



**July 13, 2018**

**Statement from BC Information and Privacy Commissioner on Supreme Court decision in *British Columbia v. Philip Morris International, Inc.***

**VICTORIA**—On July 13, the Supreme Court of Canada published its decision in *British Columbia v. Philip Morris International, Inc.* This is related to legal action by the province to recover health care costs for treating tobacco-related illnesses.

BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy issued the following statement about the decision:

“My office intervened in these proceedings because I believe it is important for the privacy rights of British Columbians.

“I am pleased the Supreme Court has held that the province of BC will not be compelled to provide the personal health records of millions of British Columbians to Phillip Morris.

“Records from hospital or doctor visits, including the diagnoses and treatments – of every person in BC with health care benefits – are contained in these databases.

“Similar legislation exists in many other provinces, so the Court’s decision today has national implications.

“I consider this a victory for the privacy rights of British Columbians and Canadians.”

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To read the full decision visit <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/17185/index.do>

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