OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION & PRIVACY
COMMISSIONER
— for —
British Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2009

Information and Privacy Commissioner Comments on Driver's Licence Scanning Situation

VICTORIA — Information and Privacy Commissioner David Loukidelis today responded to media reports that some bars and bar industry organizations may not fully appreciate the impact on their operations of his Order P09-01, released earlier this week.

Loukidelis said, "Some folks seem to think it's business as usual, that they don't need to get on side with BC's privacy law." Noting that many people have already contacted his office with concerns about other bars still scanning licences, Loukidelis said, "This decision has implications for all bars in B.C." He added, "Of course, I'd rather find a collaborative solution and now's the time to do that. It's summer, but we need to get moving on this quickly. I can't stop people from making formal complaints and the pressure is going to build for us to act on that front. Let's try to fix this collaboratively instead, and do it soon."

The Commissioner added, "I've invited Barwatch, TreoScope and others to propose a fix that my office can work with and I look forward to hearing from them." Affirming his belief that a solution can be found, Loukidelis added, "It's time to move forward, time to work constructively to find a solution."

In Order P09-01 Loukidelis decided that PIPA did not allow a bar to force all of its customers to give up their personal information as a condition of being allowed into the bar. He ruled that bars could collect personal information of banned customers for safety reasons and therefore invited consultations to find a workable solution to meet that objective.

The Commissioner will still not be commenting on Order P09-01 itself.

Order P09-01 can be found online at: www.oipc.bc.ca/PIPAOrders/2009/OrderP09-01.pdf.

The media release for Order P09-01 can be found at:
http://www.oipc.bc.ca/news/2009Releases/1NR-OrderP09-01.pdf.

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