



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

Protecting privacy. Promoting transparency.

Statement

Jun. 11, 2013

Statement from B.C. Privacy Commissioner regarding internet surveillance

VICTORIA—Elizabeth Denham, B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner, released the following statement in response to media reports describing widespread surveillance of citizens' online activities:

“Over the past number of days, my office has received numerous enquiries about the systematic collection of data by law enforcement and security agencies in Canada and the United States. While some details have come to light, we still have little information about these programs and how they work.

“Like many British Columbians, I am concerned about the prospect of indiscriminate surveillance of millions of law-abiding citizens online, and the implications of these activities on our collective privacy rights.

“My office will continue to study this issue as it develops in order to better understand its implications on the privacy rights of British Columbians. We are also supportive of the work of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada on this matter.

“I will advise British Columbians of any actions taken on this issue by my office in the public interest.”

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