

Sept. 28, 2020

**For immediate release
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Statement from BC Information and Privacy Commissioner on Right to Know Week

VICTORIA— BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy released the following statement in recognition of Right to Know Week, Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2020:

“I join my colleagues across Canada and around the world in celebration of Right to Know Week. This international movement highlights the rights of all citizens to access information that is held by public bodies and showcases the benefits of open and accessible government.

“The COVID-19 pandemic makes clear the fundamental value of these vital principles and why we must be vigilant in protecting them. A robust, well functioning access to information system is one of the pillars of our democratic society, holding government to account and making it clear that government information is the people’s information.

“As we face the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining that level of accountability is crucial both now, as government exercises extraordinary powers, and over the long term, when the decisions made during this historic time are examined and lessons learned.

“In that spirit, I remind all public bodies of their duties under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*, specifically to provide timely and thorough responses to access requests and to proactively disclose records without a request being made.”

Free events: Commissioner McEvoy will participate in two free, livestreamed speaking engagements during Right to Know Week.

On **Monday, September 28**, he will join five other information commissioners from across Canada for a Canadian Commissioners’ Panel hosted by [PSICC](#) (Public Service Information Community Connection) about the importance of access to information. Click [here](#) to livestream the event, which runs from 10:40 PST to 11:40 PST

On **Wednesday, September 30**, Commissioner McEvoy will headline BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association’s 2020 [InfoSummit](#), focussing on issues of transparency and access to information in the context of COVID and his office’s most recent work. Click [here](#) to register for the free virtual event, which runs from 12 noon-1 p.m.; check-in at 11:30 a.m. PST.

Media Contact:

Jane Zatylny | Senior Communications Officer
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC
250 415-3283 | jzatylny@oipc.bc.ca
Twitter: [@BCInfoPrivacy](https://twitter.com/BCInfoPrivacy)