

For immediate release

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Canada's Information Commissioners and Ombuds issue joint resolution calling for enhanced transparency in government operations

VICTORIA – In a joint resolution, Canada's Information Commissioners and Ombuds from federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions are pressing their respective governments to prioritize transparency in the design and implementation of new systems, administrative processes, procedures, and governance models. This resolution reflects the need for a new standard in government operations and a collective commitment to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability across all levels of government in Canada.

Canada's Information and Privacy regulators believe that by adhering to eight key principles, public bodies and institutions can enhance public trust and ensure that government actions and decisions are properly documented and communicated in a spirit of transparency and to counter misinformation and disinformation.

This resolution underscores the importance of access to information for the effective functioning of Canadian society and its democracy. It calls on Canada's governments to show leadership by making the modernization of legislative and governance regimes around freedom of information and protection of privacy a priority.

Quote from the Information Commissioner of Canada:

"Transparency is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. By embedding transparency into the very fabric of our public institutions, we not only build trust between Canadians and their governments but also empower citizens to actively participate in the decision-making processes that shape our society. This resolution is a significant step towards ensuring that our public bodies operate with the openness and accountability that Canadians rightfully expect," said Caroline Maynard, Information Commissioner of Canada.

Quote from BC Information and Privacy Commissioner:

"Citizens have come to expect full information from their government and they expect it now. Yes, they might not always like what they see but they definitely don't like what they *can't* see. Transparency is the foundation of trust and trust must be earned. The freedom of information system is one element of transparency, and proactive disclosure – where public bodies release more information without it even being asked for – is another. But even more fundamental is **transparency by default** – where legislation, policies and programs are designed to be transparent from the very beginning. Transparency must not be an afterthought or an

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administrative process, it is the core business of a democratic government,” said Michael Harvey, BC Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Related document :

[Transparency by default – Information Regulators Call for a New Standard in Government Service](#)

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