

Minutes of the External Advisory Board
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for B.C.
May 1, 2014

Attendees

- Elizabeth Denham, Information and Privacy Commissioner
- Dr. Colin Bennett, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria
- Heather Black, former Assistant Privacy Commissioner for Canada
- Dr. Peter Chow-White, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University
- Dr. David Flaherty, former BC Information & Privacy Commissioner
- Dr. Ben Goold, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia
- Jay Fedorak, Deputy Registrar/Assistant Commissioner, OIPC
- Michael McEvoy, Deputy Commissioner, OIPC
- Cara McGregor, Director of Communications, OIPC

Regrets

- Drew McArthur, McArthur Consulting Group

Agenda

Update on OIPC activities

Commissioner Denham provided board members with an overview of her recent activities, including recent systemic investigation reports. As this was the first meeting of the EAB since the OIPC's budget presentation, the Commissioner debriefed the Board on the results of the finance committee's deliberations and the resulting cost pressures facing the office. The Commissioner also presented case file statistics from the 2013-14 fiscal year that show an increase in compliant and request for review files, which are putting stress on available resources.

Michael McEvoy provided an overview of recent investigation reports including police information checks, a special report on health legislation reform, the BC Services Card consultation, and other work underway in the policy division of the Office.

Jay Fedorak presented the OIPC's 2014-2016 strategic plan. Jay thanked the Board for their contributions to the planning process.

Cara McGregor provided an overview of media coverage the office has received in the past year, and outlined work the OIPC is doing to partner with academic researchers in the areas of surveillance, digital records and protection of electronic information.

Submission to the Special Committee to Review PIPA

Commissioner Denham led a discussion about strategies for the OIPC's upcoming presentation to the Special Committee to Review PIPA, which will take place on May 28. The Board also discussed how to get private sector interests on-side with proposals for reform, particularly in the area of mandatory breach notification.

Case management strategies

Jay Fedorak led a discussion about what strategies the office might adopt to address the growing number of complaints, investigation files and inquiries received by the Office, including how to prioritize files where there are multiple complaints or requests for review received from a single applicant. The Board provided its insights and offered to provide feedback on a draft model.

The Board will reconvene in late summer in advance of the OIPC's next budget presentation to the Finance and Government Services Committee.