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Privacy Awareness Week 2023 brings us ‘Back to Basics’

VICTORIA— BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy is bringing it ‘Back to Basics’ to mark Privacy Awareness Week (PAW) 2023.

Every year, members of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA) celebrate PAW to promote and raise awareness on privacy issues and the importance of protecting personal information. This year’s theme, ‘Back to Basics’, is a reminder that protecting privacy doesn’t need to be complicated. Throughout the week, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) for British Columbia will release tips to help everyone – individuals, private organizations, and public bodies – protect personal information and to stay alert to privacy challenges and threats.

“We face unceasing demands for our personal information every day that are growing increasingly varied and complex. In the face of those challenges, the fundamental principles that underlie our privacy laws – the ‘basics,’ such as transparency, accountability, and safeguarding personal information – remain more vital than ever,” said Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy.

“As citizens, we can protect our personal information by incorporating some simple best practices into our daily lives, such as using multi-factor authentication, choosing strong passwords that are different for each platform or app used, and changing those passwords regularly. Using anti-malware software and exercising caution when installing apps are also easy steps we can take to protect our privacy,” he said.

For public bodies and organizations, a focus on the fundamentals when it comes to privacy strengthens trust with the public. And recent amendments to the public sector *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* now require public bodies to have some of those basic pillars of privacy protection in place, including that they conduct privacy impact assessments before launching initiatives, have privacy management programs in place, and that they effectively address privacy breaches.

Whether you are looking for some quick tips on setting up a remote work space or how to build a comprehensive privacy management program, there are resources available on our website that can help you get ‘back to basics’ and build trust.

About Privacy Awareness Week

Privacy Awareness Week is a global effort coordinated by members of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA) to promote awareness of privacy issues and the importance of protecting personal

information.

The OIPC heads the Governing Council and is the Secretariat for APPA, a network comprising 19 regulators from around the Asia-Pacific region. The OIPC coordinates the activities of APPA, which meets twice a year to tackle issues of shared interest, including emerging technologies, and the management of privacy enquiries and complaints.

For more, visit: <https://www.appaforum.org/paw>

The OIPC will share resources on how individuals, organizations and public bodies can go “back to basics” with privacy protections throughout the week on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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