

MEDIA RELEASE

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Committee issues report to modernize private sector privacy law

VICTORIA – The Special Committee to Review the Personal Information Protection Act released its report today with recommendations to modernize the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA).

PIPA governs how business, non-profits and other private sector organizations collect, use and disclose personal information, balancing the protection of individual privacy with an organization’s need to provide services and conduct business. PIPA also gives individuals the right to access their personal information and to ask that their personal information be corrected.

The Committee makes 34 recommendations, including: aligning PIPA with provincial, federal and international privacy legislation; adding provisions to reflect modern information processing practices and their impact on privacy; ensuring British Columbians have meaningful control over their information; explicit protections for sensitive information such as biometric data; mandatory notification following a significant privacy breach; and enhancing the enforcement powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

“Advancements in new technologies, including automated decision-making and biometrics, are being used with increasing frequency to deliver services that we have all come to rely on,” said Mable Elmore, committee chair. “While there are benefits to this, we must also ensure that modernized privacy legislation includes safeguards that reflect this new reality.”

“The shift to the digital economy has significantly changed how we do business,” said Dan Ashton, deputy chair. “PIPA needs to align with other jurisdictions’ privacy laws to ensure we continue to support economic development and innovation in British Columbia.”

During the public consultation process, the Committee received 100 presentations and written submissions. The report is available at: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/pipa

The members of the committee are:

Mable Elmore, MLA, Vancouver-Kensington (chair);

Dan Ashton, MLA, Penticton (deputy chair);

Garry Begg, MLA, Surrey-Guildford;

Rick Glumac, MLA, Port Moody-Coquitlam;

Kelly Greene, MLA, Richmond-Steveston;

Adam Olsen, MLA, Saanich North and the Islands; and

Andrew Wilkinson Q.C., MLA, Vancouver-Quilchena.

For further information:

Susan Sourial

Clerk Assistant, Committees and Interparliamentary Relations

Room 224, Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC

V8V 1X4

pipacommittee@leg.bc.ca