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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Information and Privacy Commissioner Orders \$300 Million Revenue Contract Disclosed

VICTORIA — The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has ordered the Ministry of Finance to disclose most details of an outsourcing contract with HP Advanced Systems (“HPAS”). The provincial government contracted HPAS to undertake revenue collection on its behalf in a deal that was worth about \$300 million.

Adjudicator Michael McEvoy found that the ministry failed to demonstrate that disclosure of most of the disputed information could reasonably be expected to cause financial or economic harm to the Province. He concluded that neither the ministry nor HPAS had proven that releasing the information would be harmful to HPAS’ business interests.

However, the adjudicator also determined the ministry was authorized to withhold certain details of the contract that could reasonably be expected to harm the security of the Province’s computer systems.

“This order follows on several past decisions requiring the release of contract details between public bodies and service providers,” said Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham. “I again call on public agencies to consider the routine release of these types of outsourcing contracts, saving everyone considerable time, money and paperwork.”

To read the order in its entirety, please visit our website at: www.oipc.bc.ca

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