



OFFICE OF THE  
INFORMATION &  
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
for British Columbia

Protecting privacy. Promoting transparency.

**Statement**

**April 5, 2019**

**Statement from BC Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding recent BC Pension Corporation privacy breach**

**VICTORIA**—BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy issued the following statement in response to a privacy breach involving the BC Pension Corporation:

“The recent breach of personal information at BC Pension Corporation clearly demonstrates why British Columbia requires mandatory breach notification.

“BC Pension Corporation notified affected individuals that a box of microfiche containing sensitive personal information, including date of birth, social insurance numbers, and income information went missing ‘following a recent office move.’

“The breach was discovered in October 2018 following a September 2018 office move. The public body reported the missing personal information to my office on March 8, 2019 and informed affected individuals in a letter dated March 29, 2019.

“Reporting privacy breaches is not mandatory in BC. My office has long called on government to add breach notification requirements to BC’s privacy laws. With mandatory breach notification in place, public bodies and organizations would be required to report breaches or suspected breaches to my office within days of discovery. In this case, BC Pension Corporation would have been required by law to report the breach in October.

“Timely reporting to my office also enables us to assist public bodies or organizations in dealing with a breach, including identifying affected individuals. “Notifying individuals in a timely manner is important because citizens need to know if their personal information has been lost, stolen or compromised when there is a risk of harm, so that they can take steps to mitigate that harm. In this case, affected individuals should review their credit activity since September 2018.

“BC Pension Corporation continues to work with my office to address this breach.”

Media contact:

Jane Zatylny

A/Senior Communications Manager

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

(250) 415-3283/ jzatylny@oipc.bc.ca