

2025 Annual Report

Freedom of Information and Privacy Association

FIPA

Your Data
Your Rights



Territorial Acknowledgement

FIPA acknowledges with respect the Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional territory we conduct activities. We acknowledge the insight and knowledge of Elders past, present, and emergent, and their relationship to this land and FIPA's mandate in access to information and privacy. While FIPA strives to increase privacy protection and access to information for everyone, we recognize that colonization and associated attitudes, policies and institutions have significantly changed Indigenous Peoples' relationship with this land. For many years, the legacy of colonialism has served to exclude Indigenous Peoples from the privacy protection and access to information afforded to others. FIPA is committed to redressing these historic and continued barriers.

2025 Institutional Funders

The BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association thanks the Law Foundation of BC, the Province of British Columbia (Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch), and all our contributors, including donors, funders and volunteers, for their ongoing support of our advocacy, programs, projects and activities.

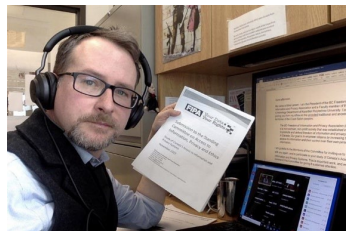


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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Preparing the annual report always presents an opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary scope and variety of program activities that FIPA has undertaken over the previous year. As always, this involved preparing rapid and well-researched responses to emerging issues, including legislation, short-turnaround consultation opportunities, media requests, and challenging FOI and privacy files. There is no shortage of calls for FIPA to engage with such matters, and they present important opportunities for us to inform the public, pose critical questions, and contribute to policy and law reform processes.

Over the last few years, FIPA has increased its capacity to respond to emerging issues while also maintaining an ambitious core of planned programming. Our staff work to keep FIPA's online public assistance resources current, conduct targeted research, prepare policy submissions, release regular podcast episodes, and actively engage with our civil society partners. This capacity building has involved careful strategic planning and organization, and the results have been impressive. It has been a privilege to participate in the continued growth of the organization.

For organizations working in the civil liberties field, some periods involve droughts in legislation and policy change. This year is shaping up to be a comparative flood. Governments across Canada, including in BC, have introduced significant changes to transparency and privacy laws. FIPA has responded - loudly, urgently, and informatively - wherever possible, and we will continue to do so. There are plenty of forces pushing to erode our freedom of information and privacy rights, and few organizations mandated equipped to push back.

Your support for FIPA matters - especially in such times.
In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Larsen'.

Mike Larsen
President, BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association

2025 - Selected highlights

FIPA started off 2025 with a well-attended [Info Summit: Commissioner Series](#) online event on the sweeping changes to the Alberta FOI and privacy legal regimes, featuring Alberta Information and Privacy Commissioner Diane McLeod. Changes to transparency and privacy legislation in one province have implications across the country, and the event provided both practical answers to questions about Alberta's FOI and privacy regime and a forum to discuss concerns.

Elections - and the information and privacy implications of electoral politics - were a major theme for FIPA's work in 2025. FIPA prepared questionnaires about positions on key information and privacy issues and distributed them to federal and provincial political parties competing for votes. We also developed question scripts for members of the public interested in engaging with candidates and delegates. Looking back from the present-day perspective in 2026, we can see that transparency and privacy issues have been flashpoints for parliamentary and public debates across the country. When these topics are in the news cycle, we see active engagement from government and opposition legislators. FIPA's election questionnaires represent an effort to get candidates and parties to be transparent about their positions on information and privacy rights, outside of the pressures of a news cycle. Recent events have underscored the importance of this kind of consistent emphasis on political privacy in Canada, and FIPA will continue to advocate for law reform in this area.

