



FIPA Update

December 20, 2011



***Hello members – and happy holidays!
A FIPA Bulletin will be issued soon, but here's an update
of what's happened so far in December.***

FIPA celebrates 7th birthday of FOI Request for BC government's \$300 million contract with IBM

FIPA held a birthday party on December 8 for our longest-running FOI request, which just turned seven years old.

We have been trying since December 2004 to get an uncensored copy of the BC government's \$300 million Workplace Services Agreement with IBM, but the government continues to fight against its release.

FIPA and Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham have repeatedly called for government contracts to be posted online but the government has consistently failed to do so. So FIPA is doing the government's job (we hope



temporarily) by posting the incomplete version we have beaten out of the government on our website.

FIPA news release: [Click Here](#)

Media coverage:

- Global Television [Click Here](#)
- Canadian Press/ Huffington Post [Click Here](#)

Mayor Gregor Robertson flip-flops on freedom of information policy

December 13th, 2011 – According to Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, what's good for the City isn't good for the city's police department when it comes to freedom of information policy.

Vancouver Police Department (VPD) will continue posting records obtained through FOI simultaneously to the

requester and the VPD website, even though Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver City Council voted to end the controversial practice there.

A report from the Vancouver Police Board's Freedom of Information Committee recommended that the VPD continue the practice, in spite of the fact

that FIPA made a successful complaint against the practice to BC's Information and Privacy Commissioner, who found it "Frustrates the purposes of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."

Robertson voted in favour of the Vancouver Police Department's simultaneously posting FOI records, even though he voted against it seven months ago along with the entire Vancouver city council. He tried to explain away the contradiction by saying the police department was different from the city, and that public safety was an issue.

The mayor did not elaborate on how it could be that information obtained from the VPD through FOI (a process which usually takes months or years) suddenly becomes of such immediate importance to public safety that it must be posted on the VPD website immediately upon release -- sometimes even before the person requesting it gets their copy.

FIPA news release: [Click Here](#)

Link to the VPD policy unanimously approved by the Police Board: [Click Here](#)

Privacy, civil liberties groups issue statement of principles on Canada-U.S. perimeter agreement

Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver – In advance of an anticipated Canada-U.S. border deal signing in Washington, D.C., FIPA and seven other Canadian civil liberties groups have released a 12-point statement of principles they hope will help guide public and parliamentary debate in the months to come.

The joint statement of principles was developed over the past few months and represents basic concerns with the trade-off expected behind the anticipated deal.

"Past efforts to harmonize security measures across the border in an effort to ease the flow of goods and trade have

suffered from a large democratic deficit and excessive influence from parties with a direct financial interest in continued or improved access to the U.S. market," says the statement.

"Not one initiative or recommendation in the border action plan should be implemented or substantially negotiated with the United States prior to an extended public and parliamentary debate in Canada."

Link to news release, Statement of Principles and contact information for the signing groups [Click Here](#)

FIPA would like to thank the Law Foundation of BC, the Notary Foundation of BC and the Province of British Columbia for supporting FIPA programs

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