



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

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News Release

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Statement from Commissioner regarding B.C. Privacy and Security Awareness Day

VICTORIA – Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham has issued the following statement in honour of B.C. Privacy and Security Awareness Day:

“I am pleased to join privacy and security experts, advocates, governments, and businesses in celebrating the first-ever B.C. Privacy and Security Awareness Day taking place on Feb. 6.

“Technology, the Internet and social networking have changed the rules of the game when it comes to the privacy and security of data. Citizens want to leverage this technology to connect with others and make routine tasks faster and more efficient. Likewise, businesses and governments are seeking to use technology to improve services, find new patterns and solutions to old problems through big data applications, data linkages, and data mining.

“In doing so, governments and private companies have a responsibility to build privacy into their technological systems to protect the personal information entrusted to them. They must collect only the information that is necessary to provide a service, and ensure that they do not use the information for other purposes or share it improperly.

“Citizens and consumers also have important responsibilities – they should ask questions, make informed choices, and be prepared to hold public and private organizations accountable for their privacy and security practices.

“It will take a concerted effort, but I am confident that together we will find the right public policy approach, the right regulatory framework, and evolution of our privacy laws to ensure privacy is an enduring right in the digital age.”

Commissioner Denham is one of several speakers at a special B.C. Privacy and Security Awareness Day reception, hosted by ISACA Vancouver, on Wednesday Feb. 5 from 4:00pm to 6:30pm in Salon C of the Victoria Conference Centre (720 Douglas Street, Victoria BC).

For more information about the event, or to learn more about B.C. Privacy and Security Awareness Day, visit: www.bcaware.ca