

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
(ON APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL OF ALBERTA)**

S.C.C. File No. 33620

BETWEEN:

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

**APPELLANT
(Appellant)**

AND:

ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

**RESPONDENT
(Respondent)**

AND:

**INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, and BC FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ASSOCIATION**

INTERVENERS

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PRIVACY ASSOCIATION**
(pursuant to rule 42 of the *Rules of the Supreme Court of Canada*)

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PART I – OVERVIEW OF THE INTERVENER’S POSITION

1. The Information and Privacy Commissioner (the “Commissioner”), conducting an inquiry under Alberta’s *Personal Information Protection Act* (“*PIPA*”), does not lose jurisdiction if the inquiry exceeds the prescribed time limit. Properly construed, in the context of *PIPA*’s wider purpose and scheme, the limit militates in favour of individual complainants under the Act, by ensuring a prompt resolution of their complaints on the merits. With respect, the Legislature did not (as held by the majority of the Court of Appeal) intend s. 50(5) to operate in a peremptory fashion, curtailing inquiries that are in progress. The judgment below was in error.

Personal Information Protection Act, S.A. 2003, c. P-6.5

2. Like similar legislation in other provinces, most notably in British Columbia and Quebec, *PIPA* comprehensively regulates the manner in which private sector organizations may collect, use and disclose individuals’ personal information.

3. The Act recognizes the individual’s right to have his or her information protected. In addition, and amongst other things, it recognizes the individual’s rights (i) to lodge a complaint with and (ii) to request a review of an organization’s conduct by, an independent officer of the Legislature: the Commissioner.

***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. F-25 (“FOIP Act”), ss. 2(e), 45(2);
PIPA, ss. 36(2), 46(1), (2)***

4. The Commissioner has the power to conduct inquiries into unresolved complaints and matters under review. In this connection, the Legislative Assembly has seen fit to impose a default time limit on the inquiry process, although it has at the same time equipped the Commissioner with a discretion to extend that limit.

PIPA, ss. 50(1), (5)

5. The focus of the present appeal is the legislative intent behind the time limit. More particularly: What consequence befalls an inquiry where the time limit expires without the Commissioner’s having issued an extension?

6. The BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association (“BC FIPA”) is an organization established for the promotion and defence of information and privacy rights throughout Canada. In the instant case, it presents the perspective of the individual complainant/requester, in respect of whose rights and interests *PIPA* was enacted.

7. BC FIPA submits that the Legislature intended for the Commissioner to adhere to the time limit. That is plainly why s. 50(5) exists in the Act. The *rationale* for the time limit, however, is to promote the expeditious determination of an individual’s complaint. It ensures that the review or complaint initiated by the individual will not go stale, but will instead be resolved while it retains more than historical significance to the individual.

8. If the inquiry time limit is breached, or if the Commissioner purports to extend the limit in an unreasonable manner, the individual (or the organization concerned) may in proper cases seek recourse from the courts. For instance, a party to an inquiry might institute judicial review proceedings to compel the Commissioner to discharge his or her duty properly and in a timely fashion.

See Alberta Rules of Court, Alta. Reg. 124/2010, R. 3.15

9. In this respect, the time limit serves something of an aspirational purpose: adherence to the limit promotes the determination of inquiries on their merits, within a reasonable time frame and without undue expense either to the individual or the organization concerned.

10. By the same token, and contrary to the majority judgment on appeal, the Legislature cannot have intended that a breach of the time limit would terminate the Commissioner’s jurisdiction to conduct an inquiry, or that a decision on the merits might later be quashed solely on the basis of a breach of the limit. On that interpretation, the individual complainant is, like Cinderella at the ball, entirely at the mercy of the clock, conscious that everything could come to a random and abrupt end.

11. Nor could the Legislature have intended the breach to give rise to a rebuttable presumption of termination. If invalidity were the consequence – whether automatically or presumptively – s. 50(5) would in fact undermine *PIPA*’s legislative purpose. The scheme as a whole would in that case be both irrational and unjust.

PART II – POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE APPELLANT’S QUESTIONS

12. The Appellant poses two distinct questions, framed in general terms.

13. From its perspective, BC FIPA submits that the issues before the Court on this appeal may be conveniently expressed as follows:

Did the Legislative Assembly intend that the Commissioner’s power of inquiry under *PIPA* would be terminated, automatically or presumptively, where:

- (a) the Commissioner provided notice, albeit belated, of an extension to the prescribed time limit;
- (b) the organization complained of did not object in the first instance to the purported extension; and
- (c) the complainants were provided insufficient notice that the timing of the purported extension would be argued in judicial review proceedings?

14. BC FIPA submits that, on a proper contextual interpretation of the legislation, this question must be answered in the negative.

PART III – STATEMENT OF ARGUMENT

15. This appeal ultimately resolves to a matter of statutory interpretation. It turns on the application of Professor Driedger’s well-known “modern approach” to statutory interpretation:

[T]he words of an Act are to be read in their entire context and in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act, and the intention of Parliament.

See, e.g., *Bell ExpressVu Limited Partnership v. Rex*, 2002 SCC 42, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 559 at para. 26, citing E.A. Driedger, *Construction of Statutes*, 2d ed. (Toronto: Butterworths, 1983) at p. 87

See also *Interpretation Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. I-8, s. 10

16. The majority of the Court of Appeal placed undue reliance on the “plain text” of s. 50(5), which, at all times material to the proceedings on appeal, provided that an inquiry:

must be completed within 90 days from the day that the written request was received by the Commissioner unless the Commissioner

- (a) notifies the person who made the written request, the organization concerned and any other person given a copy of the written request that the Commissioner is extending that period, and

(b) provides an anticipated date for the completion of the review.

***PIPA*, s. 50(5), prior to 2009 amendment**

17. While they referenced *PIPA*'s purpose, the majority judges failed to explain how their strict reading complements the same. For that matter, they also failed to explain how the strict interpretation squares with other aspects of the statutory scheme, including the Commissioner's express power to extend the limit.

18. BC FIPA submits that legislation such as *PIPA* fulfils an important democratic purpose. In that connection, the inquiry process is a critical piece of the statutory machinery. The time limit in s. 50(5), considered in its entire context, can only serve to facilitate – and not to deny – the individual's right to have the inquiry determined, on the merits and within a reasonable time.

A. Legislative Object and *Quasi-Constitutional* Status

19. In the 1980s and 1990s, the federal Parliament and provincial legislatures enacted statutes to govern the manner in which public bodies collect, use and disclose individuals' personal information.

See: *Privacy Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. P-21;¹ *FOIP Act*, *supra*; *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 165; *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, C.C.S.M., c. F175; *Protection of Personal Information Act*, S.N.B. 1998, c. P-19.1, rep'd by *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, S.N.B. 2009, c. R-10.6; *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, S.N.L. 2002, c. A-1.1; *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, S.N.S. 1993, c. 5; *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31; *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, c. F-15.01; *Loi sur l'accès aux documents des organismes publics et sur la protection des renseignements personnels*, L.R.Q., c. A-2.1; *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, S.S. 1990-91, c. F-22.01

20. This Court has recognized that this body of legislation is “fundamental in the Canadian legal system.” It is “closely linked to the values and rights set out in the Constitution”.

***Lavigne v. Canada (Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages)*, 2002 SCC 53, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 773 at paras. 24, 25**

¹ Prior to the adoption of the *Privacy Act* in 1983, protection of personal information in the federal sphere was addressed in the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, S.C. 1976-77, c. 33.

21. More recently, several Canadian legislatures have extended these privacy protections, to encompass personal information held by private sector organizations. The newer statutes, such as *PIPA*, effectively “close the loop”: they provide a bulwark against the unreasonable collection, use or disclosure of an individual’s personal information by organizations not captured in the earlier legislation.

See: *Loi sur la Protection des renseignements personnels dans le secteur privé*, L.R.Q., c. P-39.1;² *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, S.C. 2000, c. 5; *PIPA*; *Personal Information Protection Act*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 63

See also: *Personal Health Information Act*, C.C.S.M., c. P33.5; *Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act*, S.N.B. 2009, c. P-7.05; *Personal Health Information Act*, S.N.L. 2008, c. P-7.01; *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004*, S.O. 2004, c. 3, Sched. A; *Health Information Protection Act*, S.S. 1999, c. H-0.021

22. This extension represents a natural evolution. It results from a recognition that – especially in light of modern means for compiling and storing electronic data – there are myriad threats to the privacy of an individual’s personal information in the private sector, just as in the public sector.

23. *PIPA* and like statutes govern the conduct of private organizations, not government. However, like the earlier-adopted privacy legislation, the newer wave of statutes serves as “a reminder of the extent to which the protection of privacy is necessary to the preservation of a free and democratic society”. In other words, *PIPA* and its analogues share the same *quasi*-constitutional attributes as the privacy legislation that applies in respect of the public sector.

***Lavigne v. Canada (Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages)*, supra, at para. 25**

24. The interpretive process must take particular account of this special purpose. The balance that is inherent in *PIPA*’s s. 3 – between the privacy rights of individuals and the reasonable needs of organizations – must be approached in light of the foundational importance that Canadian law places on the protection of privacy.

***Lavigne v. Canada (Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages)*, ibid.; *PIPA*, s. 3**

² The Quebec legislation was adopted in 1994, and was the first such legislation in the country.

B. Scheme of the Act

25. *PIPA's quasi-constitutional character is underscored by subsections 4(6) and (7). The former stipulates that PIPA is paramount over other legislation (save the FOIP Act or where the other legislation contains a "notwithstanding clause"). The latter provides that parties cannot contract out of the PIPA scheme, and that "any waiver or release given of the rights, benefits or protections provided under this Act is against public policy and void". In this way, the Act provides the individual with some protection against what is typically the superior power of the organization seeking to collect, use or disclose the individual's personal information.*

PIPA, ss. 4(6), (7)

26. In general, *PIPA* provides that organizations may only collect, use or disclose personal information for reasonable purposes.

PIPA, ss. 11(1), 16(1), 19(1)

27. *PIPA* authorizes individuals to initiate complaints that their personal information has been collected, used or disclosed contrary to the Act, and to seek reviews of an organization's compliance (or non-compliance) with requests respecting personal information.

PIPA, ss. 36(2), 46(1), (2)

28. Where the complaint or review is not resolved, the Commissioner has the power to "conduct an inquiry and decide all questions of fact and law arising". Following the inquiry, the Commissioner disposes of the matter by way of an order, which may, *inter alia*, require the organization to perform some positive act such as destroying personal information collected in contravention of *PIPA's* provisions. A privative clause shields the Commissioner's order.

PIPA, ss. 50(1), 52, 53

29. Regarding the conduct of the inquiry, the individual and the organization concerned have the right to present submissions and the right to be represented by counsel.

PIPA, s. 50(3)

30. Beyond this, the Legislative Assembly has given the Commissioner a broad discretion to determine the procedure at an inquiry, including whether or not the inquiry proceeds in camera.