At the federal level, the Government of Canada introduced several bills with significant transparency and privacy impacts in 2025, and FIPA actively responded. We joined other civil society partners in opposing the privacy-eroding provisions of the C-2 border bill, and we were a leading voice in [challenging](#) the C-4 Canada Elections Act amendments that effectively exempted federal political parties from both federal and provincial privacy laws. Our efforts were multifaceted, including commentary and public education initiatives as well as [direct appeals](#) and formal submissions and representations- supported by legal research - to the House and Senate committees studying these bills. Wherever possible, FIPA strives to engage with law reform efforts directly and by [developing resources](#) that [support](#) engagement by others.

One of FIPA's largest ongoing research initiatives to-date is the Access Assessments project, which has used documents obtained through FOI requests to study the processing of FOI requests in British Columbia. We collected data from every public body subject to both the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *Information Management Act* in British Columbia — all 24 ministries in the government of British Columbia, and 32 broader public sector organizations (according to the 2024 legislation). We shared [preliminary findings](#) from this project throughout 2025 and made sure to 'show our work' by [publishing](#) the release packages obtained through our FOI efforts. The final Access Assessments report, released in June 2026, reflects the culmination of years of careful research, and we hope that it will shape conversations about BC's FOI system for years to come.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Access to information and privacy rights only matter when people can understand, exercise, and defend them.

In 2025, FIPA connected research, public education, assistance, and law reform to help people understand how public systems work, where safeguards are missing, and what needs to change. We advanced Access Assessment research, responded to legislative developments, supported public understanding of election privacy and democratic accountability, and continued publishing regular access and privacy news and commentary.

We also worked in the spirit of open collaboration: sharing draft work where appropriate, inviting feedback, supporting complementary submissions, and amplifying shared public-interest concerns.

Transparency is not only something FIPA asks of others. It is a standard we must apply to ourselves through responsible governance, contributor recognition, proper records management, and respect for privacy.

As technology, government systems, and democratic institutions change, FIPA will continue to provide evidence, education, and advocacy that help people remain in control of their privacy and able to access information in the public interest.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who helped deliver this work, especially FIPA's students, contributors, and partners. None of this would be possible without your time, expertise, and commitment.

Sincerely, Jason Woywada,
Executive Director, BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association

2025 IMPACT AND DELIVERABLES

In 2025, FIPA’s work connected research, public education, law reform, and public awareness. We responded to major developments affecting privacy and transparency, including federal political party privacy, Bill C-4, Bill C-2, Alberta legislative changes, election accountability, foreign interference, and access-to-information system performance. Across the year, FIPA published research resources, legislative analysis, public letters, briefing notes, event materials, weekly news summaries, and podcast commentary. Together, these deliverables helped inform the public, support civil society partners, assist professionals and journalists, and advance evidence-based reform.

The Numbers

Web Traffic

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Visits Total	19,039	18,055	32,028	41,983
Page Views	37,548	38,342	58,050	73,125
UPV Total	30,517	29,885	47,170	59,308
Get Help	5,659	4,773	9,366	8,211
Research Resources	851	2,305	3,497	5,727
News Monitoring				3,761
Transparency Matters	2,076	776	587	414
Your Political Privacy VoterPrivacy.ca	334	166	740	768

Assistance and Aid

	2023	2024	2025
Recorded Contacts	178	141	95
• Assistance (<30 minutes)	162	110	78
• Aid (>30 minutes)	16	31	14

Research and Evidence

FIPA produced and published research resources that helped identify gaps in access to information, privacy protection, and democratic accountability.

Key deliverables included:

- **2025 Election Questionnaires**
Published federal and Ontario election questionnaire resources to help the public understand party positions on privacy, transparency, and democratic accountability.
 - [20250210 - Research 2025 Election Questionnaires](#)
 - [20250210 - 2025 Election Questionnaire ON](#)
 - [20250408 - Commentary: Questionnaire 2025 Federal Election](#)
- **Access Assessment Research**
Advanced FIPA's Access Assessment work by publishing updates, release packages, and a preliminary report on access-to-information practices.
 - [20250528 - 2025 Access Assessment: The Latest](#)
 - [20251201 - Access Assessment Release Packages](#)
 - [20251202 - Preliminary Report 2025](#)
- **Legal and Legislative Analysis**
Published analysis of legislative clauses and access/privacy reform issues to support public understanding and law reform.
 - [20251104 - Clause Analysis: Frivolous and Vexatious](#)

Impact:

This work strengthened FIPA's evidence base, supported public-interest advocacy, and created reusable materials for journalists, researchers, students, civil society partners, and decision-makers.

