



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

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News Release

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OIPC to investigate the availability of records without an access request

VICTORIA—Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner Drew McArthur announced today that his office is investigating whether public bodies are meeting their legislated duty to make records available without the need for an access to information request.

Under section 71 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, public bodies are required to establish categories of records for routine release. The OIPC will survey 30 public bodies to determine how they are complying with this requirement.

“Where possible, public bodies should be transparent in their operations, which enhances their accountability to BC citizens,” says McArthur.

“By routinely and proactively releasing records, especially those in high demand, public bodies save the time and expense of responding to individual access requests. Citizens benefit too, because they don’t have to wait for those records.”

This investigation was prompted by a submission to the Commissioner from the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria.

When this investigation is complete, a report will be published at **oipc.bc.ca**.

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Media Contact:

Erin Beattie

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC

250 217-5010 | ebeattie@oipc.bc.ca

Twitter: @BCInfoPrivacy