PIPA, s. 50(4)

31. It is in this immediate context that *PIPA* provides the time limit for completion of an inquiry.

C. Other Time Limits in *PIPA*

32. Subsection 50(5) does not represent the only time limit in the Act. *PIPA* also contains a time limit for an *organization* to respond to an individual's access request. In BC FIPA's submission, this additional example serves as a further illustration that, notwithstanding the recognition of organizations' needs in s. 3, *PIPA*'s administrative procedures clearly and deliberately prefer the individual's privacy interests over an organization's needs.

33. By way of further explanation, in addition to the complaint and review processes, *PIPA* provides that individuals may request access to their personal information held by an organization, and to request correction of any error or omission in that information.

PIPA, ss. 24-26

34. Upon receipt of a written access request, the organization has 45 days to respond. Provided that certain conditions obtain, the organization may extend the response time by a further 30 days or, with the Commissioner's permission, for a longer period. The individual is entitled to be informed of the reason for any extension and the estimated time for a response. Furthermore, the organization must inform the individual that he or she can request the Commissioner to review the organization's conduct in failing to meet the default timeline.

PIPA, ss. 28(1), (2), 31, 46

35. In brief, *PIPA* entitles the individual applicant to a timely response to his or her request for access, and the organization is only "excused" in situations where compliance with the timeline would be impracticable or unduly onerous. In this connection, the organization's needs serve to define the reasonable limits of the individual's privacy interests; the two do not compete on an equal footing.

36. The balancing of these competing interests elsewhere in *PIPA* provides important context for the harmonious interpretation of s. 50(5). To read the time limit as favouring the organization that is the subject of the inquiry, rather than the individual, creates dissonance with the surrounding context and cannot be correct.

D. Textual Considerations: Organizations Are Otherwise Protected

37. *PIPA* protects organizations against untimely complaints or reviews by imposing time constraints on the individual's right to bring the same. This is effectively a limitation period.

PIPA, ss. 47(2) – (4)

38. With respect to the inquiry, however, the individual does not occupy a position analogous to that of a plaintiff or petitioner in court proceedings. The individual is not in the “driver's seat” of the inquiry. In most cases, he or she will have little control over its pacing. (To be sure, he or she has no control whatsoever over the funding and resources allocated to the Commissioner's office, which factors undeniably affect the Commissioner's ability to conclude inquiries within the default time limit.) In these circumstances, and given s. 47, it would be unjust to visit the Commissioner's delay on the individual. *PIPA* does not countenance such an injustice, and s. 50(5) cannot operate in the same manner as a limitation statute does against a dilatory claimant.

E. Textual Considerations: Power to Extend

39. Any analysis of s. 50(5) is incomplete absent a consideration of the Commissioner's power to extend the inquiry time limit, at his discretion.

40. Subsection 50(5) does not expressly contemplate a temporal bound on the Commissioner's extension. BC FIPA submits, however, that the provision grants the Commissioner a discretion, which he or she must exercise in a reasonable manner and in accordance with the values enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Slaight Communications Inc. v. Davidson, [1989] 1 S.C.R. 1038 at pp. 1076-80 (Lamer J. (as he then was), dissenting in part but not on this point)

41. BC FIPA submits that the Commissioner's exercise of discretion under s. 50(5), if exercised in an unreasonable manner or contrary to constitutional values, must be subject to judicial review.

Most notably, individuals may seek relief in the nature of *mandamus*. On the other hand, an organization that is subject to an inquiry may seek an order in the nature of *certiorari* or prohibition, but will have to demonstrate an entitlement to the same. It cannot rest solely on a breach of s. 50(5).

42. The more immediate interpretive point, however, is that the mere existence of the power to extend militates against any interpretation of the time limit as “mandatory” or going to jurisdiction. This is particularly so in light of the facts (a) that the power is exercisable at the Commissioner’s own initiative, simply by the issuance of a formal notice, and (b) that there is no maximum period for the extension. The Legislature cannot reasonably have intended that, where the Commissioner neglects to extend time prior to the default limit, this would bring down the curtain on the inquiry. In this vein, it is well-established that “it should not be readily assumed that the Legislature intends an unreasonable result or to perpetrate an injustice or absurdity”.

***R. v. McIntosh*, [1995] 1 S.C.R. 686 at para. 28 (Lamer C.J.C., quoting *New Brunswick v. Estabrooks Pontiac Buick Ltd.* (1982), 44 N.B.R. (2d) 201 at 210 (C.A.))**

F. Legislative Evolution

43. At all times material to this appeal, the time limit in s. 50(5) was 90 days. As indicated in the Respondent’s factum, however, the provision has recently been amended so as to provide a much longer period. Under the current iteration, the inquiry “must be completed within one year”.

***Personal Information Protection Amendment Act* (“Bill 54”), S.A. 2009, c. 50, s. 35; Respondent’s Factum, p. 1, fn. 2**

44. When introducing the amending Bill for second reading, Minister Denis stated:

Several changes will be made to the Information Commissioner’s processes and powers. [...] The [A]ct will now allow for up to one year for the completion of an investigation or inquiry, recognizing that the current three-month period is too short and in most cases needs to be extended.

Alberta, Legislative Assembly, *Hansard*, No. 55 (4 November 2009) at 1747 (Hon. Jonathan Denis)

45. While a subsequent amendment may appear to be of doubtful relevance to the interpretation of a statutory provision, BC FIPA submits that the Minister’s comments provide an indication of the Legislature’s ongoing intent and have relevance to – and may be considered in – a contextual

interpretation of s. 50(5). In effect, the Minister recognizes that the 90-day period was excessively optimistic, and that extensions have been routine. Notably, these comments serve to buttress the interpretation that BC FIPA submits is apparent from an analysis of the other factors in Professor Driedger's approach.

G. Conclusion

46. BC FIPA submits that, when s. 50(5) is analyzed in its proper context, it enures to the benefit of the individual. It fosters an expeditious resolution of the inquiry. The Legislature did not intend to prejudice individual complainants, with no control over the inquiry process, by making termination of the inquiry automatic or presumed in the event of a s. 50(5) breach.

47. Ultimately, if the statutory limit is surpassed, either with or without a Commissioner's extension, those with an interest in the inquiry can seek judicial review to speed matters up or, in rare cases, to obtain more drastic relief (such as an order in the nature of *certiorari* or prohibition). BC FIPA agrees with the Appellant that, where such relief is sought, the issue of delay must as a matter of practice be raised in the first instance before the Commissioner.

PART IV – SUBMISSIONS ON COSTS

48. BC FIPA does not seek costs and asks that no costs be ordered against it.

PART V – ORDER SOUGHT

49. BC FIPA seeks permission to present oral argument not exceeding fifteen minutes at the hearing of this appeal. It will submit at the hearing that the appeal should be allowed.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DATED at the City of Vancouver in the Province of British Columbia
this 26th day of January, 2010.

SIGNED BY:



Brent B. Olthuis & Tam C. Boyar
Counsel for BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association

PART VI – TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
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PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT

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HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Definitions

1(1) In this Act,

- (a) “business contact information” means an individual’s name, position name or title, business telephone number, business address, business e-mail address, business fax number and other similar business information;
- (b) “Commissioner” means the Information and Privacy Commissioner appointed under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- (c) “credit reporting organization” means a reporting agency as defined in Part 5 of the *Fair Trading Act*;
- (d) “domestic” means related to home or family;
- (e) “employee” means an individual employed by an organization and includes an individual who performs or in relation to or in connection with an organization
 - (i) as a partner or a director, officer or other office-holder of the organization,
 - (i.1) as an apprentice, volunteer, participant or student, or

- (ii) under a contract or an agency relationship with the organization;
- (f) “investigation” means an investigation related to
 - (i) a breach of agreement,
 - (ii) a contravention of an enactment of Alberta or Canada or of another province of Canada, or
 - (iii) circumstances or conduct that may result in a remedy or relief being available at law,

if the breach, contravention, circumstances or conduct in question has or may have occurred or is likely to occur and it is reasonable to conduct an investigation;
- (g) “legal proceeding” means a civil, criminal or administrative proceeding that is related to
 - (i) a breach of an agreement,
 - (ii) a contravention of an enactment of Alberta or Canada or of another province of Canada, or
 - (iii) a remedy available at law;
- (g.1) “legislative instrument of a professional regulatory organization” means a bylaw, resolution or rule
 - (i) enacted or otherwise established by a professional regulatory organization under an Act or a regulation of Alberta, and
 - (ii) of a legislative nature;
- (g.2) “local government body” means a local government body as defined in the *Freedom of Information and Access to Information Act*;
- (h) “Minister” means the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as responsible for this Act;
- (i) “organization” includes
 - (i) a corporation,
 - (ii) an unincorporated association,
 - (iii) a trade union as defined in the *Labour Relations Code*,
 - (iv) a partnership as defined in the *Partnership Act*, and
 - (v) an individual acting in a commercial capacity,

but does not include an individual acting in a personal or domestic capacity;
- (j) “personal employee information” means, in respect of an individual who is a potential, current or former employee of an organization, personal information reasonably required by the organization for the purposes of
 - (i) establishing, managing or terminating an employment or volunteer–work relationship, or
 - (ii) managing a post–employment or post–volunteer–work relationship

between the organization and the individual, but does not include personal information about the individual that is unrelated to that relationship;
- (k) “personal information” means information about an identifiable individual;

- (k.1) “professional Act” means an enactment under which a professional or occupational group or discipline is organized, and that provides for
- (i) membership in the professional or occupational group or discipline, and
 - (ii) the regulation of the members of the professional or occupational group or discipline with respect to one of the following:
 - (A) registration;
 - (B) competence;
 - (C) conduct;
 - (D) practice;
 - (E) disciplinary matters;
- (k.2) “professional regulatory organization” means an organization incorporated under a professional Act
- (l) “public body” means a public body as defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- (m) “record” means a record of information in any form or in any medium, whether in written, printed, electronic form or any other form, but does not include a computer program or other mechanism that does not produce a record;
- (m.1) “regulation of Alberta” means a regulation as defined in the *Regulations Act* that is filed under that Act;
- (m.2) “regulation of Canada” means a regulation as defined in the *Statutory Instruments Act* (Canada) that is filed under that Act;
- (m.3) “service provider” means any organization, including, without limitation, a parent corporation, subsidiary, contractor or subcontractor, that, directly or indirectly, provides a service for or on behalf of another organization;
- (n) “volunteer work relationship” means a relationship between an organization and an individual under which a service is provided for or in relation to or is undertaken in connection with the organization by an individual who is acting as a volunteer or is otherwise unpaid with respect to that service and includes any similar relationship involving an organization and an individual where, in respect of that relationship, the individual is a parent, child, grandchild, grandparent, spouse, partner, sibling, or student.
- (2) For the purposes of section 14(c.3), 17(c.3) and 20(c.3), “audit” means a financial or other formal or systematic examination or review conducted in accordance with recognized standards for an accepted business purpose, but does not include an examination or review conducted with respect to a business transaction referred to in section 22.