Law Reform and Public Accountability

FIPA responded to legislative and policy developments affecting privacy, access to information, democratic accountability, and independent oversight.

Key deliverables included:

- **Bill C-4 and Federal Political Party Privacy**

Developed a sustained public accountability package on Bill C-4, with resources including commentary, letters, briefing notes, line-by-line analysis, and public education materials.

- [20250606 - Bill C-4 2025](#)
- [20250610 - Commentary: 2025 Bill C-2 and C-4](#)
- [20250612 - Letter: Withdraw Part 4 of Bill C-4](#)
- [20250616 - MP Letter: Withdraw Part 4 of Bill C-4](#)
- [20250616 - Briefing Note: Bill C-4 Part 4](#)
- [20251026 - Bill C-4 Part 4 Line-by-Line and Brief](#)

- **Democratic and Electoral Reform**

Engaged with electoral reform and democratic accountability processes in British Columbia.

- [20250725 - 2025 BC Special Committee on Democratic and Electoral Reform](#)

- **Provincial and Interjurisdictional Privacy Developments**

Drew attention to privacy and access developments in other jurisdictions, including Alberta and Nova Scotia.

- [20250113 - Info Summit: Alberta Legislative Changes](#)
- [20250128 - Info Summit: Alberta Legislative Changes Recordings](#)
- [20250225 - News Release: OIPC NS Commissioner Statement on Bill 1](#)

Impact:

FIPA translated complex legislative developments into public-facing resources and advocacy tools, helping civil society, the public, and decision-makers understand the privacy and transparency implications of proposed reforms.

Public Legal Education and Issue Explainers

FIPA created public-facing explainers, commentaries, and issue materials to help people understand their rights and the public-interest stakes of access and privacy issues.

Key deliverables included:

- **Access, Privacy, and Democracy Explainers**
 - [20250314 - A Chorus Calling for Change](#)
 - [20250610 - Commentary: 2025 Bill C-2 and C-4](#)
 - **Election and Democratic Accountability Materials**
 - [20250210 - Research 2025 Election Questionnaires](#)
 - [20250408 - Commentary: Questionnaire 2025 Federal Election](#)
 - **Access Assessment Public Education**
 - [20250528 - 2025 Access Assessment: The Latest](#)
 - [20251202 - Preliminary Report 2025](#)
-

Impact:

These materials helped move audiences from awareness to action by explaining what was at stake, why it mattered, and how access and privacy issues connect to broader democratic accountability.

Presentations, Training, and Professional Engagement

FIPA participated in and supported events that brought together experts, practitioners, regulators, students, and civil society partners. Key deliverables included:

- **Info Summit: Alberta Legislative Changes**
 - [20250113 - Info Summit: Alberta Legislative Changes](#)
 - [20250128 - Info Summit: Alberta Legislative Changes Recordings](#)
- **Vancouver International Privacy and Security Summit**
 - [20250225 - Event: FIPA at VIPSS](#)
 - [20250312 - 2025 VIPSS Panel with FIPA](#)
- **CBA Access and Privacy Conference**
 - [20251104 - 2025 CBA Access and Privacy Conference](#)

Impact:

These activities positioned FIPA as a contributor to professional and public-interest conversations on privacy, access to information, law reform, and democratic accountability.

News, Commentary, and Public Awareness

FIPA maintained a regular public education and awareness stream through **Access and Privacy Online** and related podcast commentaries.

Key deliverables included:

- **45 weekly Access and Privacy Online episodes** published between January and December 2025.
- **Podcast commentaries and interviews** on foreign interference, data sovereignty, municipal disclosure practices, secret messaging, election monitoring, Bill C-4, Bill C-2, FOI trends, transparency, trust, misinformation, and access assessment findings.

