

Information and Privacy- Lit Review

Precedent	Collection	Advances in technology	Laws	Definitions
Denham was appointed commissioner in May 2010, and has been central to several stories related to privacy and access to information in the province (Britten, 2016).	In today's society, personal information is collected and used extensively, by individuals and organizations, for a variety of reasons (COPCC, 2020).	Advances in technology have a particularly significant impact on the ease with which personal information can be collected, used, shared and combined, introducing new challenges for the protection of personal information (COPCC, 2020).	There are several laws in Canada that relate to privacy rights. Enforcement of these laws is handled by various government organizations and agencies (COPCC, 2020).	Personal information is data about an “identifiable individual” (COPCC, 2020).
In a resignation letter to Minister of Finance Mike de Jong, Denham wrote it has been “a privilege to serve as British Columbia’s Commissioner for the past six years” (Britten, 2016).			<p>Several factors determine which laws apply and who oversees them. Among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the organization handling the personal information • Where is the organization based? • What type of information is involved? • Does the information 	It is information that on its own or combined with other pieces of data, can identify you as an individual (COPCC, 2020).

Information and Privacy- Lit Review

			cross provincial or national borders? (COPCC, 2020).	
“I leave believing that the independence and impartiality of this Office has served the public well”, she wrote. “ I also leave knowing that government’s awareness of the importance of privacy and security of personal information, the need for good record keeping of government decisions and the public’s right to know have been enhanced during my tenure” (Britten, 2016).			<p>Canada has two federal privacy laws that are enforced by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Privacy Act, which covers how the federal government handles personal information; • The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) which covers how businesses handle personal information (COPCC, 2020).	<p>The definition of personal information differs somewhat under PIPEDA or the Privacy Act but generally it can mean information about your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race, national or ethnic origin • Religion • Age, marital status • Medical education or employment history • Financial information • DNA • Identifying numbers such as your social insurance number or drivers licence • Views or opinions about you as an employee (COPCC, 2020).
Most recently, she wrote a scathing report about the			The Privacy Act also applies to the Government’s	The Privacy Act relates to a person’s right to access and correct personal information

Information and Privacy- Lit Review

<p>provincial government's triple-deleting" of emails in various ministries after whistleblower Tim Duncan alleged he was ordered to delete emails related to a freedom of information request (Britten, 2016).</p>			<p>collection, use and disclosure of personal information in the course of providing services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old age security pensions • Employment insurance • Border security • Federal policing and public safety • Tax collection and refunds <p>(COPCC, 2020).</p>	<p>that the Government of Canada holds about them (COPCC, 2020).</p>
<p>She was also a long-time critic of what she called "oral government" within the provincial government- "where business is undertaken verbally and in a records-free way." She said this undermines the freedom of information system by leaving little or no record of government</p>			<p>The Privacy Act only applies to federal government institutions listed in the Privacy Act Schedule of Institutions. It applies to all of the personal information that the federal government collects, uses, and discloses. This includes personal information about federal employees (COPCC, 2020).</p>	<p>The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)</p> <p>PIPEDA sets the ground rules for how private-sector organizations collect, use, and disclose personal information in the course of for-profit, commercial activities across Canada. It also applies to the personal information of employees of federally-regulated businesses such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks

Information and Privacy- Lit Review

decision-making (Britten, 2016).				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airlines • Telecommunications companies (COPCC, 2020).
Colin Bennett, a professor of political science at the University of Victoria, serves on the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's external advisory board (Britten, 2016).			The Privacy Act offers protections for personal information, which it defines as any recorded information "about an identifiable individual" (COPCC, 2020).	
Denham has built a reputation because of her work on lower-key issues like social media and technology to read license plates (Britten, 2016).			<p>PIPDEA generally applies to personal information held by private sector organizations that are not federally-regulated, and conduct business in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba • New Brunswick • Newfoundland and Labrador • Northwest Territories • Nova Scotia • Nunavut 	

Information and Privacy- Lit Review

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ontario• Prince Edward Island• Saskatchewan• Yukon <p>(COPCC, 2020).</p>	
			Federally-regulated organizations that conduct business in Canada are always subject to PIPEDA and must also apply the act to their employees' personal information (COPCC, 2020).	
			PIPEDA does not apply to organizations that do not engage in commercial, for-profit activities (COPCC, 2020).	
			Municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals are generally covered by provincial laws (COPCC, 2020).	