2003 c1

Standard as to what is reasonable

2 Where in this Act anything or any matter

- (a) is described, characterized or referred to as reasonable or unreasonable, or
- (b) is required or directed to be carried out or otherwise dealt with reasonably or in a reasonable manner

the standard to be applied under this Act in determining whether the thing or matter is reasonable or unreasonable, is what a reasonable person would have done, or how the thing or matter has been carried out or otherwise dealt with reasonably or in a reasonable manner, is what a reasonable person would do in the circumstances.

Part 1 Purpose and Application

Purpose

3 The purpose of this Act is to govern the collection, use and disclosure of personal information by organizations in a manner that recognizes both the right of an individual to have his or her personal information protected and the right of organizations to collect, use or disclose personal information for purposes that are reasonable.

Application

4(1) Except as provided in this Act and subject to the regulations, this Act applies to every organization and individual in respect of the collection, use or disclosure of personal information.

(2) Subject to the regulations, this Act does not apply to a public body or any personal information that is in or under the control of a public body.

(3) This Act does not apply to the following:

- (a) the collection, use or disclosure of personal information if the collection, use or disclosure, as the case may be, is for personal or domestic purposes of the individual and for no other purpose;
- (b) the collection, use or disclosure of personal information if the collection, use or disclosure, as the case may be, is for artistic or literary purposes and for no other purpose;
- (c) the collection, use or disclosure of personal information, other than personal employee information used or disclosed pursuant to section 15, 18 or 21, if the collection, use or disclosure, as the case may be, is for journalistic purposes and for no other purpose;
- (d) the collection, use or disclosure of an individual's business contact information if the collection, use or disclosure, as the case may be, is for the purposes of enabling the individual to be contacted in relation to the individual's business responsibilities and for no other purpose;
- (e) personal information that is in the custody of an organization if the *Freedom of Information and Access to Information Act* applies to that information;
- (f) health information as defined in the *Health Information Act* to which that Act applies;
- (g) the collection, use or disclosure of personal information by the following officers of the Legislature if the collection, use or disclosure, as the case may be, relates to the exercise of that officer's functions under the *Legislative Act*:
 - (i) the Auditor General;
 - (ii) the Ombudsman;
 - (iii) the Chief Electoral Officer;
 - (iv) the Ethics Commissioner;
 - (v) the Information and Privacy Commissioner;
- (h) personal information about an individual if the individual has been dead for at least 20 years;
- (i) personal information about an individual that is contained in a record that has been in existence for at least 20 years;
- (j) personal information contained in any record that
 - (i) was transferred to an archival institution before the coming into force of this Act where access to the record is restricted, or
 - (A) was unrestricted before the coming into force of this Act, or

(B) is governed by an agreement entered into by the archival institution and the donor of the record coming into force of this Act,

or

- (ii) is transferred to an archival institution after the coming into force of this Act where access to it is governed by an agreement entered into by the archival institution and the donor of the record before the coming into force of this Act;
 - (k) personal information contained in a court file, a record of a judge of the Court of Appeal of Alberta, the Queen's Bench of Alberta or The Provincial Court of Alberta, a record of a master in chambers of the Queen's Bench of Alberta, a record of a sitting justice of the peace or a presiding justice of the peace under the *Justice of the Peace Act*, a judicial administration record or a record relating to support services provided to judges of any of the courts referred to in this clause;
 - (l) personal information contained in a record of any type that has been created by or for
 - (i) a Member of the Legislative Assembly, or
 - (ii) an elected or appointed member of a public body;
 - (m) the collection, use or disclosure of personal information by, or for, a registered constituency association or a registered party as defined in the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* or in respect of a person in a position in a registered constituency association or a registered party;
 - (n) the collection, use or disclosure of personal information by, or for, an individual who is a bona fide public officer or for an office or a position in a registered constituency association or a registered party under the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* where the information is being collected, used or disclosed as the case may be, for the purposes of campaigning for that office or position and for no other purpose;
 - (o) personal information contained in a personal note, communication or draft decision created by or for a person who is acting in a judicial, quasi-judicial or adjudicative capacity.
- (4) If an organization has under its control personal information about an individual that was acquired prior to 2004, that information, for the purposes of this Act,
- (a) is deemed to have been collected pursuant to consent given by that individual,
 - (b) may be used and disclosed by the organization for the purposes for which the information was collected,
 - (c) after the coming into force of this Act, is to be treated in the same manner as information collected under this Act.
- (5) This Act is not to be applied so as to
- (a) affect any legal privilege,
 - (b) limit the information available by law to a party to a legal proceeding, or
 - (c) limit or affect the collection, use or disclosure of information that is the subject of trust conditions to which a lawyer is subject.
- (6) If a provision of this Act is inconsistent or in conflict with a provision of another enactment, the provision of this Act prevails unless
- (a) the other enactment is the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, or
 - (b) another Act or a regulation under this Act expressly provides that the other Act or a regulation, or a provision of that Act or regulation, prevails notwithstanding this Act.

(7) This Act applies notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, and any waiver or release given of the r protections provided under this Act is against public policy and void.

2003 cP-6.5 s4;200

Part 2 Protection of Personal Information

Division 1 Compliance and Policies

Compliance with Act

- 5(1)** An organization is responsible for personal information that is in its custody or under its control.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, where an organization engages the services of a person, whether as an agen otherwise, the organization is, with respect to those services, responsible for that person's compliance with tl
- (3) An organization must designate one or more individuals to be responsible for ensuring that the organizat with this Act.
- (4) An individual designated under subsection (3) may delegate to one or more individuals the duties confer designation.
- (5) In meeting its responsibilities under this Act, an organization must act in a reasonable manner.
- (6) Nothing in subsection (2) is to be construed so as to relieve any person from that person's responsibilitie under this Act.

Policies and practices

- 6(1)** An organization must develop and follow policies and practices that are reasonable for the organization obligations under this Act.
- (2) If an organization uses a service provider outside Canada to collect, use, disclose or store personal informr behalf of the organization, the policies and practices referred to in subsection (1) must include information re
- (a) the countries outside Canada in which the collection, use, disclosure or storage is occurring or may
 - (b) the purposes for which the service provider outside Canada has been authorized to collect, use or di information for or on behalf of the organization.
- (3) An organization must make written information about the policies and practices referred to in subsection available on request.

2003 c1

Division 2 Consent

Consent required

- 7(1)** Except where this Act provides otherwise, an organization shall not, with respect to personal informatio individual,
- (a) collect that information unless the individual consents to the collection of that information,
 - (b) collect that information from a source other than the individual unless the individual consents to the that information from the other source,
 - (c) use that information unless the individual consents to the use of that information, or
 - (d) disclose that information unless the individual consents to the disclosure of that information.

(2) An organization shall not, as a condition of supplying a product or service, require an individual to consent to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about an individual beyond what is necessary to provide service.

(3) An individual may give a consent subject to any reasonable terms, conditions or qualifications established by or otherwise acceptable to the individual.

Form of consent

8(1) An individual may give his or her consent in writing or orally to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about the individual.

(2) An individual is deemed to consent to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about the organization for a particular purpose if

- (a) the individual, without actually giving a consent referred to in subsection (1), voluntarily provides that information to the organization for that purpose, and
- (b) it is reasonable that a person would voluntarily provide that information.

(2.1) If an individual consents to the disclosure of personal information about the individual by one organization for a particular purpose, the individual is deemed to consent to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information for the particular purpose by that other organization.

(2.2) An individual is deemed to consent to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about the individual by an organization for the purpose of the individual's enrolment in or coverage under an insurance policy, pension plan or a policy, plan or contract that provides for a similar type of coverage or benefit if the individual

- (a) has an interest in or derives a benefit from that policy, plan or contract, and
- (b) is not the applicant for the policy, plan or contract.

(3) Notwithstanding section 7(1), an organization may collect, use or disclose personal information about an individual for a particular purpose if

- (a) the organization
 - (i) provides the individual with a notice, in a form that the individual can reasonably be expected to understand, that the organization intends to collect, use or disclose personal information about the individual for the particular purposes, and
 - (ii) with respect to that notice, gives the individual a reasonable opportunity to decline or object to the collection, use or disclosure of her personal information collected, used or disclosed for those purposes,
- (b) the individual does not, within a reasonable time, give to the organization a response to that notice indicating that she is objecting to the proposed collection, use or disclosure, and
- (c) having regard to the level of the sensitivity, if any, of the information in the circumstances, it is reasonable to expect the organization to collect, use or disclose the information as permitted under clauses (a) and (b).

(4) Subsections (2), (2.1), (2.2) and (3) are not to be construed so as to authorize an organization to collect, use or disclose personal information for any purpose other than the particular purposes for which the information was collected.

(5) Consent in writing may be given or otherwise transmitted by electronic means to an organization if the organization receiving that transmittal produces or is able at any time to produce a printed copy or image or a reproduction of the consent in paper form.

2003 c1

Withdrawal or variation of consent

- 9(1)** Subject to subsection (5), on giving reasonable notice to an organization, an individual may at any time vary consent to the collection, use or disclosure by the organization of personal information about the individual.
- (2)** On receipt of notice referred to in subsection (1), an organization must, subject to subsection (3), inform of the likely consequences to the individual of withdrawing or varying the consent.
- (3)** An organization is not required to inform an individual under subsection (2) if the likely consequences of varying the consent would be reasonably obvious to the individual.
- (4)** Except where the collection, use or disclosure of personal information without consent of the individual under this Act, if an individual withdraws or varies a consent to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about the individual by an organization, the organization must,
- (a)** in the case of the withdrawal of a consent, stop collecting, using or disclosing the information, and
 - (b)** in the case of a variation of a consent, abide by the consent as varied.
- (5)** If withdrawing or varying a consent would frustrate the performance of a legal obligation, any withdrawal of the consent does not, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties who are subject to the legal obligation, operate so that the withdrawal or variation would frustrate the performance of the legal obligation owed between those parties.
- (6)** A withdrawal or variation of a consent by an individual may be given to an organization in the same manner as consent may be given.
- (7)** An individual may, subject to this section, withdraw or vary a consent subject to any reasonable terms, conditions or qualifications established, set, approved by or otherwise acceptable to the individual.
- (8)** Nothing in this section is to be construed so as to empower
- (a)** an individual, as part of the withdrawal or variation of a consent, to impose an obligation or a liability on an organization unless the organization agrees otherwise, or
 - (b)** an organization, as part of the withdrawal or variation of a consent, to impose an obligation or liability on an individual unless the individual agrees otherwise.

Consent obtained by deception, etc.

- 10** If an organization obtains or attempts to obtain consent to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about an individual,
- (a)** providing false or misleading information respecting the collection, use or disclosure of the information,
 - (b)** using deceptive or misleading practices,
- any consent provided or obtained under those circumstances is negated.

