



For Immediate Release

August 14, 2018

Commissioner launches privacy awareness lesson plans for Grades 6-12

VICTORIA—When students and teachers head back to school, their backpacks will include more than the usual paper, pencils, and pens. They'll also be filled with the latest electronic devices.

“Students today rely on smartphones, iPads, laptops, and other devices at school and at home,” says Michael McEvoy, BC Information and Privacy Commissioner. “That’s why privacy education is absolutely critical in today’s schools.”

A 2015 survey of 4,034 K-12 teachers and school administrators conducted by the Canadian Teachers’ Federation and MediaSmarts revealed that teachers feel it is “very important” to teach digital literacy skills at school. Seven out of ten teachers also said that they were “very” or “somewhat” confident in their ability to teach these skills; most are already using networked devices in their classrooms to deliver content to students.

As they prepare for the year ahead, the OIPC has some tools for teachers—four privacy awareness lesson plans. The plans were created in collaboration with Canada’s federal, provincial, and territorial privacy protection authorities and MediaSmarts, a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization that champions digital and media literacy.

Three of the plans were designed for Grade 6 to 9, while the fourth plan targets high school students from Grades 9 through 12. The lesson plans incorporate videos, class discussions, and exercises to introduce students to privacy principles.

“It’s our hope to support teachers by offering these modules for use in their classroom,” says Commissioner McEvoy. “By doing so, they will be letting students know that privacy is a fundamental value and that their personal information is valuable.”

To view the lesson plans, visit <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/resources/lesson-plans/>

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