

**For immediate release
January 28, 2021**

Making privacy a priority amid the ‘new normal’: Data Privacy Day Commissioner statement

VICTORIA— BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy released the following statement in recognition of Data Privacy Day, January 28, 2021:

“Data Privacy Day’s call to action to protect our personal information online resonates more strongly than ever this year than it ever has and that is because we have so much more at stake. Remote work, virtual health visits, and simply chats with our friends and families – much of the substance of our lives now takes place in digital spaces.

“These changes, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have transformed our lives and further eroded any division between “online” and “offline” worlds. While we benefit from staying connected via technology, we must also recognize the increased potential for harm brought on by this shift into the digital spaces, and take action.

“On Data Privacy Day, I urge all public and private organizations to ask how well their privacy safeguards stand up to today’s challenges, not those of one year ago. I also encourage all British Columbians to remember the value of their personal information, carefully consider any request for it, and take what steps they can to keep it secure online.”

OIPC Data Privacy Day/Week events

The OIPC will be sharing helpful resources on how organizations and individuals can better protect personal information online on our [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

Commissioner Michael McEvoy has a full slate of public speaking engagements to mark this year’s Data Privacy Day.

Today at 10am: The Commissioner will be delivering the closing keynote, “Privacy in the post-secondary education sector,” at the University of British Columbia’s Data Privacy Day Event. Registration is open for staff, faculty and researchers at Canadian post-secondary institutions: <https://privacymatters.ubc.ca/dpw2021>

February 2 at 9am: The Commissioner will take part in a panel on legislative reform with the Commissioners of Alberta and Ontario as part of the Public Service Information Community Connection’s Data Privacy Week event. The event is free and open to the public: www.dataprivacyweek.ca

February 4 at 10:50am: The Commissioner will join a panel on “Next Generation Privacy Data Protection Law; Canada Breaks Glass with Replacement for PIPEDA,” at the Victoria Privacy and Security Conference:

<https://www.rebootcommunications.com/events/privacy-security-conference/>

February 5: The Commissioner will deliver the closing keynote at the Victoria Privacy and Security Conference.

About Data Privacy Day: Held on January 28 every year, Data Privacy Day is a global observance aimed at promoting greater awareness about digital and online privacy and the impact technology has on our personal information. Data Privacy Day website:

<https://staysafeonline.org/data-privacy-day/>

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