Division 3

Collection of Personal Information

Limitations on collection

- 11(1)** An organization may collect personal information only for purposes that are reasonable.
- (2)** Where an organization collects personal information, it may do so only to the extent that is reasonable for the purposes for which the information is collected.

Limitation on sources for collection

12 An organization may without the consent of the individual collect personal information about an individual source other than that individual if the information that is to be collected is information that may be collected with the consent of the individual under section 14, 15 or 22.

Notification required for collection

13(1) Before or at the time of collecting personal information about an individual from the individual, an organization must notify that individual in writing or orally

- (a) as to the purposes for which the information is collected, and
- (b) of the name or position name or title of a person who is able to answer on behalf of the organization the individual's questions about the collection.

(2) Repealed 2009 c50 s6.

(3) Before or at the time personal information about an individual is collected from another organization with the consent of the individual, the organization collecting the personal information must provide the organization that is disclosing the personal information with sufficient information regarding the purpose for which the personal information is collected in order to allow the organization that is disclosing the personal information to make a determination as to whether the disclosure of the personal information would be in accordance with this Act.

(4) Subsection (1) does not apply to the collection of personal information that is carried out pursuant to section 2003 cP-

Notification respecting service provider outside Canada

13.1(1) Subject to the regulations, an organization that uses a service provider outside Canada to collect personal information about an individual for or on behalf of the organization with the consent of the individual must notify the individual in accordance with subsection (3).

(2) Subject to the regulations, an organization that, directly or indirectly, transfers to a service provider outside Canada personal information about an individual that was collected with the individual's consent must notify the individual in accordance with subsection (3).

(3) An organization referred to in subsection (1) or (2) must, before or at the time of collecting or transferring personal information, notify the individual in writing or orally of

- (a) the way in which the individual may obtain access to written information about the organization's practices with respect to service providers outside Canada, and
- (b) the name or position name or title of a person who is able to answer on behalf of the organization the individual's questions about the collection, use, disclosure or storage of personal information by service providers for or on behalf of the organization.

(4) The notice required under this section is in addition to any notice required under section 13.

Collection without consent

14 An organization may collect personal information about an individual without the consent of that individual if one or more of the following are applicable:

- (a) a reasonable person would consider that the collection of the information is clearly in the interests of the individual and consent of the individual cannot be obtained in a timely way or the individual would not reasonably expect to withhold consent;
- (b) the collection of the information is authorized or required by
 - (i) a statute of Alberta or of Canada,

- (ii) a regulation of Alberta or a regulation of Canada,
 - (iii) a bylaw of a local government body, or
 - (iv) a legislative instrument of a professional regulatory organization;
- (b.1) the collection of the information is pursuant to a form that is approved or otherwise provided for under a regulation of Alberta or a regulation of Alberta;
- (c) the collection of the information is from a public body and that public body is authorized or requires the enactment of Alberta or Canada to disclose the information to the organization;
- (c.1) the collection of the information is necessary to comply with a collective agreement that is binding on the organization under section 128 of the *Labour Relations Code*;
- (c.2) the collection of the information is necessary to comply with an audit or inspection of or by the organization; the audit or inspection is authorized or required by
- (i) a statute of Alberta or of Canada, or
 - (ii) a regulation of Alberta or a regulation of Canada;
- (c.3) the collection of the information is by an organization for the purposes of conducting an audit of an organization, other than an audit referred to in clause (c.2), and it is not practicable to collect non-identifiable information for the purposes of the audit;
- (d) the collection of the information is reasonable for the purposes of an investigation or a legal proceeding;
- (e) the information is publicly available as prescribed or otherwise determined by the regulations;
- (f) the collection of the information is necessary to determine the individual's suitability to receive an award or similar benefit, including an honorary degree, scholarship or bursary;
- (g) the information is collected by a credit reporting organization to create a credit report where the individual has consented to the disclosure to the credit reporting organization by the organization that originally collected the information;
- (h) the information may be disclosed to the organization without the consent of the individual under section 15 or 22;
- (i) the collection of the information is necessary in order to collect a debt owed to the organization or to allow the organization to repay to the individual money owed by the organization;
- (j) the organization collecting the information is an archival institution and the collection of the information is reasonable for archival purposes or research;
- (k) the collection of the information meets the requirements respecting archival purposes or research set out in the regulations and it is not reasonable to obtain the consent of the individual whom the information is about;
- (l) the collection of the information is in accordance with section 15 or 22.

2003 cP-

Collection of personal employee information

15(1) An organization may collect personal employee information about an individual without the consent of the individual if

- (a) the information is collected solely for the purposes of
 - (i) establishing, managing or terminating an employment or volunteer-work relationship, or
 - (ii) managing a post-employment or post-volunteer-work relationship,

between the organization and the individual,

- (b) it is reasonable to collect the information for the particular purpose for which it is being collected, and
- (c) in the case of an individual who is a current employee of the organization, the organization has, before collecting the information, provided the individual with reasonable notification that personal employee information about the individual is going to be collected and of the purposes for which the information is going to be collected.

(2) Nothing in this section is to be construed so as to restrict or otherwise affect an organization's ability to collect or use personal information under section 14.

2003 cP-

Division 4 Use of Personal Information

Limitations on use

16(1) An organization may use personal information only for purposes that are reasonable.

(2) Where an organization uses personal information, it may do so only to the extent that is reasonable for the purposes for which the information is used.

Use without consent

17 An organization may use personal information about an individual without the consent of the individual if one or more of the following are applicable:

- (a) a reasonable person would consider that the use of the information is clearly in the interests of the individual and the consent of the individual cannot be obtained in a timely way or the individual would not reasonably be expected to withhold consent;
- (b) the use of the information is authorized or required by
 - (i) a statute of Alberta or of Canada,
 - (ii) a regulation of Alberta or a regulation of Canada,
 - (iii) a bylaw of a local government body, or
 - (iv) a legislative instrument of a professional regulatory organization;
- (b.1) the use of the information is for the purpose for which the information was collected pursuant to a function that is approved or otherwise provided for under a statute of Alberta or a regulation of Alberta;
- (c) the information was collected by the organization from a public body and that public body is authorized to disclose the information to the organization by an enactment of Alberta or Canada;
 - (c.1) the use of the information is necessary to comply with a collective agreement that is binding on the organization under section 128 of the *Labour Relations Code*;
 - (c.2) the use of the information is necessary to comply with an audit or inspection of or by the organization, and the audit or inspection is authorized or required by
 - (i) a statute of Alberta or of Canada, or
 - (ii) a regulation of Alberta or a regulation of Canada;
 - (c.3) the use of the information is for the purposes of an audit of or by the organization, other than an audit or inspection under clause (c.2), and it is not practicable to use non-identifying information for the purposes of the audit;
- (d) the use of the information is reasonable for the purposes of an investigation or a legal proceeding;

- (e) the information is publicly available as prescribed or otherwise determined by the regulations;
- (f) the use of the information is necessary to determine the individual's suitability to receive an honour similar benefit, including an honorary degree, scholarship or bursary;
- (g) a credit reporting organization was permitted to collect the information under section 14(g) and the information was not used by the credit reporting organization for any purpose other than to create a credit report;
- (h) the information may be disclosed by an organization without the consent of the individual under section 17;
- (i) the use of the information is necessary to respond to an emergency that threatens the life, health or safety of the individual or the public;
- (j) the use of the information is necessary in order to collect a debt owed to the organization or for the repayment to the individual of money owed by the organization;
- (k) the organization using the information is an archival institution and the use of the information is reasonable for archival purposes or research;
- (l) the use of the information meets the requirements respecting archival purposes or research set out in section 17 and it is not reasonable to obtain the consent of the individual whom the information is about;
- (m) the use of the information is in accordance with section 18 or 22.

2003 cP--

Use of personal employee information

18(1) An organization may use personal employee information about an individual without the consent of the individual if:

- (a) the information is used solely for the purposes of
 - (i) establishing, managing or terminating an employment or volunteer-work relationship, or
 - (ii) managing a post-employment or post-volunteer-work relationship,
 between the organization and the individual,
- (b) it is reasonable to use the information for the particular purpose for which it is being used, and
- (c) in the case of an individual who is a current employee of the organization, the organization has, before using the information, provided the individual with reasonable notification that personal employee information about the individual is going to be used and of the purposes for which the information is going to be used.

(2) Nothing in this section is to be construed so as to restrict or otherwise affect an organization's ability to use personal information under section 17.

2003 cP--

Division 5 Disclosure of Personal Information

Limitations on disclosure

19(1) An organization may disclose personal information only for purposes that are reasonable.

(2) Where an organization discloses personal information, it may do so only to the extent that is reasonable for the purposes for which the information is disclosed.

Disclosure without consent

20 An organization may disclose personal information about an individual without the consent of the individual if one or more of the following are applicable:

- (a) a reasonable person would consider that the disclosure of the information is clearly in the interests of the individual and consent of the individual cannot be obtained in a timely way or the individual would not reasonably consent to withhold consent;
- (b) the disclosure of the information is authorized or required by
 - (i) a statute of Alberta or of Canada,
 - (ii) a regulation of Alberta or a regulation of Canada,
 - (iii) a bylaw of a local government body, or
 - (iv) a legislative instrument of a professional regulatory organization;
- (b.1) the disclosure of the information is for a purpose for which the information was collected pursuant to a statute of Alberta or a regulation of Alberta approved or otherwise provided for under a statute of Alberta or a regulation of Alberta;
- (c) the disclosure of the information is to a public body and that public body is authorized or required by a statute of Alberta or Canada to collect the information from the organization;
- (c.1) the disclosure of the information is necessary to comply with a collective agreement that is binding on the organization under section 128 of the *Labour Relations Code*;
- (c.2) the disclosure of the information is necessary to comply with an audit or inspection of or by the organization and the audit or inspection is authorized or required by
 - (i) a statute of Alberta or of Canada, or
 - (ii) a regulation of Alberta or a regulation of Canada;
- (c.3) the disclosure of the information is
 - (i) to an organization conducting an audit, other than an audit referred to in clause (c.2), by the organization audited, or
 - (ii) by an organization conducting an audit, other than an audit referred to in clause (c.2), to the organization audited
 - for a purpose relating to the audit and it is not practicable to disclose non-identifying information from the audit;
- (d) the disclosure of the information is in accordance with a provision of a treaty that
 - (i) authorizes or requires its disclosure, and
 - (ii) is made under an enactment of Alberta or Canada;
- (e) the disclosure of the information is for the purpose of complying with a subpoena, warrant or order issued by a court, person or body having jurisdiction to compel the production of information or with a rule of court that relates to the production of information;
- (f) the disclosure of the information is to a public body or a law enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation
 - (i) undertaken with a view to a law enforcement proceeding, or
 - (ii) from which a law enforcement proceeding is likely to result;
- (g) the disclosure of the information is necessary to respond to an emergency that threatens the life, health or safety of an individual or the public;

- (h) the disclosure of the information is for the purposes of contacting the next of kin or a friend of an ir deceased individual;
- (i) the disclosure of the information is necessary in order to collect a debt owed to the organization or organization to repay to the individual money owed by the organization;
- (j) the information is publicly available as prescribed or otherwise determined by the regulations;
- (k) the disclosure of the information is to the surviving spouse or adult interdependent partner or to a re deceased individual if, in the opinion of the organization, the disclosure is reasonable;
- (l) the disclosure of the information is necessary to determine the individual's suitability to receive an or similar benefit, including an honorary degree, scholarship or bursary;
- (m) the disclosure of the information is reasonable for the purposes of an investigation or a legal procee
- (n) the disclosure of the information is for the purposes of protecting against, or for the prevention, det suppression of, fraud, and the information is disclosed to or by
 - (i) an organization that is permitted or otherwise empowered or recognized to carry out any of the under
 - (A) a statute of Alberta or of Canada or of another province of Canada,
 - (B) a regulation of Alberta, a regulation of Canada or similar subordinate legislation of another Canada that, if enacted in Alberta, would constitute a regulation of Alberta, or
 - (C) an order made by a Minister under a statute or regulation referred to in paragraph (A) or (B)
 - (ii) Investigative Services, a division of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, or
 - (iii) the Canadian Bankers Association, Bank Crime Prevention and Investigation Office;
- (o) the organization is a credit reporting organization and is permitted to disclose the information unde *Fair Trading Act*;
- (p) the organization disclosing the information is an archival institution and the disclosure of the inform reasonable for archival purposes or research;
- (q) the disclosure of the information meets the requirements respecting archival purposes or research se regulations and it is not reasonable to obtain the consent of the individual whom the information is ab
- (r) the disclosure is in accordance with section 21 or 22.

