



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION & PRIVACY
COMMISSIONER
for
British Columbia

December 6, 2010

Darrell Evans
Executive Director
B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
#103 – 1093 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1E2

Dear Darrell Evans:

I am very pleased to lend my support to your Community Education Program. I am well aware—and very appreciative—of the extensive outreach that you, your staff and volunteers undertake every year to raise awareness of privacy and access to information rights.

I am also very mindful that you ensure your events are available and affordable to a wide range of stakeholders interested in privacy and access to information issues. You organize a great many conferences, workshops, seminars and lectures; provide an extensive reference library; maintain telephone and internet help-lines; and offer a wonderful website containing a wealth of insightful and helpful information about how to keep personal information secure and how to resolve related problems.

FIPA's work is more than invaluable to communities that need to stay informed about the daunting challenges and risks to privacy and information access in our digital age. FIPA's Community Education Program is critical to our success as champions of these fundamental rights in a democratic society.

I thank for the opportunity to endorse your Community Education program.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Denham
Information and Privacy Commissioner
for British Columbia

P10-43994 (FIPA Letter 6Dec10)



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News Release

Privacy Commissioner of Canada awards \$49,775 to the B.C Freedom of Information and Privacy Association for a study on identity theft

Ottawa, January 27, 2005 – The Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Jennifer Stoddart, is pleased to announce that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC) is awarding \$49,775, under its Contributions Program, to the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Privacy Association (FIPA) for a special study on identity theft.

"The theft of personal information facilitates a wide range of other criminal activity, from financial fraud to organized crime and terrorism. It is a privacy issue of major concern to our Office, and I am delighted to be able to work in partnership with the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Privacy Association on addressing this issue," said Ms. Stoddart.

The project will analyze the relationship between identity theft, technology and current private sector information management practices. The project will also include a review of private sector information handling practices for gaps in privacy and security that might be exploited by identity thieves. A gap analysis and a risk matrix will be developed, in conjunction with a review of the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)*. This research will form the basis for comprehensive policy recommendations on how the Act might be used in the fight against identity theft and personal information fraud.

"Under this program, we hope to make a significant contribution to the drafting of effective legislation in this area, to promote understanding and safe information practices for organizations, to develop corrective tools that can aid the public in preventing ID theft, and to provide the public with remedies when they do occur," said Darrell Evans, Executive Director of FIPA.

Identity theft — the fraudulent use of others' personal information — is the fastest growing non-violent crime in North America. An Ipsos Reid survey done in June 2004, indicated concern about identity theft in 75 per cent of Canadians asked.

The FIPA identity theft project is funded from the OPC's Contributions Program, launched in June 2004, to foster and develop Canada's national capacity for research into privacy issues and emerging technologies. The project is one of 10 research initiatives funded by the OPC.

— 30 —

For more information, please contact:

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Canada
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Darrell Evans
Executive Director
B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy
Association
Tel: (604) 739-9788
E-mail: Info@FIPA.bc.ca

Heenan Blaikie

Of Counsel

The Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, P.C., C.C., C.H., Q.C., FRSC (1984 - 2000)
The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., C.C., Q.C.
The Honourable Donald J. Johnston, P.C., O.C., Q.C.
Donald R. Munroe, Q.C.
Pierre Marc Johnson, G.O.Q., FRSC
The Honourable Michel Bastarache
The Honourable René Dussault, FRSC
Peter M. Blaikie, Q.C.
André Bureau, O.C.

December 2, 2009

BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
#103 – 1093 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V6H 1E2

Attention: Darrell Evans, Executive Director

Dear Sir:

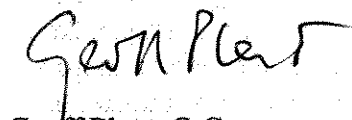
Re: FIPA's Community Education Program

I am writing to express my support for the Community Education Program of the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association. As information technology continues to expand its reach into our lives and work, FIPA's Community Education Program has become an indispensable tool for public engagement and empowerment on the important issues of privacy and access to information.

FIPA's Community Education Program provides conferences, seminars, a speakers' bureau, website, a Help Desk accessible through telephone and the Internet, a reference library, extensive online resources, almost all of which is provided at little or no cost to the public. FIPA has a long track record of effective advocacy and education in the area of access and privacy protection, and deserves continued support so that it can maintain and expand these important services.

Yours truly,

Heenan Blaikie LLP



Geoff Plant, Q.C.
Law Corporation
GP/sf

Geoff Plant, Q.C.

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1055 West Hastings Street
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**British Columbia
Persons With AIDS Society**
1107 Seymour Street, 2nd Floor,
Vancouver BC V6B 5S8

November 18, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Freedom of Information Association of BC, Community Education Program

I write on behalf and at the direction of the Board of Directors of the BC Persons With AIDS (BCPWA) Society to commend the above-referenced program and to urge in the strongest possible terms your financial support for it.

