



OFFICE OF THE  
INFORMATION &  
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
for British Columbia

Protecting privacy. Promoting transparency.

**News Release**

**For Immediate Release  
September 27, 2017**

**Statement from Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner on  
Right to Know Week**

**VICTORIA**—Acting BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Drew McArthur released the following statement in recognition of Right to Know Week, Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, 2017:

“I am pleased to join my colleagues around the world in celebrating Right to Know Week, highlighting the right to access government records and the essential role of access to information in a democracy,” says McArthur.

“Democracy depends on government transparency. In BC, public bodies process more access requests than ever before – last year government responded to almost twice as many requests compared to 2008. New technologies, digital records, and increased awareness about the right to know are likely causes, but are not excuses for being lax on access to information responsibilities.

“Public bodies must embrace access to information and the right to know, one of the most fundamental of our democratic rights. I hope to see a renewed culture of openness across public bodies in the year to come.”

Last week the Acting Commissioner released a special report examining the timeliness of government responses to access to information requests. In the report he found that the BC government was in contravention of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* at least 20% of the time in the past two fiscal years. He also delivered a keynote address at Information Summit 2017, a conference focussed on current access to information issues. Both the report and the speech can be found at [oipc.bc.ca](http://oipc.bc.ca).

For more information about Right to Know Week, including events happening across Canada, visit [righttoknow.ca](http://righttoknow.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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