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Disclosure of personal employee information

21(1) An organization may disclose personal employee information about an individual without the consent individual if

- (a) the information is disclosed solely for the purposes of
 - (i) establishing, managing or terminating an employment or volunteer-work relationship, or
 - (ii) managing a post-employment or post-volunteer-work relationship,
 - between the organization and the individual,
- (b) it is reasonable to disclose the information for the particular purpose for which it is being disclosed.

- (c) in the case of an individual who is a current employee of the organization, the organization has, before the information, provided the individual with reasonable notification that personal information about the individual is going to be disclosed and of the purposes for which the information is going to be disclosed.
- (2) An organization may disclose personal information about an individual who is a current or former employee of the organization to a potential or current employer of the individual without the consent of the individual if
- the personal information that is being disclosed was collected by the organization as personal information, and
 - the disclosure is reasonable for the purpose of assisting that employer to determine the individual's suitability for a position with that employer.
- (3) Nothing in this section is to be construed so as to restrict or otherwise affect an organization's ability to collect, use and disclose personal information under section 20.

2003 cP-

Division 6 Business Transactions

Disclosure respecting acquisition of a business, etc.

22(1) In this section,

- "business transaction" means a transaction consisting of the purchase, sale, lease, merger or amalgamation or other type of acquisition or disposal of, or the taking of a security interest in respect of, an organization or any business or activity or business asset of an organization and includes a prospecting transaction of such a nature;
 - "party" includes a prospective party.
- (2) An organization may, for the purposes of a business transaction between itself and one or more other organizations, collect, use and disclose personal information in accordance with this section.
- (3) Organizations that are parties to a business transaction may,
- during the period leading up to and including the completion, if any, of the business transaction, collect, use and disclose personal information about individuals without the consent of the individuals if
 - the parties have entered into an agreement under which the collection, use and disclosure of the information is restricted to those purposes that relate to the business transaction, and
 - the information is necessary
 - for the parties to determine whether to proceed with the business transaction, and
 - if the determination is to proceed with the business transaction, for the parties to carry out a business transaction,
- and
- where the business transaction is completed, collect, use and disclose personal information about individuals without the consent of the individuals if
 - the parties have entered into an agreement under which the parties undertake to use and disclose the information only for those purposes for which the information was initially collected from or in respect of the individuals, and
 - the information relates solely to the carrying on of the business or activity or the carrying out of the business transaction in which the business transaction took place.

(4) If a business transaction does not proceed or is not completed, the party to whom the personal information must, if the information is still in the custody of or under the control of that party, either destroy the information over to the party that disclosed the information.

(5) Nothing in this section is to be construed so as to restrict a party to a business transaction from obtaining individual to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about the individual for purposes that a purposes for which the party obtained the information under this section.

(6) This section does not apply to a business transaction where the primary purpose, objective or result of the purchase, sale, lease, transfer, disposal or disclosure of personal information.

2003 cP-

Part 3 Access to and Correction and Care of Personal Information

Division 1 Access and Correction

Definitions

23 In this Division,

- (a) “applicant” means an individual who makes a written request in accordance with section 26;
- (b) “organization” does not include any person acting on behalf of an organization.

Access to records and provision of information

24(1) An individual may, in accordance with section 26, request an organization

- (a) to provide the individual with access to personal information about the individual, or
- (b) to provide the individual with information about the use or disclosure of personal information about

(1.1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), on the request of an applicant made under subsection (1)(a) and taking into consideration what is reasonable, an organization must provide the applicant with access to the applicant’s personal information where that information is contained in a record that is in the custody or under the control of the organization.

(1.2) On the request of an applicant made under subsection (1)(b), and taking into consideration what is reasonable, an organization must, if the organization has in its custody or under its control a record containing personal information about the applicant described in the request, provide the applicant with

- (a) information about the purposes for which the personal information has been and is being used by the organization and
- (b) the names of the persons to whom and circumstances in which the personal information has been and is being disclosed.

(2) An organization may refuse to provide access to personal information under subsection (1) if

- (a) the information is protected by any legal privilege;
- (b) the disclosure of the information would reveal confidential information that is of a commercial nature and it is unreasonable to withhold that information;
- (c) the information was collected for an investigation or legal proceeding;
- (d) the disclosure of the information might result in that type of information no longer being provided to the organization when it is reasonable that that type of information would be provided;

- (e) the information was collected by a mediator or arbitrator or was created in the conduct of a mediation for which the mediator or arbitrator was appointed to act
 - (i) under an agreement,
 - (ii) under a statute of Alberta or of Canada or of another province of Canada,
 - (iii) under a regulation of Alberta, a regulation of Canada or similar subordinate legislation of another province of Canada that, if enacted in Alberta, would constitute a regulation of Alberta,
 - (iv) under a legislative instrument of a professional regulatory organization, or
 - (v) by a court;
 - (f) the information relates to or may be used in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.
- (3) An organization shall not provide access to personal information under subsection (1) if
- (a) the disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to threaten the life or security of another individual;
 - (b) the information would reveal personal information about another individual;
 - (c) the information would reveal the identity of an individual who has in confidence provided an opinion to another individual and the individual providing the opinion does not consent to disclosure of his or her identity.
- (4) If an organization is reasonably able to sever the information referred to in subsection (2)(b) or (3)(a), (b) or (c), the organization must provide the applicant with a copy of the record that contains personal information about the applicant, the organization must provide the applicant with access to the part of the record containing the personal information after the information referred to in subsection (2)(b) or (3)(a), (b) or (c) has been severed.

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Right to request correction

- 25(1)** An individual may, in accordance with section 26, request an organization to correct an error or omission in personal information about the individual that is under the control of the organization.
- (2) If there is an error or omission in personal information in respect of which a request for a correction is received by an organization under subsection (1), the organization must, subject to subsection (3),
- (a) correct the information as soon as reasonably possible, and
 - (b) where the organization has disclosed the incorrect information to other organizations, send a notification of the corrected information to each organization to which the incorrect information has been disclosed, if it is reasonable to do so.
- (3) If an organization makes a determination not to make the correction under subsection (2)(a), the organization must annotate the personal information under its control with the correction that was requested but not made.
- (4) On receiving a notification under subsection (2)(b) containing corrected personal information, an organization must correct the personal information in its custody or under its control.
- (5) Notwithstanding anything in this section, an organization shall not correct or otherwise alter an opinion, professional or expert opinion.

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How to make a request

- 26(1)** A request under section 24(1) or 25(1) must
- (a) be in writing, and

- (b) include sufficient detail to enable the organization, with a reasonable effort, to identify any record i under the control of the organization containing the personal information in respect of which the requ
- (2) An applicant who is requesting access to personal information under section 24(1)(a) may ask for a copy containing the personal information or to examine the record.

2003 cP--

Duty to assist**27(1)** An organization must

- (a) make every reasonable effort
 - (i) to assist applicants, and
 - (ii) to respond to each applicant as accurately and completely as reasonably possible,
- and
- (b) at the request of an applicant making a request under section 24(1)(a) provide, if it is reasonable to explanation of any term, code or abbreviation used in any record provided to the applicant or that is re
- (2) An organization must, with respect to an applicant making a request under section 24(1)(a), create a recc applicant if
 - (a) the record can be created from a record that is in electronic form and that is under the control of the using its normal computer hardware and software and technical expertise, and
 - (b) creating the record would not unreasonably interfere with the operations of the organization.

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Time limit for responding**28(1)** Subject to this section, an organization must respond to an applicant not later than

- (a) 45 days from the day that the organization receives the applicant's written request referred to in sec
- (b) the end of an extended time period if the time period is extended under section 31.
- (2) An organization is not required to comply with subsection (1)(a) if the time period is extended under sec
- (2.1) The failure of an organization to respond to a request in accordance with subsection (1) is to be treated refuse the request.
- (3) If an organization asks the Commissioner under section 37 for authorization to disregard a request, the 4 referred to in subsection (1) does not include the period from the start of the day in which the request is made 37 to the end of the day in which a decision is made by the Commissioner with respect to giving the authoriz
- (4) If an applicant asks the Commissioner under section 46 to review a fee estimate, the 45-day period refer subsection (1) does not include the period from the start of the day in which the applicant asks for the review the day in which the decision is made by the Commissioner with respect to the review.

2003 cP--

Contents of response**29(1)** In a response to a request made under section 24(1)(a), the organization must inform the applicant

- (a) as to whether or not the applicant is entitled to or will be given access to all or part of his or her per information,
- (b) if the applicant is entitled to or will be given access, when access will be given, and
- (c) if access to all or part of the applicant's personal information is refused,

- (i) of the reasons for the refusal and the provision of this Act on which the refusal is based,
- (ii) of the name of the person who can answer on behalf of the organization the applicant's question of refusal, and
- (iii) that the applicant may ask for a review under section 46.

(2) In response to a request made under section 24(1)(b), the organization must

- (a) provide the applicant with
 - (i) information about the purposes for which the personal information has been and is being used by the organization, and
 - (ii) the names of the persons to whom and circumstances in which the personal information has been disclosed,

or

- (b) if the organization refuses to provide the information referred to in clause (a), inform the applicant
 - (i) of the name of the person who can answer on behalf of the organization the applicant's question of refusal, and
 - (ii) that the applicant may ask for a review under section 46.

