



NEWS RELEASE
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Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia

Special Committee recommends changes to B.C.'s private-sector privacy law

VICTORIA – The Special Committee to Review the Personal Information Protection Act today released its report with 15 recommendations to strengthen privacy protection for British Columbians.

The Personal Information Protection Act requires private-sector organizations to protect and secure personal information that they have in their custody or under their control against unauthorized use or disclosure, and grants individuals the right to access their own personal information. The committee conducted a public consultation process from June until October 2014 and received valuable input from advocacy groups, organizations and individual British Columbians. The committee found that the act is working well but that updates would improve accountability, address challenges related to new information technologies, and respond to changes in the legal landscape.

“The consultations revealed that there are significant challenges to privacy protection in today’s world,” said committee chair Mike Bernier. “The act needs to keep pace with technological change and recent developments in privacy law in Canada and elsewhere.”

“Privacy protection is increasingly important to British Columbians and the proposed amendments to the Act and related measures would ensure that it continues to be effective,” added deputy chair George Heyman. “The committee thanks all those who participated in the committee’s review.”

The committee’s report is available at: <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/40thparl/session-3/pipa/index.htm>

The Special Committee to Review the Personal Information Protection Act is an all-party committee of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The committee members are:

Mike Bernier, MLA (Peace River South), chair;
George Heyman, MLA (Vancouver-Fairview), deputy chair;
Donna Barnett, MLA (Cariboo-Chilcotin);
Dr. Doug Bing, MLA (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows);
Simon Gibson, MLA (Abbotsford-Mission);
Sue Hammell, MLA (Surrey-Green Timbers);
Marvin Hunt, MLA (Surrey-Panorama);
Doug Routley, MLA (Nanaimo-North Cowichan).

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