

News Release

For immediate release

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Canada's information and privacy regulators collaborate to advance transparency, privacy and accountability amid rapid technological change

Ottawa, Ontario – Federal, Provincial and Territorial Information and Privacy Commissioners and Ombuds gathered in Ottawa this week to explore ways to continue to foster public trust in democratic institutions through transparency, privacy protection and independent oversight.

Hosted by Information Commissioner of Canada Caroline Maynard and Privacy Commissioner of Canada Philippe Dufresne, the annual meeting brought together information and privacy regulators from across the country to discuss their role of independent regulators and exchange perspectives on shared opportunities and challenges facing their respective jurisdictions.

Privacy-related discussions focused on the opportunities and challenges associated with emerging technologies, including AI, quantum computing, and advanced data-processing systems. Participants examined the interconnection of privacy and cross-border data flows, digital sovereignty, and national resilience.

Participants also discussed how access to information supports transparency and public understanding of government decision-making. They explored how new technologies are changing the way in which government records are created and managed, and the implications for access rights.

Meeting participants heard from experts representing government, academia, industry, civil society and the legal community on issues shaping the future of access to information and privacy protection across Canada.

Quotes

Quote from the Privacy Commissioner of Canada:

“As data-driven technologies continue to evolve and expand rapidly, collaboration across federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions is essential to protect the privacy of Canadians. Prioritizing privacy at this pivotal time by ensuring appropriate protections for personal information supports responsible innovation and fosters trust in organizations and the digital economy,” said Philippe Dufresne, Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

Quote from the Information Commissioner of Canada:

“Modernizing our laws and embracing new technologies must not come at the expense of transparency. As technology and the way information is managed continue to evolve, our commitment to earning and maintaining Canadians’ trust must remain strong. This meeting provided an important opportunity for regulators from across the country to share perspectives and learn from one another,” Caroline Maynard, Information Commissioner of Canada.

Quote from Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia:

“We have a choice to make in the Information Age about how artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies are going to shape our lives and our democracy. We have an opportunity now to make sure that they serve us – that they enrich our lives, respect our rights, and make our institutions more transparent, not less. To seize that opportunity, we need modernized legislation that responds to today’s unique challenges, and independent regulators empowered with the tools they need to enforce those laws. This meeting allowed us to consider how we can move forward together, leading with the values that unite us across the country,” said Michael Harvey, Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia.

Related links

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada: [Provincial and territorial collaboration](#)

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