(3) In response to a request made under section 25(1), the organization must inform the applicant

- (a) of the action taken under section 25,
- (b) of the name of the person who can answer on behalf of the organization the applicant's questions and for correction, and
- (c) that the applicant may ask for a review under section 46.

2003 cP-

How access will be given

30 Where an applicant is informed under section 29(1) that access to the applicant's personal information by the organization must,

- (a) if the applicant has asked for a copy of the applicant's personal information and the information cannot be reproduced,
 - (i) provide with the response a copy of the record or the part of the record containing the information,
 - (ii) give the applicant reasons for the delay in providing the information or record,

or

- (b) if the applicant has asked to examine the record containing the applicant's personal information or if the information cannot reasonably be reproduced,
 - (i) permit the applicant to examine the record or part of the record, or
 - (ii) give the applicant access in accordance with the regulations.

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Extending the time limit for responding

31(1) An organization may, with respect to a request made under section 24(1)(a) or (b), extend the time period for responding to the request by up to an additional 30 days or, with the Commissioner's permission, to a longer period if:

- (a) the applicant does not give sufficient detail to enable the organization to identify the record containing the information,
- (b) a large amount of personal information is requested or must be searched,
- (c) meeting the time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the organization, or
- (d) more time is needed to consult with another organization, a public body or a government or an agency of a government of a jurisdiction in Canada before the organization is able to determine whether or not to grant the applicant access to the requested personal information or to provide information about the use or disclosure of the personal information.

(2) If the time period is extended under subsection (1), the organization must inform the applicant of the following:

- (a) the reason for the extension;
- (b) the time when a response from the organization can be expected;
- (c) that the applicant may ask for a review under section 46.

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Fees

32(1) Subject to subsection (1.1), an organization may charge an applicant who makes a request under section 24(1)(a) or (b) a reasonable fee for access to the applicant's personal information or for information about the use or disclosure of the applicant's personal information.

(1.1) An organization may not charge a fee in respect of a request for personal employee information.

(2) An organization may not charge a fee in respect of a request made under section 25(1).

(3) If an organization is intending to charge an applicant a fee for a service, the organization

- (a) must give the applicant a written estimate of the total fee before providing the service, and
- (b) may require the applicant to pay a deposit in the amount determined by the organization.

2003 cP-

Division 2 Care of Personal Information

Accuracy of information

33 An organization must make a reasonable effort to ensure that any personal information collected, used or disclosed on behalf of an organization is accurate and complete to the extent that is reasonable for the organization's purposes in collecting, using or disclosing the information.

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Protection of information

34 An organization must protect personal information that is in its custody or under its control by making reasonable security arrangements against such risks as unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure, copying, modification or destruction.

Notification of loss or unauthorized access or disclosure

34.1(1) An organization having personal information under its control must, without unreasonable delay, notify the Commissioner of any incident involving the loss of or unauthorized access to or disclosure of the personal information.

where a reasonable person would consider that there exists a real risk of significant harm to an individual as loss or unauthorized access or disclosure.

(2) A notice to the Commissioner under subsection (1) must include the information prescribed by the regul.

Retention and destruction of Information

35(1) An organization may retain personal information only for as long as the organization reasonably requires the information for legal or business purposes.

(2) Within a reasonable period of time after an organization no longer reasonably requires personal information for business purposes, the organization must

- (a) destroy the records containing the personal information, or
- (b) render the personal information non-identifying so that it can no longer be used to identify an individual.

(3) Subsection (1) applies notwithstanding any withdrawal or variation of the consent of the individual that the information is about under section 9.

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Part 4 Role of Commissioner

General powers of Commissioner

36(1) In addition to the Commissioner's powers and duties under Part 5 with respect to reviews, the Commissioner is generally responsible for monitoring how this Act is administered to ensure that its purposes are achieved, and

- (a) conduct investigations to ensure compliance with any provision of this Act;
- (b) make an order described in section 52 whether or not a review is requested;
- (c) inform the public about this Act;
- (d) receive comments from the public concerning the administration of this Act;
- (e) engage in or commission research into anything affecting the achievement of the purposes of this Act;
- (f) comment on the implications for protection of personal information in relation to existing or proposed organizations;
- (g) bring to the attention of an organization any failure by the organization to assist applicants as required by section 27;
- (h) give advice and recommendations of general application to an organization on matters respecting the obligations of an organization under this Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Commissioner may investigate and attempt to resolve complaints that

- (a) a duty imposed by section 27 has not been performed;
- (b) an extension of a time period under section 31 for responding to a request is not justified;
- (c) a fee estimated or required by an organization under this Act is inappropriate;
- (d) a correction of personal information requested under section 25 has been refused without justification.

- (e) personal information has been collected, used or disclosed by an organization in contravention of the circumstances that are not in compliance with this Act;
 - (e.1) notification of an incident described in section 34.1 has not been provided in accordance with this Act;
 - (f) an organization is not in compliance with this Act.
- (3) The Commissioner may, on request, give advance rulings in respect of any matters that are or could potentially be subject of an investigation by the Commissioner under this Act.

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Power to authorize an organization to disregard requests

37 If an organization asks, the Commissioner may authorize the organization to disregard one or more requests under section 24 or 25 if

- (a) because of their repetitious or systematic nature, the requests would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the organization or amount to an abuse of the right to make those requests, or
- (b) one or more of the requests are frivolous or vexatious.

Power to require notification

37.1(1) Where an organization suffers a loss of or unauthorized access to or disclosure of personal information and the organization is required to provide notice of the loss or unauthorized access or disclosure under section 34.1, the Commissioner may require the organization to notify individuals to whom there is a real risk of significant harm as a result of the loss or unauthorized access or disclosure

- (a) in a form and manner prescribed by the regulations, and
- (b) within a time period determined by the Commissioner.

(2) If the Commissioner requires an organization to notify individuals under subsection (1), the Commissioner may require the organization to satisfy any terms or conditions that the Commissioner considers appropriate in addition to the requirements under subsection (1).

(3) The Commissioner must establish an expedited process for determining whether to require an organization to notify individuals under subsection (1) in circumstances where the real risk of significant harm to an individual as a result of a loss or unauthorized access or disclosure is obvious and immediate.

(4) The Commissioner may require an organization to provide any additional information that the Commissioner considers necessary to determine whether to require the organization to notify individuals under subsection (1)

- (a) to notify individuals under subsection (1), or
- (b) to satisfy terms and conditions under subsection (2).

(5) An organization must comply with a requirement

- (a) to provide additional information under subsection (4),
- (b) to notify individuals under subsection (1), or
- (c) to satisfy terms and conditions under subsection (2).

(6) The Commissioner has exclusive jurisdiction to require an organization

- (a) to provide additional information under subsection (4),
- (b) to notify individuals under subsection (1), or
- (c) to satisfy terms or conditions under subsection (2).

(7) Nothing in this section is to be construed so as to restrict an organization's ability to notify individuals of the loss of or unauthorized access to or disclosure of personal information.

Powers of Commissioner re investigations or inquiries

38(1) In conducting an investigation under section 36 or an inquiry under section 50, the Commissioner has privileges and immunities of a commissioner under the *Public Inquiries Act* and the powers given by subsection section.

(2) The Commissioner may require any record to be produced to the Commissioner and may examine any record, including personal information, whether or not the record is subject to this Act.

(3) Notwithstanding any other enactment or any privilege of the law of evidence, an organization must produce to the Commissioner within 10 days any record or a copy of any record required under subsection (1) or (2).

(4) If an organization is required to produce a record under subsection (1) or (2) and it is not reasonable to produce the record, the organization may require the Commissioner to examine the original record at its site.

(5) After completing a review or investigating a complaint, the Commissioner must return any record or any record produced.

(6) The Commissioner may publish any finding or decision in a complete or an abridged form.

Legal privilege not affected

38.1 If a legal privilege, including solicitor-client privilege, applies to information disclosed to the Commissioner's request under section 37.1 or section 38, the legal privilege is not affected by the disclosure

Statements not admissible in evidence

39(1) A statement made or an answer given by a person during an investigation or inquiry by the Commissioner is inadmissible in evidence in court or in any other proceeding, except

- (a) in a prosecution for perjury in respect of sworn testimony,
- (b) in a prosecution for an offence under this Act, or
- (c) in an application for judicial review or an appeal from a decision with respect to an application for judgment

(1.1) The Commissioner and anyone acting for or under the direction of the Commissioner shall not give or receive evidence in a court or in any other proceeding in respect of any information obtained in performing their duties and functions under this Act, except in the circumstances set out in subsection (1)(a) to (c).

(2) Subsections (1) and (1.1) apply also in respect of evidence of the existence of proceedings conducted before the Commissioner.

(3) Subsection (2) is not to be construed so as to restrict an individual's ability to commence an action under section 37.1.

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Privileged information

40 Anything said, any information supplied or any record produced by a person during an investigation or inquiry by the Commissioner is privileged in the same manner as if the investigation or inquiry were a proceeding in a court.

Restrictions on disclosure of information

41(1) The Commissioner and anyone acting for or under the direction of the Commissioner shall not disclose any information obtained in performing their duties, powers and functions under this Act, except as provided in subsections (2) to (4).

(2) The Commissioner may disclose, or may authorize anyone acting for or under the direction of the Commissioner to disclose, information that is necessary for the purposes of

- (a) conducting an investigation or inquiry under this Act, or
- (b) establishing the grounds for findings and recommendations contained in a report under this Act.

(3) In conducting an investigation or inquiry under this Act and in a report under this Act, the Commissioner acting for or under the direction of the Commissioner must take every reasonable precaution to avoid disclosing, any information that an organization would be required or permitted to refuse access to if access to that information were requested under section 24(1)(a).

(3.1) Subject to subsection (3.2), the Commissioner may disclose to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General information relating to the commission of an offence under an enactment of Alberta or Canada if the Commissioner considers there is evidence of an offence.

(3.2) The Commissioner shall not disclose information under subsection (3.1) if the information is subject to a privilege.

(4) The Commissioner may disclose, or may authorize anyone acting for or under the direction of the Commissioner to disclose, information in the course of a prosecution, application or appeal referred to in section 39.

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Protection of Commissioner and staff

42 No proceedings lie against the Commissioner, or against anyone acting for or under the direction of the Commissioner for anything done, reported or said in good faith in the exercise or performance or the intended exercise or performance of a duty, power or function under this Part or Part 5.

Delegation by the Commissioner

43(1) The Commissioner may delegate to any person any duty, power or function of the Commissioner under this Act, except the power to delegate.

(2) A delegation under subsection (1) must be in writing and may contain any conditions or restrictions that the Commissioner considers appropriate.

Extra-provincial commissioner

43.1(1) In this section,

- (a) “extra-provincial commissioner” means a person who, in respect of Canada or in respect of another province or territory of Canada, has duties, powers and functions similar to those of the Commissioner;
- (b) “information protection statute” means a statute of Canada or of another province or territory of Canada the purpose of which is similar to the purpose of this Act as set out in section 3.

