



Identity Theft Resources

Every year, millions of dollars are lost as identity theft threatens the financial security of thousands of Canadians. Identity theft is also a privacy matter – personal information can be lost or compromised. With identity theft on the rise, it is more important than ever for Canadians to take action to protect their personal information.

British Columbia's privacy legislation, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) and the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA), places a legal duty on public bodies, businesses and other private sector organizations in the province to protect personal information from risks that can lead to identity theft. Public bodies and organizations must have reasonable security arrangements to protect individuals' personal information from unauthorized access, use, disclosure or disposal.

Personal information is information about an identifiable individual. It includes financial information such as credit card numbers, account numbers and details of an individual's finances. It also includes name, home address, home number and email address.

Public bodies and organizations must take the duty to protect the personal information it retains very seriously. The OIPC can order public bodies and organizations that have breached their duty to protect personal information to change their practices.

The following is a list of useful resources relating to identity theft.

Resources for Consumers

Canadian Identity Theft Support Centre <http://idtheftsupportcentre.org/>

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/english/recognizeit_identitythe.html

Equifax http://www.consumer.equifax.ca/partnerca/opiem/id_protection.html

Transunion http://www.transunion.ca/ca/personal/fraudidentitytheft_en.page

VISA Canada <http://www.visa.ca/en/personal/securewithvisa/identitytheft.jsp>

MasterCard http://www.mastercard.com/ca/company/en/security_prevent.html

Other Resources

Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Identity Theft and Identity Fraud

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams-fraudes/id-theft-vol-eng.htm>

Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Consumer Affairs – Consumer Measures Committee

<http://cmcweb.ca/epic/internet/incmc-cmc.nsf/en/fe00084e.html>

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada

http://www.priv.gc.ca/resource/topic-sujet/itf-vif/index_e.asp

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario

<http://www.ipc.on.ca/images/Resources/idtheft-revisit.pdf>