



Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for B.C. Minutes of the External Advisory Board Teleconference

October 20, 2016
10 a.m. to 12 noon

Attendees:

- Drew McArthur, Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner
- Dr. Colin Bennett, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria
- Dr. Peter Chow-White, School of Communications, Simon Fraser University
- Dr. David Flaherty, former B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner
- Dr. Ben Goold, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia
- Michael McEvoy, Deputy Commissioner, OIPC
- Jay Fedorak, Deputy Registrar/Assistant Commissioner, OIPC
- Erin Beattie, Director of Communications
- Jane Zatylny, Communications Officer, OIPC

Regrets:

- Heather Black, former Assistant Privacy Commissioner of Canada

The Acting Commissioner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Acting Commissioner shared a set of measurements he hoped to accomplish in his first 90 days in Office. The measurements were laid out in a balanced scorecard arrangement along the key pillars of financial performance, stakeholder relationships, operational achievement, and learning and growth.

Budget implications identified in the plan include the request for a small increase to the annual budget, partially to fund the OIPC's activities as secretariat of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA), along with the funding of a public survey.

The Acting Commissioner indicated that he is a advocate of outreach and education. To that end he has completed two speaking engagements and has several more on his calendar.

He also announced that the Office's backlog of files has been reduced to historic lows. In addition, succession plans for senior positions in the office have been created, and the office is undertaking a Workplace Engagement Survey (WES) to identify key engagement opportunities.

UPDATE ON OIPC ACTIVITIES

Policy and Adjudication

Deputy Commissioner Michael McEvoy thanked the Acting Commissioner for bringing stability to the Office during the current transition. He updated the Board on a number of staff changes, including maternity leaves and the addition of two new adjudicators. He added that some members of the policy team have also taken on investigation files to contribute to the Commissioner's 90-day plan and the reduction of the backlog. He outlined the two major investigations since the board's last meeting. The first was a report about the water quality in the Hullcar aquifer, which related to s.25 of FIPPA and the responsibility of public bodies to disclose information in the public interest. The second, released in cooperation with the Auditor General's office, reviewed the management of mobile devices issued to B.C. government employees. The Deputy Commissioner also updated the board about the upcoming APPA meeting in Mexico. As secretariat, the OIPC has been involved in the planning of the conference agenda, and playing a leading role with the organization.

Investigation/Audit

Assistant Commissioner Jay Fedorak provided details about the reduction of the office's backlog of investigation files. The approach was two-pronged: the implementation of a continuous improvement project, and the hiring of two new investigators and one new adjudicator. Last year the Office closed more files than any other year in its history and is on track to break that record again. The board members offered their congratulations. The Assistant Commissioner also provided an overview of the City of Vancouver audit, which was released in June, and indicated that the Office was at work on its first PIPA audit, a review of the privacy management program of a medical clinic with regard to video surveillance.

Communications

The Office's new Director of Communications, Erin Beattie, briefed the board on major work of the Communications department since the last EAB meeting. The team has launched a new website for the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists, released two annual reports, and provided communications support for the Office's two investigations and audit. Communications staff also launched the Workplace Engagement Survey (WES) and introduced exit interviews as staff take on other career opportunities. A public awareness survey is in development, and work on branding and value exercises continues.

BUDGET

Assistant Commissioner Jay Fedorak provided an overview of the Office's budget, stating that the pressures of last year's fiscal challenges had been relieved for the next six months. He provided more details about the strategy for the Office's presentation to the Finance and Government Services Committee. The OIPC will ask for a funding increase in the amount of \$50,000 to cover a rent increase and as a temporary lift to cover costs associated with the OIPC's role as secretariat for APPA.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board members reviewed the Areas of Focus document they created at the previous meeting, and agreed that the EAB's recommendations to the OIPC remained unchanged.

The teleconference adjourned at 11:40 a.m.