



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

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News Release

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Privacy Commissioner investigating political party compliance with PIPA

VICTORIA—Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner Drew McArthur is investigating whether political parties in BC properly collect, use and disclose the personal information of British Columbians.

“As a result of recent amendments to the *Election Act* and the ability of modern information technology to analyze and process large amounts of personal information, political parties in BC collect and have access to more personal information than ever before. Therefore I have a duty to make sure the personal information of British Columbians is treated with the utmost respect and care,” said McArthur.

The investigation will examine compliance with the *Personal Information Protection Act* by the BC Liberal, New Democratic and Green political parties with respect to the personal information each collects during the election, through canvassing, and from Elections BC.

In 2015 the *Election Act* was amended to require Elections BC to provide political parties with additional personal information about voters in BC, including whether an individual has voted. The amendment also requires all political parties and candidates receiving the personal information of voters to have a privacy policy in place that protects against unauthorized use and disclosure.

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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