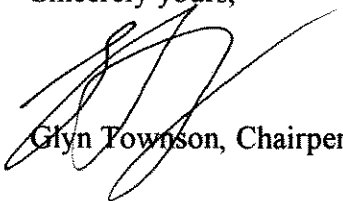
By way of explanation, BCPWA is a registered charitable society run by and for persons living with HIV disease and AIDS. In the words of its mission statement, BCPWA "exists to enable persons living with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and Human Immunodeficiency Virus to empower themselves through mutual support and collective action." It is Western Canada's largest AIDS organization with more than 4,700 HIV-positive full voting members, and is governed by a Board of Directors all of whom are themselves HIV-positive members of the organization.

BCPWA has been aware of the Freedom of Information Association of BC (FIPA) and its works for more than a decade, and has been both a beneficiary of that work and, occasionally, a partner in it. BCPWA representatives have attended at and profited from several of FIPA's workshops and conferences, especially those dealing with freedom of information and institutional privacy protections. We have arranged for FIPA speakers to address both our own organization, and the larger Community HIV/AIDS Committee (CHAC), of which BCPWA is a member. We have availed ourselves of the FIPA telephone Help Line with regard to privacy protections in a private sector context.

As well, BCPWA representatives have worked directly with FIPA personnel engaged in advising the provincial government on privacy aspects of contemplated legislation.

BCPWA considers the work done by FIPA to be profoundly valuable and, once again, urges you to view FIPA's request for financial support for its Community Education Program with the utmost favour.

Sincerely yours,



Glyn Townson, Chairperson



November 25, 2009

Vancity Centre
183 Terminal Avenue
PO Box 2120, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 5R8
T 604 877 7000
vancity.com

Mr. Darrell Evans
Executive Director, FIPA
103-1093 w. Broadway Ave
Vancouver, V6H 1E2

Dear Mr. Evans:

Re: FIPA Community Education Programs

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of FIPA's Community Education Programs on behalf of Vancity Credit Union.

Vancity has supported FIPA with two separate grants totaling \$20,000 since 2003. These funds were used to develop and deliver training workshops to non-profit organizations on provincial and federal privacy legislation. We were very pleased with the outcomes of these projects and the work of FIPA, both in terms of the workshop themselves and the thoroughness and professionalism of the staff and volunteers.

These workshops are part of a larger Community Education Program at FIPA that includes events, web-based support, telephone and internet help lines, online educational publications and a speakers bureau.

The FIPA Community Education Program provides critical information to non-profit organizations, community service agencies and individuals, as well as others, on record keeping, freedom of information, protection of privacy and identity theft prevention.

Since the beginning of our collaboration with FIPA, I have consistently been impressed with their professionalism and commitment to supporting non-profits, community agencies and individuals to understand their rights and obligations with respect to privacy and freedom of information in BC.

Regards,
VANCITY CREDIT UNION

Elisabeth J. Geller, MA
Manager, Community Leadership





GOVERNMENT CAUCUS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

September 16, 2008

c/o BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
#103 - 1093 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 1E2

Dear Sir or Madame:

I wish to take this opportunity to voice my support for the work undertaken by the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association.

Under the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, there is a statutory review process which is undertaken every fifth year. I had the opportunity to chair the latest such review.

I feel it is important that we have a balance between openness and protection in our system, and it is government's responsibility to enshrine these rights and protect them for the public.

I can say that the presentation of the BC FIPA organization was greatly appreciated and it is certainly beneficial to have an organization such as theirs contribute to our discussion. Not only did they present at the hearings, but continue to develop their research on a daily basis which, I feel, is valuable to all.

Thank you for taking the time to review this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blair Lekstrom', written over a horizontal line.

Blair Lekstrom, MLA
Peace River South

Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 387-3655
Fax: 250 387-4680



**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly

Community Office:
2 – 1006 – 3rd Street
Castlegar BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304-2783
Fax: 250 304-2655
Toll-Free: 1 888 755-0556



Katrine Conroy, MLA
(West Kootenay-Boundary)

July 15, 2008

Darrell Evans
Executive Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
#103, 1093 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V6H 1E2

Dear Darrell Evans:

As the New Democrat critic for Citizens Services, and on behalf of the Official Opposition Caucus, please accept my sincere congratulations on your organization's achievement of 17 years of exemplary service.

The Freedom of Information and Privacy Association has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the important principles of open government; the right of British Columbians to have access to government information and the protection of their personal privacy. In addition, your organization provides relevant, vital information and assistance to the public which include research, publications, conferences, workshops, advocacy and initiatives for law reform.

