



OFFICE OF THE  
INFORMATION &  
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
for British Columbia

Protecting privacy. Promoting transparency.

**Statement**

## **For Immediate Release**

May 6, 2019

### **Protecting privacy is everyone's responsibility: BC Information and Privacy Commissioner statement on Privacy Awareness Week 2019**

**VICTORIA**— As Privacy Awareness Week (May 6-11) gets under way today, Michael McEvoy, information and privacy commissioner for British Columbia, is calling on everyone – businesses, the public and government – to take action to better protect personal information. He has released the following statement:

“This year’s theme – ‘Protecting privacy is everyone's responsibility’ – is so appropriate. We are living more and more of our lives online with each passing year. As the amount of personal information we share grows, so too does the potential for its misuse. During Privacy Awareness Week, Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA) members are reminding the public that the lack of privacy awareness can pose serious risks for people who may become the victims of breaches. It can also cause an erosion of trust in businesses and increased pressure on public bodies.

“We know the challenges around privacy protection can be complex, but the solutions need not be. They start with organizations and public bodies taking simple actions to build scalable but robust privacy programs. Consumers, too, can empower themselves by learning about their privacy rights.

“Our office’s recently launched PrivacyRight can help. This program offers a suite of fun and easy-to-understand resources that demystify organizations’ obligations under the Personal Information Protection Act, while explaining consumers’ privacy rights. The animated webinars, pop-up videos, podcasts and guidance documents can help organizations build trust through better privacy programs.”

#### **Quick Facts:**

- Privacy Awareness Week is an initiative of APPA (Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities), a forum for privacy, security and data protection regulators to collaborate and exchange ideas. Current members are: Australia (national, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory), Canada (national, British Columbia), Colombia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macao, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Singapore and the United States.



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- The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia will be sharing PrivacyRight resources throughout Privacy Awareness Week.

Follow us @BCInfoPrivacy, #PrivacyRight and #2019PAW on Twitter

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