

Statement

**For Immediate Release
September 28, 2026**

Right to Know Week September 28-Oct. 2, 2026 Commissioner Harvey highlights essential role of access to information

VICTORIA—The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia (OIPC) has released the following statement for Right to Know Week 2026, which the office will mark from September 28 to October 2, 2026:

“I am very pleased to join my colleagues around the world this week in celebrating Right to Know Week, an international event that highlights the right to access government records and the essential role of access to information in our democracy,” said Michael Harvey, Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia.

“Our personal information rights are under pressure from rapid advances in AI at a time of economic uncertainty, political polarization and a shifting world order. Our access to information system is at the very heart of transparency and accountability. It provides a critical shield against misinformation and disinformation which can threaten civil society.

“Right to Know Week is an ideal time to highlight how access to information can improve transparency and trust between public bodies and the individuals they serve.

“How we get there requires a three-tiered approach to transparency. First, public bodies must be transparent by default, designing programs, policies, and systems so that information the public needs and wants is automatically available. Second, public bodies need to actively review the information they already have and decide what can be proactively released. Finally, all of this work needs to be supported by an effective, well-resourced freedom of information system with effective oversight. All of this must operate within a framework of sound information management. It is only through this sustained, coordinated effort that public bodies can build trust through transparency.”

The OIPC’s updated [Guidance on FIPPA’s FOI Process](#) provides general information about how to file an access to information request and assists public bodies with their duties under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA).

Follow the OIPC on LinkedIn and BlueSky this week for more tips and guidance. For more information about Right to Know Week across Canada, visit the [Information Commissioner of Canada](#) website.

Media contact:

Michelle Mitchell

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC

250 217-7872 | mmitchell@oipc.bc.ca

BlueSky [@oipcbc. bsky.social](https://bsky.social/@oipcbc)

LinkedIn: [Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia | LinkedIn](#)