

For immediate release

October 6, 2025

Strategic plan puts ‘Trust in the Age of Information’ front and centre

VICTORIA – In his office’s newly published strategic plan, BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael Harvey identified the strategic priorities that will guide the work of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC through 2027/28.

This plan, *Trust in the Age of Information*, was developed after internal and external consultations in the first half of 2025, including eight in-person sessions across seven regions in BC. The three strategic priorities, **Trust and transparency**, **Trusted innovation**, and **Enhancing rights equity**, reflect what Commissioner Harvey heard during the consultations and common themes emerging from OIPC files.

Trust and transparency

“A healthy democracy is based on strong levels of trust in public institutions. This trust is fostered when people feel like they can know how their public bodies are working in their interests, that their concerns are heard, they can make a difference, and that there is accountability,” said Commissioner Harvey.

“Trust therefore requires transparency. It is a strategic priority of the OIPC to promote greater transparency by encouraging public bodies to be transparent by default in their policy and program design; to publishing as much information about their activities with maximum accessibility, and to effectively administering the freedom of information system as required by the law.”

The OIPC has set three goals under this priority:

- Timely and effective regulatory oversight;
- Promote transparency through timely FOI management by public bodies; and
- Foster resilient and trusted institutions in a changing world.

Trusted innovation

“Privacy is about control of our information - and that is what makes us free and autonomous, rights-bearing individuals. Without transparent, inclusive, and independent governance and effective oversight, there is a risk that emerging technologies will, instead of enabling us to have greater control over our destinies, be used to control us,” said Harvey.

As part of BC’s critical regulatory infrastructure, the OIPC will focus on developing strategic foresight to support trusted innovation in the public and private sector in priority domains of artificial intelligence, surveillance and digital health.

Enhancing rights equity

“Privacy and access rights are enshrined in the laws of this province and have been recognized and upheld by the courts. At the OIPC, we consider them fundamental in our democratic society because they provide the basis for our individualism as well as our ability to exercise our constitutional democratic rights. While

all individuals enjoy equal rights before the law, in reality some people cannot exercise these rights equitably for a variety of reasons.”

The OIPC has set three goals under this strategic priority:

- Enhance the privacy rights of youth and children;
- Promote Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; and
- Promote an inclusive and equitable approach to privacy and access rights.

The OIPC will report out on progress of the Strategic Plan each year in the OIPC Annual Report and Service Plan.

Full report: Trust in the Age of Information: <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/documents/special-reports/3028>

Priorities at a glance: <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/documents/infographics/3029>

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