Impact:

This regular publishing schedule helped FIPA provide timely, accessible public education on access and privacy issues as they developed. It also created a record of emerging issues and helped connect legal, policy, media, and civil society conversations.

Campaign and Communications Infrastructure

FIPA's 2025 work also strengthened reusable campaign infrastructure for future public education, law reform, fundraising, and supporter engagement.

Key deliverables included:

- Legislative explainers and briefing notes.
 - Public letters and MP-facing materials.
 - Election questionnaires.
 - Access Assessment research packages.
 - Podcast and short-form commentary.
 - Event recordings and professional education materials.
 - Issue-specific webpages that can support future campaigns, grant reporting, donor stewardship, and public education.
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Impact:

These resources allow FIPA to reuse and adapt evidence-based materials across annual reports, grant applications, public campaigns, education programs, and partner outreach.

WHO WE ARE

Vision Mission Mandate

Mission

Improve and defend privacy and transparency as vital components of a free and democratic society.

Vision

Public agencies transparent in action and decision.

People in control of their privacy.

Privacy and transparency in law and policy.

Mandate

FIPA is one of Canada's few advocacy groups dedicated to access to information, transparency, and privacy issues. We conduct research into the public opinion, policy and law that intersect access to information and privacy frameworks in BC and across Canada. This includes monitoring the performance of public bodies, governments, and regulators in the sector. FIPA commissions studies and provides material that empower lawyers, journalists, students, and the public. In turn, we are frequently consulted on policy issues by politicians and government officials.

FIPA is a cornerstone of civil society in BC with an extended network across the country.

Our advocacy work focuses on transparency and privacy.

Our activities deliver programs that include:

legal research, public legal education, public assistance and aid, and law reform.

Core Activities

Canadians have broad concern about privacy, transparency, AI, foreign interference, oversight, and political-party data practices. FIPA advances privacy and transparency through four connected program areas: legal research, public legal education, public assistance, and law reform. Together, these programs help people understand their rights, support those affected by access and privacy problems, and turn evidence from real-world experience into practical recommendations for stronger laws, better institutions, and more accountable public systems.

Legal Research Program

Legal research is FIPA's evidence base. It supports our public education, public assistance, advocacy, and law reform work by identifying how access to information and privacy rights operate in practice, where systems fall short, and what changes are needed.

FIPA's research draws on legislation, court decisions, regulator orders, public records, policy materials, academic work, and the experience of people who use access and privacy systems. This work is supported by staff, students, contractors, pro bono contributors, lawyers, academics, journalists, public-interest organizations, and affected communities.

Research outputs include reports, submissions, explainers, issue briefs, public presentations, media support, educational resources, and archived materials made available for public use. FIPA also provides research support within its mandate to lawyers, journalists, students, civil society partners, and members of the public.

Public Legal Education Program

FIPA's public legal education helps people understand access to information and privacy rights, identify which laws or institutions may apply, and take practical next steps.

FIPA structures public education materials using a tiered writing approach. Introductory materials explain issues in plain language. Applied guides help people take practical steps. Expert materials support journalists, researchers, advocates, lawyers, students, and professionals who need deeper legal, policy, or procedural analysis.

Public education is delivered through searchable web resources, public presentations, workshops, webinars, reports, media commentary, podcasts, newsletters, and campaign materials. Core resources include [Get Help](#) pages, [Research Resources](#), [FOI 101](#) and FOI 201 workshops, and issue-specific explainers developed in response to emerging access and privacy concerns.

FIPA's education work is designed to meet people where they are: first helping them seek reliable information, then encouraging appropriate next steps such as sharing resources, filing a request, attending a session, signing a petition, contacting a representative, becoming a member, or supporting the work.

Public Assistance and Aid Program

FIPA receives inquiries from people trying to understand or exercise their access to information and privacy rights. These contacts often reveal practical barriers in the system, including confusion about jurisdiction, difficulty identifying the right process, delays, incomplete responses, privacy concerns, or uncertainty about where to seek review or complaint resolution.

