

For immediate release

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OIPC launches survey of all BC municipalities to better understand record disclosures

VICTORIA - The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) has launched an electronic survey to better understand what type of records each municipality in the province makes available to the public, whether through freedom of information (FOI) processes, proactive disclosure, or for purchase. The survey, sent to all BC municipalities, is part of an OIPC investigation into municipal disclosure of records conducted under s. 42(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA).

“Access to information is one of the cornerstones of democracy and central to how we hold our public bodies accountable, and it is critical that people in British Columbia are able to properly exercise this right,” said BC Information and Privacy Commissioner Michael Harvey. “We expect all municipalities to participate with this investigation by completing the electronic survey by September 27, 2024.”

The BC government classifies municipalities as either a town, village, district or city depending on the size of their population and geographic area. There are currently 161 municipalities in BC, ranging in population from just over 100 to over 630,000 people and ranging in size from 63 hectares to over 8,500,000 hectares.

The OIPC will consolidate findings from the survey and publish a summary report at the conclusion of the investigation.

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