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**News Release**

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## **Global investigation finds organizations need to improve privacy practices**

**VICTORIA**— Results from the 2018 international privacy sweep conducted by the Global Privacy Enforcement Network (GPEN) highlight a need for organizations around the world to improve their privacy practices. The investigation examined how well respondents have implemented accountability policies and procedures for how they handle personal information. Specifically, most of the organizations surveyed need to better audit their handling of personal information, respond to privacy complaints, and train their employees.

The GPEN regulators, including the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia, surveyed more than 600 organizations in 18 countries in the sixth annual GPEN sweep. A total of 356 responses were received from organizations across a variety of sectors.

Most of those surveyed have established and maintain accountability measures. “This is a positive step,” says British Columbia’s Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy.

In BC, the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA) requires organizations to develop policies and procedures to meet their obligations under the Act. These requirements are founded on the principle of accountability and are consistent with the measures used in this year’s sweep.

“We’re committed to helping organizations meet their obligations under PIPA,” says Commissioner McEvoy. “To that point, we introduced a program yesterday called PrivacyRight to assist small, medium, and large organizations.”

Founded in 2010, GPEN is an informal network of international privacy enforcement authorities. Members aim to work together to strengthen personal privacy protections in a global context. The network is comprised of more than 60 privacy enforcement authorities in 39 jurisdictions, including BC.

For more information about PrivacyRight, click [here](#).

To access the GPEN report, click [here](#).

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