



OFFICE OF THE  
INFORMATION & PRIVACY  
COMMISSIONER  
for British Columbia

Protecting privacy. Promoting transparency.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRIVACY COMMISSIONER MONITORING SERIES OF UNPRECEDENTED SECURITY BREACHES**

**VICTORIA** — Security breaches affecting the personal information of millions of Canadians have been reported in recent weeks.

B.C. Commissioner Elizabeth Denham is working with the Privacy Commissioner of Canada and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta to monitor the actions being taken to address the security breaches at Sony Network Entertainment America Inc., Sony Online Entertainment, Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications International AB and Honda Canada.

British Columbia's *Personal Information Protection Act* requires companies to protect personal information and take steps to prevent unauthorized access, use, disclosure, copying, modification and disposal.

Denham and the federal and Alberta Commissioners launched the "*Securing Personal Information: A Self-Assessment Tool for Organizations*" earlier this month. The tool is available online at [www.oipc.bc.ca](http://www.oipc.bc.ca) and can be used by organizations to systematically evaluate and improve their data-security practices and reduce the risk of harmful breaches.

Individuals also have a role in protecting their personal information online. The Commissioner encourages individuals to take precautions including:

- regularly changing passwords used to access online services,
- being cautious when providing personal information online,
- being aware of common scams such as phishing, and
- always reading a site's privacy notice before entering personal information.

"Privacy breaches cause anxiety for individuals and shakes their confidence in the organization they trusted to protect their personal information," said Commissioner Denham. "Companies can reduce their corporate risk and protect their customers by using our self assessment security tool and implementing better information security practices."

Individuals who would like further information about the steps they can take to protect themselves online can access our website at [www.oipc.bc.ca](http://www.oipc.bc.ca) or contact us by phone at 250-387-5629.

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**Contact:**

Maria Dupuis, Communications & Research Officer  
Tel: 250 387-0777 Email: [mdupuis@oipc.bc.ca](mailto:mdupuis@oipc.bc.ca)