



OFFICE OF THE  
INFORMATION &  
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
for British Columbia

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**News Release**

**For Immediate Release  
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### **New guidance available for cannabis retailers in the private sector**

**VICTORIA**—BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy released a guidance document today to ensure cannabis retailers and purchasers understand their rights and obligations under the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA).

“This week, British Columbians will be able to legally purchase recreational cannabis. I understand that private sector retailers will be approved to sell cannabis over time. As cannabis is illegal in most other jurisdictions, the personal information of consumers is very sensitive, and has been used to deny individuals entry to other countries. We developed this guidance document in advance to ensure cannabis retailers and consumers understand the privacy laws that apply in BC,” says McEvoy.

In general, retailers should only collect the information necessary to complete a transaction. For example, it is not necessary to keep a copy of an individual’s driver’s license to verify age for purchase; simply viewing the information is sufficient. Privacy policies, staff training, and appropriate safeguards should be implemented to protect collected personal information.

Consumers should also be aware how their personal information is being used and secured by retailers.

*Protecting personal information: Cannabis transactions* is available at <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/resources/guidance-documents/>.

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