FIPA defines assistance as a customized response to an inquiry within FIPA's mandate. FIPA defines aid as assistance requiring more than 30 minutes of staff time. Where a matter requires legal representation, formal intervention, or specialized advice outside FIPA's capacity, FIPA may refer the person to another resource or seek project-specific support.

FIPA tracks assistance trends, time spent, issue type, and province of origin where appropriate. Aggregated inquiry data helps FIPA identify recurring public needs, update education materials, and inform law reform priorities.

Law Reform Program

FIPA's law reform work turns research, public assistance trends, public education, and stakeholder engagement into practical recommendations for stronger access to information and privacy laws.

FIPA's approach is non-partisan, evidence-informed, and grounded in the public interest. At times FIPA leads; at times it supports coalitions, partners, and allied organizations. In all cases, FIPA works to advance privacy, transparency, civil liberties, and democratic accountability.

Law reform outputs include legislative submissions, consultation responses, public statements, committee briefs, testimony, coalition letters, campaign resources, regulator engagement, media commentary, and public education materials that help communities understand proposed changes.

FIPA participates in civil society, legal, academic, journalism, regulatory, and public-interest networks across British Columbia and Canada. These relationships help align advocacy, share expertise, and strengthen public-interest responses to emerging access and privacy issues.

Operations

FIPA manages operations with a focus on value for dollar, repeatable processes, and accountable use of limited resources. Administrative systems are designed to support program delivery, protect privacy, preserve records, manage risk, and demonstrate results to members, funders, donors, partners, and the public.

FIPA continues to define and improve repeatable workflows for research, public education, assistance tracking, records management, communications, grant reporting, donor stewardship, privacy protection, and governance support.

Walking the Talk

FIPA's credibility depends on applying the same principles we ask of others: transparency, privacy protection, accountable governance, proper records management, and recognition of contributors.

For FIPA, transparency is not only about publishing information. It is a way of working. We share draft work where appropriate, invite feedback, support joint and complementary submissions, and draw attention to aligned work by partners, experts, and public-interest organizations. Where there is common ground, we work to amplify shared concerns and demonstrate broader public-interest support for access to information and privacy reform.

We balance openness with privacy, confidentiality, consent, and responsible stewardship of relationships. We maintain public information about our staff, contributors, advisors, governance documents, policies, and opportunities to work with or support FIPA so people can understand who contributes to our work, how we are governed, and how they can become involved.

APPENDIX 2025 CHRONOLOGY

Impact Area	2025 Deliverables	Public Benefit
Research and evidence	Election questionnaires, Access Assessment updates, release packages, preliminary report, clause analysis	Helps identify gaps and supports evidence-based reform
Law reform and accountability	Bill C-4 materials, Bill C-2/C-4 commentary, letters, briefing note, line-by-line analysis, democratic reform engagement	Helps decision-makers and the public understand legislative risks
Public legal education	Explainers, commentaries, issue pages, campaign resources	Helps people understand access and privacy rights
Presentations, training and professional engagement	Info Summit, VIPSS, CBA conference participation	Builds expert dialogue and civil society capacity
Public awareness	45 Access and Privacy Online episodes plus podcast commentaries	Keeps access and privacy issues visible and understandable
Campaign infrastructure	Reusable letters, briefs, webpages, recordings, podcasts, research packages	Builds capacity for future advocacy, fundraising, and public education

