

**For Immediate Release  
September 15, 2020**

**Statement from Commissioner McEvoy concerning section 25 complaint received from several First Nations**

**VICTORIA**—Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael McEvoy has issued the following statement in response to a section 25 complaint from several First Nations under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA).

“Today I received an application from Heiltsuk Tribal Council, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, and Tsilhqot’in National Government (the Nations) to consider its complaint whether the Ministry of Health and certain other public bodies failed to comply with section 25 of FIPPA by withholding information about presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 cases proximate to the Nations’ rural Indigenous communities.

Section 25 of FIPPA provides for the mandatory disclosure of information by a public body where there is an imminent risk of significant harm to the environment or the health and safety of the public or a group of people, or where disclosure is for any other reason in the public interest.

I can confirm that my office has opened a file into the complaint. We have notified the Ministry of Health of the complaint, and are in the process of clarifying certain matters with the complainant.

As this is an active file, we are not able to provide additional comment.”

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