

IPC Digest | February 26, 2015

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Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario



BRIAN BEAMISH APPOINTED COMMISSIONER



December 16, 2014
[Ontario Privacy Commissioner](#)

The IPC has launched a privacy-protective web analytics program which is hosted on our website and will be used to record non-identifiable information about your site visit. The data collected will be stored on our web server and not shared with third parties.

[Click here to opt-out of IPC web analytics.](#)

expressed gratitude to members of Provincial Parliament for the confidence they have shown in him and paid tribute to his predecessors, the Honourable Sidney Linden, Tom Wright and Ann Cavoukian. "I am honoured to be given the opportunity and responsibility to build on the many successes of our office in service of the people of Ontario," said Mr. Beamish.

Recognizing the gains for access and challenges to privacy brought about by an ever-evolving technological landscape, the new Commissioner will be taking the opportunity to review the essential mandate of the office and map the course for the future.

[Surge in Freedom of Information requests to police, shortage of staff blamed for slow response rate](#)
Toronto Star

[February 18, 2015 Medical records found outdoors in Richmond Hill](#)
CBC Toronto



IS IT WORTH IT?

Over the last year, there have been an ever increasing number of cases where health care workers have accessed and disclosed the personal health information of individuals without consent, in direct violation of health privacy legislation. Many of these incidents involved people inappropriately accessing information on family members, friends, co-workers and neighbours. However, many cases also involved unauthorized access to the medical records of individuals who did not have any relationship with the health care worker, ranging from high-profile individuals to new mothers whose information was sold to RESP companies. Whatever the reason, there is no excuse for unauthorized access, whether it comes from interpersonal conflicts, curiosity, personal gain or misguided concern about the well-being of individuals.

It is important that those who work in the health care sector realize that regardless of motive, these types of breaches are taken very seriously by the IPC.

The goal of the *Is It Worth It?* campaign is not only to send a strong message that there can be serious consequences for snooping, but also to offer guidance on minimizing the risk.

Together, we can go a long way toward reducing the number of unauthorized access incidents. We encourage you to visit the *Is It Worth It?* page on our website.

Email us to request materials and supplies for your organization.



THE PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Recently the IPC, along with our federal, provincial and territorial colleagues, urged law enforcement agencies to carefully consider the significant risks to privacy before equipping officers with body-worn cameras. In order to help law enforcement agencies identify the necessary privacy considerations, a new **guidance document** has been released. It describes the privacy framework that should be part of any body-worn camera program in order to ensure compliance with existing privacy legislation.

Body-worn cameras present a set of unique privacy challenges. Though the principles of video surveillance remain the same, this technology has the potential to collect massive amounts of personal information, including



March 2, 2015

Data Breaches: Avoidance, Preparedness and Response
Osgoode Professional Development

April 1, 2015

Social Media 2: The Uses, Benefits and Challenges
SOAR's Administrative and Management Network

April 9, 2015

The 2015 Legal Guide to Privacy and Information Management in Healthcare,
Osgoode Professional Development

April 22, 2015

Health Care Information: Privacy and Compliance Conference
Ontario Hospital Association



December 30, 2014:

MO-3146 – Records of transportation consortium in custody or under control of school board
London District Catholic School Board

January 19, 2015:

PO-3450 – Pricing list for the provision of linen services to the hospital ordered disclosed
Cornwall Community Hospital

January 27, 2015

MO-3154 – Requests found to be frivolous or vexatious, resulting in conditions on the processing of further requests by the appellant
Municipality of South Huron

February 5, 2015

that of individuals unassociated with police activity. In addition, the quality of audio and video collected by these devices increases the possibility of linking extensive personal information via the use of facial recognition and other video analytic software. This new document will assist law enforcement agencies in exploring the key issues which must be reviewed before moving forward with an implementation of the technology. These issues include appropriate safeguards, public notification, potential secondary uses, as well as the necessary retention, disclosure and secure destruction policies and procedures.

We are happy that the Toronto Police Service has engaged with us for consultation on their pilot project. If you are considering a body-worn camera program in your jurisdiction, please [contact us](#).

PO-3458 – Allegations made about the appellant by her sister constituted mixed personal information, and disclosure to the appellant was not an unjustified invasion of the sister's personal privacy Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation



If you have any questions call us at **416.326.3333 / 1.800.387.0073**, [email us](#), or write to us: Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, 2 Bloor St. East, Suite 1400, Toronto, ON, M4W 1A8.



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