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**For Immediate Release  
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**Privacy Commissioner to investigate licence plate recognition and disclosure of risks to health and safety**

**VICTORIA** — B.C.'s Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham today announced two new investigations, prompted by written submissions from concerned citizens.

The first is a review of the use of automated licence plate recognition (“ALPR”) programs by law enforcement and whether they comply with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”).

ALPR is a technology that allows for automated collection of photographs of vehicles and licence plates by cameras mounted on police cars, which are then compared to a list of licence plate numbers associated with individuals who are of interest to police. The program instantly notifies police when there is a match.

Members of the public have raised concerns about the use of ALPR technology by municipal police, and the implications of this surveillance technology on the privacy of British Columbians.

While the Commissioner's investigation will focus on the use of ALPR by the Victoria Police Department, the published report will provide guidance to law enforcement agencies using the technology in B.C.

The ALPR investigation is underway and a public report is expected later this summer.

The second investigation focuses on public interest disclosure under section 25 of FIPPA, which requires public bodies to disclose information in the public interest, such as environmental harms or public risks to health and safety.

The Commissioner received a research report from the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Clinic, on behalf of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Association, examining the extent to which certain public bodies are complying with

s.25. The Commissioner's investigation will focus on the effectiveness of this section of the Act.

The public interest disclosure investigation (s.25) will commence in August. A public report will be issued when the investigation has concluded.

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