

For immediate release
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OIPC launches privacy impact assessment template and guidance on Data Privacy Day 2020

VICTORIA – The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia has released resources to help private sector organizations understand the impact their initiatives may have on people’s privacy *before* they launch them.

The OIPC released its [Privacy Impact Assessment \(PIA\) template](#) and [related guidance](#) today to give private sector organizations that collect, use and disclose personal information the tools they need to make sure their planned initiatives comply with the law.

The releases come on Data Privacy Day, a global observance aimed at raising awareness about the importance of protecting personal information, and highlighting technology’s impact on people’s privacy.

Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy said that Data Privacy Day is an ideal time to share the resources, which are all about making sure that people’s personal information is protected in compliance with BC’s *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA).

“Data Privacy Day’s call to action around protecting personal information and understanding threats to privacy in the digital age is more important than ever. Indeed, our office is now dealing with one of the most serious privacy breaches in the history of this province and country.

“In this environment, it’s important for organizations to build privacy considerations into the design of every initiative in which people’s personal information is collected, used or disclosed. My office’s privacy impact assessment template and guidance document offer a straightforward, step-by-step means of taking a comprehensive look at all aspects of how personal information flows through an organization and ensuring that it complies with PIPA at every step.

“These much requested resources offer an opportunity for private sector organizations to build privacy into their initiatives at the design stage rather than scramble and attempt to correct course in the wake of a privacy breach.”

The [PIA template](#) is an 11-page editable Word document that covers all aspects of a

privacy risk assessment for an initiative that is either planned or being substantially revised. The template offers examples and tips on all stages of developing a PIA, including operations and risk analysis (detailing the types of information requested; notification, and the flow of that information through an organization); methods to secure personal information; procedures around accessing, updating/correcting and retaining personal information.

The [guidance document](#) adds depth to the information presented in the template, answering some of the key questions organizations might have when developing their PIAs.

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Privacy impact assessment (PIA) Template - <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/guidance-documents/2381>

*Privacy Impact Assessments for the Private Sector (guidance document)-
<https://www.oipc.bc.ca/guidance-documents/2382>*

For more information about Data Privacy Day, visit: <http://www.staysafeonline.org>.

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