Vigilance over the goal of open government is required now more than ever. Despite Gordon Campbell's promise to be open and accountable; his record shows that access to government information is exceedingly difficult and expensive for citizens to obtain, which places the privacy of British Columbians at risk.

It was the NDP that first brought freedom of information and privacy legislation to B.C and the New Democrats remain committed to the important twin values of protection of personal privacy and open government. We recognize the vital role played by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Association and it is our sincere hope that the excellent work of your organization is able to continue.

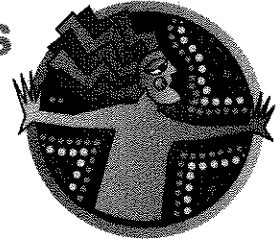
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katrine Conroy".

Katrine Conroy
Opposition Caucus Whip
Critic for Citizen Services
Member for West Kootenay Boundary

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities

204-456 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3 tel 604.875.0188
fax 604.875.9227 • TTY [for hearing impaired only] 604.875.8835
www.bccpd.bc.ca • feedback@bccpd.bc.ca



Over 30 years of advocacy

November 20th 2009

To whom it may concern,

The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD) strongly supports the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association's (FIPA) Community Education Program.

The BCCPD has been a close community partner with FIPA for many years. The exceptional work that FIPA does is needed now more than ever with the growing importance of privacy and access-to-information issues.

FIPA's Community Education Program has an excellent reputation with government, the non-profit sector, business and labour. Under the Program, FIPA provides conferences and seminars on privacy-related topics for community organizations. It also maintains a website with extensive online help offering information on access and privacy issues.

FIPA provides free information and assistance to the public with any inquiry or problem related to privacy and access-to-information issues. FIPA offers an extensive online library of books, booklets, research studies and newsletters. All are available free of charge in electronic format and at minimal cost in print format. FIPA also has an extensive traditional library of print materials, videotapes and audio tapes that is available by appointment for research purposes.

FIPA regularly provides presentations at public and private meetings, including educational institutions. It frequently provides guest lecturers for classes at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia.

FIPA's work is very important to all of us. It is without hesitation that we support FIPA's application for BC's Gaming Funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Dyson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey rectangular area.

Jane Dyson
Executive Director

Saskatchewan
Information and Privacy
Commissioner



503 - 1801 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4B4

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Fax: (306) 798-1603
Website: www.oipc.sk.ca

November 30, 2009

BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
#103-1093 West Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6H 1E2

Attention: Mr. Darrell Evans, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Evans:

Re: Community Education Program

I am pleased to write in support of the Freedom of information and Privacy Association (FIPA) and particularly the Community Education Program.

As Saskatchewan's Information and Privacy Commissioner and someone who has worked in the area of access to information and privacy for 17 years in different Canadian jurisdictions, I have seen firsthand the quality of the educational programs provided by FIPA. I had the opportunity to participate in the FIPA Conference held at the University of British Columbia downtown campus in September 2006. FIPA conferences are consistently of a high quality with excellent speakers. I continue to be very impressed with the accuracy and the comprehensive nature of FIPA papers and presentations. I can also advise that FIPA enjoys a well-deserved reputation throughout Canada and beyond for its materials and presentations.

In my view, the work of FIPA is important in promoting transparency and enhanced accountability of our public bodies. Citizens of British Columbia are very fortunate to have the benefit of FIPA and the excellent research, education and advocacy activities it routinely undertakes.

If I can assist FIPA in anyway, please advise. Call me at (306)787-8350.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Gary Dickson", written over a circular stamp or seal.

R. Gary Dickson, Q.C.
Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner

Alasdair S. Roberts
Jerome L. Rappaport Professor of Law and Public Policy
tel 617.599.9029 *skype* alasdair.roberts
alasdair.roberts@gmail.com



2 December 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: FIPA'S COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

I am pleased to write in support of the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association (FIPA) and its community education program.

I am a Canadian scholar who specializes on research relating to the operation of freedom of information laws. I have worked with BC FIPA since 1997, both on questions relating to the operation of BC's FOIPP legislation, and also on matters relating to FOI at the national level.

BC FIPA is, without question, the best organized and most highly regarded civil society organization working on FOI in Canada, and easily one of the best established organizations of this type in the Commonwealth. With very limited resources, it has done an outstanding job of raising awareness about the importance of sound FOI and privacy laws, and cultivating public understanding about the need for legislative and administrative reform.

