



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Feb. 3, 2011

VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD ORDERED TO RELEASE STUDENT SAFETY REPORT

VICTORIA – Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham has ordered the Vancouver Board of Education (the board) to release previously severed information contained in a report entitled “Quest Outdoor Education Program Review” that analyzed the board’s student safety and security program and provided recommendations for improvement.

The board had previously withheld large sections of the 17-page report by Don Avison—a former provincial deputy minister and former president of the Research Universities Council of B.C.—on the grounds that disclosure could cause financial and other harm to the board.

“I did not agree that release of the information could cause financial or other harm to the board, but I do agree that some details in Mr. Avison’s report may be withheld to protect the personal privacy of third parties”, Denham said.

Denham ordered the board to release an additional seven pages of the report. The board has 30 days to give the freedom-of-information applicant all the sections the commissioner has identified for release in the order.

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is independent from government and monitors and enforces *British Columbia’s Personal Information Protection Act* and *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The commissioner is mandated to investigate and resolve privacy complaints, conduct research into anything affecting privacy rights, and comment on the privacy implications of proposed legislation, policies and new technologies by public bodies and private sector organizations.

To read the order, please visit www.oipc.bc.ca under ‘What’s new’.

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