Posts, Releases, Events, and Submissions

- 20250113 - Info Summit - Alberta Legislative Changes
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/alberta-legislative-changes/>
- 20250128 - Info Summit - Alberta Legislative Changes Recordings
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/alberta-legislative-changes-recordings/>
- 20250210 - Research 2025 Election Questionnaires
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/2025-election-questionnaires/>
- 20250210 - 2025 Election Questionnaire ON
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/2025-election-questionnaire-on/>
- 20250225 - News Release OIPC NS Commissioner Statement Bill 1
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/20250225-oipc-ns-commissioner-statement-bill-1/>
- 20250225 Event FIPA at VIPSS
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/fipa-at-vipss/>
- 20250312 2025 VIPSS Panel with FIPA
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/2025-vipss-panel-with-fipa/>
- 20250314 A chorus calling for change.
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/a-chorus-calling-for-change/>
- 20250408 Commentary Questionnaire 2025 Federal Election
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/2025-federal-election/>
- 20250528 2025 Access Assessment the Latest
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/2025-access-assessment-the-latest/>
- 20250606 Bill C-4 2025
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/bill-c-4-2025/>
- 20250610 Commentary: 2025 Bill C-2 and C-4
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/research-resources/2025-bill-c-2-and-c-4/>
- 20250612 Letter: Withdraw Part 4 of Bill C-4
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/letter-withdraw-part-4-of-bill-c-4/>
- 20250616 MP Letter: Withdraw Part 4 of Bill C-4
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/mp-letter-withdraw-part-4-of-bill-c-4/>
- 20250616 Briefing Note Bill C-4 Part 4

- <https://fipa.bc.ca/briefing-note-bill-c-4-part-4/>
- 20250725 2025 BC Special Committee on Democratic and Electoral Reform
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/fn/2025-bc-special-committee-on-democratic-and-electoral-reform/>
- 20251026 Bill C-4 Part 4 line-by-line and brief
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/bill-c-4-part-4-line-by-line-and-brief/>
- 20251104 2025 CBA Access and Privacy Conference
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/2025-cba-access-and-privacy-conference/>
- 20251104 Clause analysis – frivolous vexatious
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/rr/clause-analysis-frivolous-vexatious>
- 20251201 Access Assessment Release Packages
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/aa/2025-release-packages/>
- 20251202 Preliminary Report 2025
 - <https://fipa.bc.ca/aa/preliminary-report-2025/>

Access and Privacy Online

[Access & Privacy Online](#) is a weekly roundup of news stories related to freedom of information, privacy, and information management. Episodes draw on news feeds from the Canadian Press and Feedly, with additional content republished from partner organizations. Stories covered in Access & Privacy Online are published in full text format without paywalls on the FIPA website.

- 20250118 Access and Privacy Online <https://fipa.bc.ca/20250118-access-and-privacy-online/>
- 20250125 Access and Privacy Online <https://fipa.bc.ca/20250125-access-and-privacy-online/>
- 20250201 Access and Privacy Online <https://fipa.bc.ca/20250201-access-and-privacy-online/>
- 20250208 Access and Privacy Online <https://fipa.bc.ca/20250208-access-and-privacy-online/>
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- 20251129 Access and Privacy Online <https://fipa.bc.ca/nm/20251129-access-and-privacy-online>
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- 20251213 Access and Privacy Online <https://fipa.bc.ca/nm/20251213-access-and-privacy-online>
- 20251220 Access and Privacy Online <https://fipa.bc.ca/nm/20251220-access-and-privacy-online>

Podcast Commentaries

- 20250115 The Year Ahead
 - <https://fipanews.podbean.com/e/navigating-privacy-and-transparency-in-a-transformative-year/>
- 20250129 Commentary: Info Summit Commissioners Series Alberta Changes Event
 - <https://fipanews.podbean.com/e/unveiling-albertas-new-privacy-and-information-acts/>
- 20250205 Final Report on Foreign Interference
 - <https://fipanews.podbean.com/e/unveiling-the-threat-foreign-interference-in-canadas-elections/>
- 20250212 Foreign Impacts on Data Sovereignty
 - <https://fipanews.podbean.com/e/trumps-chaotic-presidency-implications-for-privacy-and-cybersecurity/>
- 20250219 BC Municipal Disclosure of Records Report
 - <https://fipanews.podbean.com/e/unveiling-transparency-bcs-municipal-disclosure-practices-examined/>
- 20250226 Secret Messaging and Public Accountability
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