



OFFICE OF THE  
INFORMATION &  
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
for British Columbia

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**News Release**

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## **On Privacy Awareness Week, Asia Pacific data protection authorities call on citizens to ‘mobilize their privacy’**

**VICTORIA**—May 4 to 10 is Privacy Awareness Week and to mark the occasion, members of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (“APPA”) are encouraging the public to make privacy-positive choices when using mobile devices.

“Smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices are a convenient, portable way to stay connected – but they also create new risks to our personal privacy, including improper access or use of personal information,” said Elizabeth Denham, Information and Privacy Commissioner for B.C.

“Data about our location, past purchases, and web surfing habits could be collected and analyzed without our consent. And mobile devices are certainly not immune to malware or viruses that compromise data. On Privacy Awareness Week, we are reminding the public to be aware and take steps to protect personal information and data when using mobile devices at home or at work.”

A new infographic, created by APPA members and released during Privacy Awareness Week, provides quick tips to protect privacy on your mobile device, including:

- **Avoid apps that leak your information:** Read the terms of use, and don’t download apps from websites or companies you don’t know or trust.
- **Beware untrusted apps:** Would you tell a stranger your credit card information or your home address? Be savvy about what data you provide to an app.
- **Clear out unused apps:** Review and purge unused apps on a routine basis to reduce the risk of ongoing collection or use of personal data.
- **Use anti-virus software:** Mobile attacks are on the rise. Install and run anti-virus and anti-spyware for added protection.
- **Protect your device:** Set the automatic lock feature so a password is required to access your information. Use a strong password – 1234 doesn’t cut it.

Formed in 1992, APPA is a forum for privacy, security and data protection regulators to collaborate and exchange ideas. Current members are: Australia (Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory), Canada (British Columbia), Colombia, Hong Kong, Korea, Macau, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and the United States.

To [download the infographic](#), or to find out more about APPA and Privacy Awareness Week, visit [www.appaforum.org](http://www.appaforum.org).