Good policies on transparency and privacy are critically important in promoting the legitimacy of governmental institutions, and assuring fair treatment of citizens. BC FIPA performs a tremendous public service. I strongly encourage its continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AS Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Alasdair S. Roberts
Jerome L. Rappaport Professor of Law and Public Policy



Directors

Caroline Bonesky
Mebrat Beyene
Dennis Dandeneau
Nancy Gale
Michelle Hawco
Andrew Jarrett
David Johnson
Ian Mass
Janet McClean Senft
Sandra Menzer
David Sheach
Tim Beachy, CEO

BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
103 - 1093 West Broadway
Vancouver BC V6H 1E2
604.739.9788

April 7, 2010

Dear Dr. Richard Rosenberg,

On behalf of the board of the United Community Services Co-op, I would like to extend our appreciation to the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association in working with the Co-op to deliver on the important privacy research that culminated last week in the release of the report, *Culture of Care... or Culture of Surveillance?*

Unpacking the legal issues related the Province's proposed Integrated Case Management System within the complexity of the community social services sector was not an easy task. The staff, advisors, and resources that FIPA directed to the project were instrumental in getting to the core legal issues of the ICM, but also to the broad ranging impacts to service delivery and the client-service provider relationship.

We would like to note in particular the efforts and talent of Darrell Evans, Vince Gogolek, and Gerry Fahey. Their efforts and dedication to the project, along with those of our staff team at the Co-op, provided some much needed leadership, insight, and attention to this issue.

The UCS Co-op looks forward to other opportunities to work with FIPA again.

Sincerely,

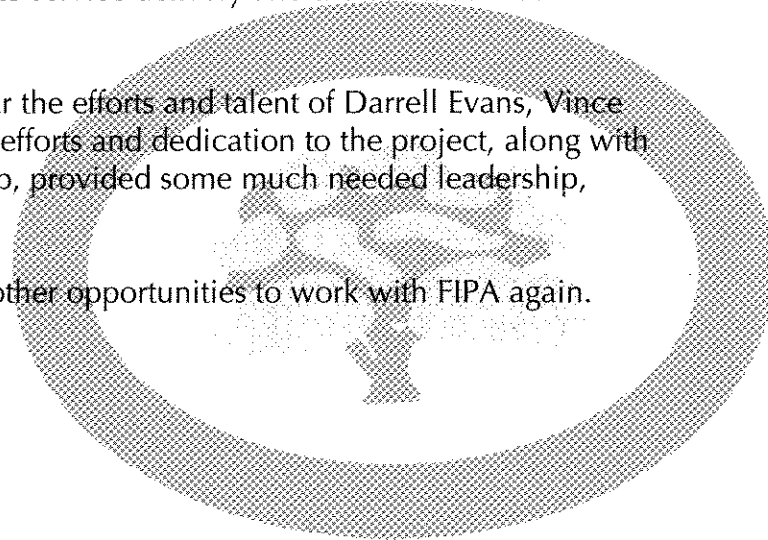


Caroline Bonesky, Chair
Board of Directors



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British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

December 11, 2009

B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
Attention: Darrell Evans
103-1093 West Broadway,
Vancouver, BC V6H 1E2

Re: Funding of FIPA Community Education Program

BCSTA is a strong supporter of the principles of government transparency and protection of privacy and I have been a member of FIPA since its early days.

Legislation alone is not enough; there is an ongoing need for community education and support on the efficient and effective use of the statutes that promote government transparency and protect privacy. FIPA provides the public with very valuable services in this regard and has acquired huge expertise in this area over the years.

Clearly boards of education, like other public bodies, benefit from more informed applicants who have access to independent advice.

I hope that this valuable program continues to receive adequate financial support and you are welcome to use this letter in support of funding applications.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith A. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith A. Clark
General Counsel



British Columbia Teachers' Federation

100-550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2 • 604-871-2283, 1-800-663-9163 • www.bctf.ca
TTY 604-871-2185 (deaf and hard of hearing) Research & Technology Division fax: 604-871-2294

September 3, 2008

Darrell Evans
Executive Director
BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
#103 - 1093 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 1E2

Dear Darrell:

I have been a supporter of the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association since its early days. The organization has played a crucial role in bringing attention to the freedom of information and privacy issues in BC.

FIPA's work began before we had legislation, and it played an important role in building a constituency for legislation and influencing its content. Since the legislation came into effect, it has been a watchdog on the application of the legislation, calling attention to the reality of losing ground as government has sought to retreat behind secrecy.

The education role of FIPA has also been of value to the BC Teachers' Federation as our staff have attended a number of the programs. I know this education role has been important to many others in the community as well, as we all seek to understand the rights we do have and how they need to be protected.

I very much appreciate the work that FIPA has done over the years and know that its work must continue and expand to ensure that we have improved access to information and protection of our privacy.

Yours sincerely,

Larry Kuehn, Director
Research and Technology Division

LK:CEP/av:ifeu