



**STATEMENT**  
**For Immediate Release**  
Jan. 14, 2013

**Statement from B.C. Privacy Commissioner regarding  
data breaches at the Ministry of Health**

**VICTORIA** – B.C.’s Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham issued the following statement regarding privacy breaches at the Ministry of Health:

“On Sept. 11, 2012, in response to notice of alleged data breaches by the Ministry of Health, I launched an independent investigation into disclosures of personal data by the Pharmaceutical Services Division of the ministry. My authority to conduct such an investigation is mandated by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

“My office’s investigation includes the instances of unauthorized disclosures of health data confirmed today by the minister, but also includes a broader review of the ministry’s data-handling practices in relation to research.

“Our investigation will be complete in the coming weeks, and we will be issuing a public report with findings and recommendations.”

The Commissioner will not be making any further comment on this matter until the Office’s public report is released.

Media Contact:  
Cara McGregor  
Manager, Communications and Public Education  
Office of the B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner  
250 217-5535