(2) The Commissioner may, where the Commissioner considers it appropriate to do so, do one or more of the following:

- (a) consult with or enter into agreements with extra-provincial commissioners with respect to matters that arise under this Act or other information protection statutes;
- (b) subject to clause (d), make a delegation under section 43 to an extra-provincial commissioner;
- (c) accept a delegation from an extra-provincial commissioner of any power, duty or function of the Commissioner that is provided for under an information protection statute;
- (d) in the case of a matter that is the subject of an investigation or a review referred to in section 36 or 37 or referred to in section 50 and that also comes within the jurisdiction of an extra-provincial commissioner, refer the matter to that extra-provincial commissioner for the purposes of conducting an investigation, a review

- (e) in the case of a matter that comes within the jurisdiction of an extra-provincial commissioner, refer that extra-provincial commissioner for the purposes of having the matter dealt with;
 - (f) in the case of a matter that comes within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, accept a referral of that matter to an extra-provincial commissioner for the purposes of dealing with the matter;
 - (g) notwithstanding anything in section 41, disclose information for the purposes of exercising or performing a power, duty or function pursuant to clauses (a) to (f);
 - (h) notwithstanding anything in section 41, collect, use and disclose personal information about an individual without the consent of the individual for the purposes of exercising or performing any power, duty or function under this section.
- (3) Notwithstanding section 36, 46 or 50, where, under subsection (2)(d), the Commissioner delegates a matter to an extra-provincial commissioner, the matter is not to be further dealt with under section 36, 46 or 50, as the case may be, at any time during which the delegation remains in effect.

Annual report of Commissioner

- 44(1)** The Commissioner must report annually to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on
- (a) the work of the Commissioner's office under this Act, and
 - (b) any other matters relating to protection of personal information that the Commissioner considers appropriate.
- (2) The Speaker must lay each annual report before the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible.

Part 5 Reviews and Orders

Definition

- 45** In this Part, "review" means a review asked for under section 46.

Right to ask for a review or initiate a complaint

- 46(1)** An individual who makes a request to an organization respecting personal information about that individual may request the Commissioner to review any decision, act or failure to act of the organization.
- (2) An individual may initiate a complaint with respect to the issues referred to in section 36(2).
- (3) If the Commissioner is satisfied that there are other grievance, complaint or review procedures available to an individual for resolving issues for which a review may be requested or a complaint may be initiated under this Part, the Commissioner may require that an individual asking for a review or initiating a complaint under this Part must first exhaust those procedures with a view to resolving the matter before the Commissioner proceeds to hear or otherwise deal with the review or complaint.

How to ask for a review or initiate a complaint

- 47(1)** To ask for a review or initiate a complaint under this Part, an individual must,
- (a) in the case of a request for a review, deliver a written request for review to the Commissioner, or
 - (b) in the case of a complaint, deliver a written complaint to the Commissioner.
- (2) A written request for review to the Commissioner for a review of a decision of an organization must be delivered to the Commissioner
- (a) 30 days from the day that the individual asking for the review is notified of the decision, or
 - (b) a longer period allowed by the Commissioner.

(3) A written complaint to the Commissioner about an organization must be delivered within a reasonable time.

(4) The time limit in subsection (2)(a) does not apply to delivering a written request for a review concerning an organization's failure to respond to a request for access to personal information within a required time period.

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Notifying others of review or complaint

48(1) On receiving a written request for a review, the Commissioner must give a copy of the written request

- (a) the organization concerned, and
- (b) any other person that the Commissioner considers appropriate.

(2) On receiving a written complaint, the Commissioner may give a copy of the written complaint to

- (a) the organization concerned, and
- (b) any other person that the Commissioner considers appropriate.

(3) The Commissioner may sever any information contained in a written request for review or written complaint that the Commissioner considers appropriate before giving a copy of the written request for review or written complaint to the organization or other person under subsection (1) or (2).

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Mediation

49 The Commissioner may authorize a person to investigate and attempt to mediate and, where possible, to settle a matter under review or relating to a complaint.

Refusal to conduct or continue investigation or review

49.1(1) Without limiting section 36(2), the Commissioner may refuse to conduct an investigation or review or to discontinue an investigation or review if the Commissioner is of the opinion that

- (a) the written request for review or the written complaint is frivolous or vexatious or is not made in good faith,
- (b) the circumstances warrant refusing to conduct or to continue an investigation or review.

(2) The Commissioner must give written notice of a decision under subsection (1) to

- (a) the individual who requested the review or initiated the complaint,
- (b) the organization concerned, if the organization was given a copy of the written request for review or written complaint by the Commissioner under section 48, and
- (c) any other person to whom the Commissioner gave a copy of the written request for review or written complaint under section 48.

Records relating to an investigation

49.2 An organization must retain records relating to an investigation under section 36 for one year after the end of the investigation or any longer period specified by the Commissioner.

Inquiry by Commissioner

50(1) If a matter under review or relating to a complaint

- (a) is not referred to mediation,
- (b) is not settled pursuant to mediation under section 49,

(c) is not resolved, or

(d) is not the subject of a notice under section 49.1(2),

the Commissioner may conduct an inquiry and decide all questions of fact and law arising in the course of th

(2) An inquiry under subsection (1) may be conducted in private.

(3) An individual who asks for a review or initiates a complaint, the organization concerned and any person the written request for review or written complaint

(a) must be given an opportunity to make representations to the Commissioner during the inquiry, and

(b) may be represented at the inquiry by a lawyer or an agent.

(4) The Commissioner may decide

(a) whether representations are to be made orally or in writing, and

(b) whether a person is entitled to be present during or to have access to or to comment on representati
Commissioner by another person.

(5) An inquiry into a matter that is the subject of a written request for review or written complaint referred to must be completed within one year from the day that the written request for review or written complaint was
Commissioner unless the Commissioner

(a) notifies the individual who made the written request for review or written complaint, the organizati
and any other person given a copy of the written request for review or written complaint that the Com
extending that period, and

(b) provides an anticipated date for the completion of the inquiry.

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Burden of proof

51 At an inquiry into a decision under which an individual was refused

(a) access to all or part of a record containing personal information about the individual, or

(b) information respecting the use or disclosure of personal information about the individual,

it is up to the organization to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the individual has no righ
personal information about the individual or no right to the information requested respecting the use or discl
personal information about the individual.

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Commissioner's orders

52(1) On completing an inquiry under section 50, the Commissioner must dispose of the issues by making a
this section.

(2) If the inquiry relates to a decision of an organization under section 24 to give or to refuse to give an indi
all or part of a record containing personal information about the individual that is in the custody or under the
organization or to provide or to refuse to provide information about the use or disclosure of personal informa
individual, the Commissioner may

(a) by order do one of the following:

(i) direct the organization to give the individual access to all or part of the record containing perso
about the individual or to provide the individual with information about the organization's use or c

personal information about the individual if the Commissioner determines that the organization is under this Act to refuse access or to refuse to provide the information, as the case may be;

- (ii) either confirm the decision of the organization or require the organization to reconsider its decision whether to give access to all or part of the record containing personal information or to provide in the use or disclosure of personal information if the Commissioner determines that the organization under this Act refuse access or refuse to provide information, as the case may be;
- (iii) direct the organization to refuse to give the individual access to all or part of the record containing information about the individual if the Commissioner determines that the organization is required to refuse access,

or

- (b) make an order that the Commissioner considers appropriate if, in the circumstances, an order under subsection (2) would not be applicable.

(3) If the inquiry relates to any matter other than a matter referred to in subsection (2), the Commissioner may make one or more of the following:

- (a) confirm that a duty imposed by this Act or the regulations has been performed or require that a duty imposed by this Act or the regulations be performed;
- (b) confirm or reduce a time period that was extended under section 31;
- (c) confirm, excuse or reduce a fee, or order a refund of a fee, in the appropriate circumstances;
- (d) confirm a decision not to correct personal information or specify how personal information is to be corrected;
- (e) require an organization to stop collecting, using or disclosing personal information in contravention of this Act in circumstances that are not in compliance with this Act;
- (f) confirm a decision of an organization to collect, use or disclose personal information;
- (g) require an organization to destroy personal information collected in contravention of this Act or in circumstances that are not in compliance with this Act;
- (h) with respect to a personal information code established under Part 6 by a professional regulatory organization, require the professional regulatory organization to amend or otherwise change the personal information code if the code is not consistent with the purposes and intent of sections 1 to 35.

(4) The Commissioner may specify any terms or conditions in an order made under this section.

(5) The Commissioner must give a copy of an order made under this section to all of the following:

- (a) the individual who asked for the review or initiated the complaint;
- (b) the organization concerned;
- (c) any person given a copy of the written request under section 48;
- (d) the Minister.

(6) A copy of an order made by the Commissioner under this section may be filed with a clerk of the Court of Appeal Bench and, after filing, the order is enforceable as a judgment or order of that Court.

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No appeal

53 An order made by the Commissioner under this Act is final.

Duty to comply with orders

54(1) Subject to subsection (2), not later than 50 days from the day that an organization is given a copy of a Commissioner, the organization concerned must comply with the order.

(2) An organization must not take any steps to comply with a Commissioner's order until the period for bringing application for judicial review under section 54.1 ends.

(3) to (5) Repealed 2009 c50 s38.

2003 cP--

Judicial review

54.1(1) An application to the Court of Queen's Bench for judicial review of a Commissioner's order must be made not later than 45 days from the day that the person making the application is given a copy of the order.

(2) If an application for judicial review is made pursuant to subsection (1), the Commissioner's order is stayed until the application is dealt with by the court.

Part 6**Professional Regulatory and Non-profit Organizations****Professional regulatory organizations**

55(1) In this section,

- (a) "member" means a member of a professional regulatory organization;
- (b) "personal information code" means a code governing the collection, use and disclosure of personal information in a manner that is consistent with the purposes and intent of sections 1 to 35 of this Act;

(c), (d) repealed 2009 c50 s40.

(2) Parts 4 and 5 of this Act apply, with all necessary modifications, to matters dealt with under a personal information code in the same manner as those Parts apply to sections 1 to 35 of this Act.

(3) If, in the course of an investigation or a review under Part 4 or 5, the Commissioner determines that a personal information code is silent on a matter or that the code or any provision of it is inconsistent or is deficient with respect to matters dealt with in sections 1 to 35 of this Act, the Commissioner may apply any provision of this Act in respect of those matters in the same manner as if the provision had been included in that code.

(4) With respect to matters under this Act as they relate to a professional regulatory organization, the Ombudsman, unless the Commissioner agrees otherwise, investigate any matter that the Commissioner has the power to investigate or review or hold an inquiry into under this Act.

