introduced in the BC Legislature today, that proposes amendments to British Columbia’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA):

“Today, government has introduced amendments to FIPPA that strive to address operational pressures and clarify specific sections of the Act. It also grants my office the ability to enter into collaboration and information sharing agreements with other regulators in Canada, which this office has advocated for during multiple statutory reviews.

“I appreciate the consultative approach government has taken to drafting amendments to FIPPA. My office has had many discussions with government in a coordinated way to ensure the amendments keep to FIPPA’s core purposes, and I am encouraged that the proposed changes will be one step forward to getting FOI records into the hands of applicants faster. I also support the privacy protective provisions government has included in the design of Connected Services provisions, and appreciate government’s commitment to continue to work with my office through implementation.

“In addition to the proposed amendments, and to further address operational pressures, my office has worked with government to realize administrative efficiencies, streamline the release of records and increase transparency in process for applicants through changing how time extensions are requested for certain types of requests.

“More information will be available on this for public bodies and applicants in the coming weeks.

“I am pleased that government has chosen to work with us on statutory and administrative changes to the FOI system and public sector privacy. As British Columbia moves further into the Information Society, broader statutory reform will be necessary under FIPPA and beyond: on matters such as private sector privacy, health sector privacy and a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to regulating Artificial Intelligence across all sectors. I am encouraged by the approach that the government has taken here and am optimistic about the opportunity to share our perspectives on those topics over the coming months and years.”

## ***Statement***

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