



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION & PRIVACY
COMMISSIONER
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OIPC issues cloud computing guidelines for public bodies

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for B.C. has published guidelines for public bodies considering the benefits and risks of cloud computing.

As the popularity of cloud computing grows, public bodies (including schools, hospitals, municipalities and local police forces) are looking to take advantage of the cost-savings and functionality these services offer. But personal information in the custody and control of public bodies must be managed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA"). These provisions apply no matter where personal information is stored.

This document examines some of the issues presented by cloud computing in relation to FIPPA, including:

- **Data storage and access:** The law requires that personal information in the custody or under the control of a public body be stored and accessed only in Canada, subject to limited exceptions.
- **Data security:** The law requires public bodies to take reasonable steps to protect personal information against such risks as unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure or disposal.

Click [here](#) to read the cloud computing guidelines.