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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

### **AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE GOVERNMENT DATA SERVICES**

VICTORIA – The Province has signed an agreement with EDS Advanced Solutions Inc. (EAS) to provide managed hosting and data centre services for government. These services involve the storage and handling of data that is used in the timely delivery of government services across British Columbia.

Government hosting services have been provided by the private sector since 1998. The addition of data centre services will provide modern information technology infrastructure and ensure that government has the technological tools available to continue to deliver high quality programs to British Columbians into the future.

EAS is a wholly-owned British Columbia company. The contract is valued at approximately \$586 million, calculated over 12 years. The contract includes strict privacy, security and confidentiality provisions that meet or exceed the standards of British Columbia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. In addition to contractual and legal safeguards, all data will be protected by new security technology and no data will be stored outside Canada.

Approximately 120 staff positions are affected. All affected employees have been offered jobs with the new employer. Employees who have accepted offers from EAS remain members of the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union, and will receive the same or higher pay and benefits. Employees who opted not to transfer to EAS have chosen one of several options, including remaining with government for placement in other positions.

The contract provides an opportunity for the broader public sector to purchase services. The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia has also signed an agreement with EAS for data centre services.

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