



Office of the  
Privacy Commissioner  
of Canada



OFFICE OF THE  
INFORMATION &  
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER  
for British Columbia

Protecting privacy. Promoting transparency.

## Statement

**April 25, 2019**

### **Remarks by the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia regarding the joint Facebook/Cambridge-Analytica investigation**

Ottawa, Ontario

The Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia made the following statement during a joint press conference at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa following remarks by Privacy Commissioner of Canada Daniel Therrien.

(Check against delivery)

Thank you, Commissioner Therrien.

This investigation is part of an ongoing collaboration between our two Offices. You may recall that we are also jointly working on an investigation into Aggregate-IQ, the BC-based company that played a significant role in the EU referendum. We expect the results of that investigation to be released later this spring.

Facebook has spent more than a decade apologizing for its actions and pledging its commitment to people's privacy. However, when it comes to concrete actions that will fix these transgressions, they demonstrate disregard.

I first saw this disparity between words and actions during my secondment to the UK Information Commissioner's Office in 2018, when I assisted the ICO's investigation into the Facebook/Cambridge Analytica scandal.

In the investigation report you will see that Facebook allowed the app “This is Your Digital Life” to access the personal information of almost 100,000 British Columbians. This was done without any meaningful consent of those individuals, a fact Facebook continues to deny. This is totally unacceptable.

As regulators in British Columbia and Canada, we have a limited number of tools to protect the privacy rights of our citizens. In this case, my Office will support Commissioner Therrien’s Federal Court application while reserving our right to make further orders against Facebook for its actions if deemed appropriate in the future.

Given the short list of options at our disposal to rectify Facebook’s actions, legislators in Ottawa and across the country must give regulators enhanced order-making powers as well as the ability to levy significant and meaningful fines for non-compliance with the law. This will allow us to hold companies like Facebook fully accountable.

**For more information, please contact:**

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia

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