(5) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) authorizing a professional regulatory organization to establish a personal information code;
- (b) governing personal information codes established under this Part and the requirements to be met by those codes;
- (c) establishing and governing or otherwise providing for an arrangement, plan or other type of program or project that the Minister may, subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Minister,
 - (i) grant an authorization to a professional regulatory organization authorizing the professional regulatory organization to collect, use and disclose personal information pursuant to a personal information code;
 - (ii) direct that, during the period that the code is in effect,
 - (A) the code, with respect to matters provided for under the code, is to operate in the place of section 35 or any one or more of those provisions, of this Act insofar as the code provides for those matters;

- (B) compliance by the professional regulatory organization with the code, the terms or conditions imposed by the Minister and the directions, if any, of the Commissioner given under subsection 1 to 35, or any one or more of those provisions, of this Act insofar as it operates in the place of those provisions;
 - (d) governing the granting of, the revoking of and the varying of any authorization or direction and of the conditions provided for in clause (c);
 - (e) governing the coming into force of this Act or any provision of this Act with respect to a professional regulatory organization;
 - (f) providing that this Act or any provision of this Act commences to apply to a professional regulatory organization on a date that is later than January 1, 2004;
 - (g) providing for and governing any transitional matter relating to the application of this Act to a professional regulatory organization.
- (6) Any regulation made under this section may be general or specific in its application.

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Non-profit organizations

56(1) In this section,

- (a) “commercial activity” means
 - (i) any transaction, act or conduct, or
 - (ii) any regular course of conduct,
 that is of a commercial character and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes the following:
 - (iii) the selling, bartering or leasing of membership lists or of donor or other fund-raising lists;
 - (iv) the operation of a private school or an early childhood services program as defined in the *School Act*;
 - (v) the operation of a private college as defined in the *Post-secondary Learning Act*;
 - (b) “non-profit organization” means an organization
 - (i) that is incorporated under the *Societies Act* or the *Agricultural Societies Act* or that is registered under the *Companies Act*, or
 - (ii) that meets the criteria established under the regulations to qualify as a non-profit organization.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), this Act does not apply to a non-profit organization or any personal information in the custody of or under the control of a non-profit organization.
- (3) This Act applies to a non-profit organization in the case of personal information that is collected, used or disclosed by the non-profit organization in connection with any commercial activity carried out by the non-profit organization.
- (4) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations
- (a) establishing, for the purposes of subsection (1)(b)(ii), the criteria to be met by an organization to qualify as a non-profit organization;
 - (b) establishing the criteria to be met by non-profit organizations to qualify as non-profit organizations and exempting those non-profit organizations from the operation of subsection (3);
 - (c) governing the coming into force of this Act or any provision of this Act with respect to a non-profit organization.

- (d) providing that this Act or any provision of this Act commences to apply to a non-profit organization is later than January 1, 2004;
 - (e) providing for and governing any transitional matter relating to the application of this Act to a non-profit organization.
- (5) Any regulation made under this section may be general or specific in its application.

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Part 7 General Provisions

Protection of organization from legal actions

57 No action lies and no proceeding may be brought against an organization, or any person acting on behalf or in the direction of an organization, for damages resulting from

- (a) the disclosure of or failure to disclose, in good faith, all or part of a record or personal information or the consequences of that disclosure or failure to disclose, or
- (b) the failure to give a notice required under this Act if reasonable care was taken to give the required notice.

Protection of employee

58 An organization shall not take any adverse employment action against an employee of the organization, or deprive an employee a benefit, on account of or for any reason arising out of the situation where

- (a) the employee, acting in good faith and on the basis of reasonable belief, has disclosed to the Commission or any other person that the organization or any other person has contravened or is about to contravene this Act,
- (b) the employee, acting in good faith and on the basis of reasonable belief, has done or stated an intention to do anything that is required to be done in order to avoid having any person contravene this Act,
- (c) the employee, acting in good faith and on the basis of reasonable belief, has refused to do or stated an intention to refuse to do anything that is in contravention of this Act, or
- (d) the organization believes that the employee will do anything described in clause (a), (b) or (c).

Offences and penalties

59(1) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), a person commits an offence if the person

- (a) collects, uses or discloses personal information in contravention of Part 2;
- (b) attempts to gain or gains access to personal information in contravention of this Act;
- (c) disposes of or alters, falsifies, conceals or destroys, or directs another person to dispose of, alter, falsify, conceal or destroy, a record containing personal information or a record containing information about the use or disclosure of personal information
 - (i) after receiving a request under section 24(1)(a) or (b), or
 - (ii) in circumstances in which a reasonable person would consider that it was likely that a request under section 24(1)(a) or (b) would be made;
- (d) obstructs the Commissioner or an authorized delegate of the Commissioner in the performance of the Commissioner's duties, powers or functions under this Act, including but not limited to obstructing the Commissioner or authorized delegate by disposing of, altering, falsifying, concealing or destroying evidence relevant to an investigation or inquiry by the Commissioner;

- (e) makes a false statement to the Commissioner or an authorized delegate of the Commissioner, or mi- attempts to mislead the Commissioner or authorized delegate, in the course of the performance of the duties, powers or functions under this Act;
 - (e.1) fails to provide notice to the Commissioner under section 34.1;
 - (e.2) contravenes section 58;
 - (f) fails to comply with an order made by the Commissioner under this Act.
- (2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable,
- (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine of not more than \$10 000, and
 - (b) in the case of a person other than an individual, to a fine of not more than \$100 000.
- (3) No person is liable to prosecution for an offence against this or any other Act by reason only of complyi requirement of the Commissioner under this Act.
- (4) Neither an organization nor an individual is guilty of an offence under this Act if it is established to the s the court that the organization or individual, as the case may be, acted reasonably in the circumstances that g offence.
- (5) A prosecution under this Act may be commenced within 2 years after the commission of the alleged offe afterwards.

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Damages for breach of this Act

60(1) If the Commissioner has made an order under section 52 against an organization and the order has bec result of there being no further right of appeal, an individual affected by the order has a cause of action again organization for damages for loss or injury that the individual has suffered as a result of the breach by the org obligations under this Act or the regulations.

(2) If a person has been convicted of an offence under this Act and the conviction has become final as a resu no further right of appeal, an individual affected by the conduct that gave rise to the offence has a cause of ac person convicted of the offence for damages for loss or injury that the individual has suffered as a result of th

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Exercise of rights by other persons

61(1) Any right or power conferred on an individual by this Act may be exercised

- (a) if the individual is 18 years of age or older, by the individual;
- (b) if the individual is under 18 years of age and understands the nature of the right or power and the co exercising the right or power, by the individual;
- (c) if the individual is under 18 years of age but does not meet the criterion in clause (b), by the guardi individual;
- (d) if the individual is deceased,
 - (i) by the individual's personal representative if the exercise of the right or power relates to the ad the individual's estate;
 - (ii) by the person who is authorized by law to deal with the disposition of the deceased's remains i the right or power relates to the disposition of the deceased's remains;

- (iii) by the person who has arranged for, or is arranging for, the deceased's funeral if the exercise of power reasonably relates to the funeral or to the notification, recognition or acknowledgment of the deceased;
 - (e) if a guardian or trustee has been appointed for the individual under the *Adult Guardianship and Trusts Act*, the guardian or trustee if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties of the guardian or trustee;
 - (f) if an agent has been designated under a personal directive under the *Personal Directives Act*, by the directive so authorizes;
 - (g) if a power of attorney has been granted by the individual, by the attorney if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties conferred by the power of attorney;
 - (h) by any person with written authorization from the individual to act on the individual's behalf.
- (2) Any notice or communication to be given to an individual under this Act may be given to the person entitled to exercise the individual's rights or powers referred to in subsection (1).

2003 cP-6.5 s61;2005 c29:

General regulations

62(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) defining for the purposes of this Act any term that is used in this Act but is not defined in this Act;
- (b) governing procedures to be followed in making and responding to requests under this Act and for giving access to personal information or records;
- (c) governing the giving of consent and any other direction under this Act;
- (d) governing the application of this Act to persons who collect, use or disclose personal information in carrying out investigations or similar inquiries as part of their functions or duties pursuant to an authorisation given to those persons under an enactment or in the course of acting as peace officers;
- (e) governing the collection, use and disclosure of personal information for archival purposes or research respecting requirements concerning archival purposes or research;
- (f) expressly providing that another enactment or a provision of it prevails notwithstanding this Act;
- (g) governing forms or notices to be used under this Act;
- (h) governing fees, including circumstances in which fees
 - (i) are or are not payable, or
 - (ii) must not be above a prescribed amount or percentage;
- (i) respecting the application of this Act to a public body;
- (i.1) exempting organizations from the application of all or part of section 13.1;
- (j) prescribing additional subject-matter in respect to which or circumstances under which personal information of a specific type of personal information may be collected, used or disclosed without the consent of the individual in addition to the subject-matter in respect of which or circumstances under which personal information may be collected, used or disclosed without the consent of the individual under section 14, 17 or 20;
- (k) prescribing or otherwise determining whether or not personal information or a specific type of personal information does or does not come within the meaning of a provision of section 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 or 22 under which personal information may be collected, used or disclosed without the consent of the individual;

- (l) prescribing or otherwise determining whether or not personal information or a specific type of personal information does or does not come within the meaning of a provision of section 4(3);
 - (m) prescribing the information that must be included with a notice under section 34.1;
 - (n) prescribing the form and manner of notification of individuals under section 37.1.
- (2) Where a regulation made
- (a) under subsection (1)(j) prescribes additional subject-matter with respect to which or circumstances personal information may be collected, used or disclosed without the consent of the individual, that information is to be treated in the same manner as if it had been collected, used or disclosed under section 14, 17 or 20;
 - (b) under subsection (1)(k) prescribes or otherwise determines that personal information
 - (i) comes within the meaning of a provision of section 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 or 22, as the case may be, that information is to be treated in the same manner as any other personal information that is dealt with by that provision, or
 - (ii) does not come within the meaning of a provision of section 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 or 22, as the case may be, that information is to be treated in the same manner as any other personal information that does not come within the meaning of that provision;
 - (c) under subsection (1)(l) prescribes or otherwise determines that personal information
 - (i) comes within the meaning of a provision of section 4(3), that information is to be treated in the same manner as any other personal information that comes within the meaning of that provision, or
 - (ii) does not come within the meaning of a provision of section 4(3), that information is to be treated in the same manner as any other personal information that does not come within the meaning of that provision
- (3) A regulation made under subsection (1) may be general or specific in its application.

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Review of Act



- 63(1)** A special committee of the Legislative Assembly must begin a comprehensive review of this Act and make a report thereon
- (a) by July 1, 2015, and
 - (b) thereafter, every 6 years after the date on which the previous special committee submits its final report under subsection (1).
- (2) A special committee must submit a final report to the Legislative Assembly within 18 months after beginning its review under subsection (1).
- (3) The report of a special committee may include the special committee's recommendations for amendments to the regulations made under this Act or any other enactment.

2003 cP-6.5 s63;2005

64 to 74 *(These sections amend other Acts; the amendments have been incorporated into those Acts.)*

Coming into force

- 75** This Act comes into force on January 1, 2004.

by **LEXUM**  for the  Federation of Law Societies of Canada