



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

Protecting privacy. Promoting transparency.

Statement

**For immediate release
Sept. 19, 2014**

Statement from B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner on Right to Know Week

VICTORIA—B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham released the following statement in honour of Right to Know Week:

“It is my pleasure to join my colleagues across Canada and around the world in celebration of Right to Know Week, Sept. 22 to 28, 2014. Since 2002, the Right to Know movement has promoted the right to access government information, and the value of freedom of information rights to a free and democratic society.

“At the heart of the right to know is the availability of information. Whether digital or paper-based, records are essential to transparency and accountability but also good governance.

“As more and more records are ‘born digital,’ government must ensure it has the capacity to effectively manage, track, catalogue, and archive electronic records in their native format. My recent special report on archives recommended that government develop a digital record strategy as part of a comprehensive information management regime that will set the bar for records creation, records keeping, deletion and preservation.

“In the digital age, citizens are accustomed to information and data at their fingertips, with the click of a mouse or a tap of a mobile device. And as the push for open government grows, so have citizen demands to make data from public bodies more available and accessible by default. I encourage all public bodies to embrace proactive disclosure and commit to routinely disclose information about their operations and activities without a formal access request.”

In conjunction with Right to Know Week activities, Commissioner Denham will deliver a keynote speech at the FIPA 2014 BC Information Summit in Vancouver Sept. 19. She will also release a special report examining the BC Government’s timeliness in responding to access to information requests on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

For more information about Right to Know Week, including events happening across Canada, visit <http://www.oic-ci.gc.ca/rtk-dai-eng/>

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