



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
for British Columbia

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News Release

Nov. 26, 2014

**Statement from B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner
regarding a privacy breach at Vancouver Island Health Authority**

VICTORIA—B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham issued the following statement in response to numerous inquiries about a privacy breach involving the Vancouver Island Health Authority:

“On November 4, the Vancouver Island Health Authority advised my Office of a privacy breach involving two employees who improperly accessed electronic health records. My Office has been assisting the health authority to address the very serious privacy issues that arise from this case, including notification of affected individuals and mitigation strategies to prevent future occurrences.

“Without commenting on the specific facts of this case, it is deeply troubling whenever employees who have legitimate access to personal information on the job abuse that privilege. Secure and controlled access to personal data is fundamental to building and maintaining trust in the health care system,” said Denham.

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