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UPDATE ON STATUS OF INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE B.C. LOTTERY CORPORATION PRIVACY BREACH

VICTORIA -- The Information and Privacy Commissioner of British Columbia, Elizabeth Denham, has obtained a commitment from B.C. Lottery Corporation (BCLC) that it will not reactivate the PlayNow.com website until an independent review of the system is complete and until such time as she is satisfied privacy will be fully protected in the service.

Last week the commissioner launched an investigation of the BCLC over a breach of privacy relating to BCLC's new online gaming service, PlayNow.com. The breach was reported to her office on Friday, July 16, 2010.

BCLC will not reactivate the website until an independent third-party review of the system is completed. This expert third-party security review is currently underway.

As part of the investigation, the commissioner will be working with the B.C. government's Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development to determine the causes of the breach, and to evaluate the soundness of the remedial work. Under the Gaming Control Act, the branch is responsible for regulating gambling in the province.

Upon completion of the investigation, the commissioner will issue a public report.

The commissioner's office also has a number of useful privacy resources on its website, including a guide on how to deal with privacy breaches. http://www.oipc.bc.ca/images/stories/pdfs/Policy/Key_Steps_Privacy_Breaches%28June2008%29.pdf

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