



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

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News Release

**For Immediate Release
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**Privacy Commissioner launches investigation into over-collection
of personal information by landlords**

VICTORIA—Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner Drew McArthur is investigating whether landlords in BC ask prospective tenants for too much personal information.

“My office receives several calls each week from individuals who have been asked by potential landlords for sensitive personal information including medical data, T4 slips, or copies of bank statements.

“Low vacancy rates in Victoria and Vancouver create a significant power imbalance in favour of landlords, so renters are reluctant to assert their privacy rights and jeopardize their housing options,” said McArthur.

“Landlords, whether renting a basement suite or managing a multi-unit complex, are subject to BC’s privacy laws. They may need to verify identity or employment income, but they may only collect what is reasonable. They cannot ask for whatever personal information they want.”

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC has guidelines for landlords and tenants online at oipc.bc.ca/guidance/guidance-documents/

For this investigation, the Acting Commissioner asked several private sector landlords and rental management companies what information they require from renters and how they use that information. The Commissioner also requested information from several public sector landlords, including BC Housing, the Capital Regional Housing Corporation, and Metro Vancouver.

When complete, this investigation report will be published online at oipc.bc.ca.

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The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner provides independent oversight and enforcement of BC’s access and privacy laws including the *Freedom of*

Information and Protection of Privacy Act, which applies to public bodies, and the *Personal Information Protection Act*, which applies to private sector organizations.

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