

# Who may soon be eyeballing your personal information?

## The FBI, for starters.

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS contracting out the administration of the Medical Services Plan and PharmaCare to Maximus Inc., an American multi-national corporation, by the end of August.

Putting this American company in charge of administering our medical services plan will give it access to private information about every British Columbian. This includes information about your health treatments, prescription drugs, net income, mental health history and criminal records, as well as records from the ministries of children and family development and human resources.

And the government doesn't want to stop at your medical files. It plans to contract out payroll services, IT Helpdesk, Provincial Revenue, Disaster Recovery, and other public services.

## If an American company knows all about you, so can the FBI.

AN EXPERT LEGAL OPINION filed in B.C. Supreme Court Feb. 24 says the USA Patriot Act allows the FBI to obtain entire databases of records from American corporations. The expert opinion says Section 215 of the Patriot Act allows the FBI to obtain medical records and other personal information of innocent people, without any appeal or public disclosure.

In fact, the Patriot Act specifically prohibits a company that has complied with an FBI demand for information from revealing that it has done so. U.S. legal precedents also suggest that even if the information is held by a Canadian subsidiary, the American parent company could be required to disclose it.



Privacy commissioners across the country have expressed great concern about the potential for secret intrusions into confidential files, but the government continues to push ahead.

It would make more sense to put this contracting out on hold until the issues have been heard by the court.

In an age of identity theft and growing intrusions into private information, MSP, PharmaCare, payroll and other public services should not be contracted out to any company where it places Canadians' privacy rights at peril.

## Tell BC's Privacy Commissioner what you think about this.

B.C.'s PRIVACY COMMISSIONER, David Loukidelis, wants to know what you think about the government's plans to contract out the administration of the Medical Services Plan, PharmaCare and other public services to American multi-national corporations and subjecting your personal information to the FBI.

Here's your opportunity to tell the Privacy Commissioner how you feel about this potential invasion of your privacy—and get the government to halt its plans to contract out your personal information to any company that could then be compelled to violate Canadian privacy laws.

### Mail, fax or e-mail your submission

Submissions must be clearly labelled "**Submission on the USA Patriot Act**". Deadline for submissions is **12 noon, Friday, July 23, 2004.**

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