

2021 AMENDMENTS OVERVIEW

Background

Introduced in 1993, [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (FOIPPA) balances government's accountability to the public through access to information with a person's right to information privacy. There are over 2,900 public bodies covered by FOIPPA including government ministries, agencies, boards commissions, Crown corporations, municipalities, post-secondary institutions, school boards, health authorities, and self-governing bodies of professions.

Amendments Highlights

Amendments to the FOIPPA received royal assent on Nov. 25, 2021. Most amendments take effect right away, however, select amendments will come into force at a later date to give public bodies more time to develop implementation plans, and some amendments will be further detailed in regulation or ministerial directions. All amendments are anticipated to come into force within one year.

Highlights include:

- Updating FOIPPA's data-residency provisions.
- Requiring public bodies to have a privacy management program.
- Implementing mandatory privacy breach reporting.
- Increasing penalties for offences and adding new offences for evading FOI.
- Introducing an application fee for non-personal FOI requests.
- Enabling more information sharing with Indigenous peoples.
- Adding Indigenous cultural protections.

More information

Support materials can be found at <http://gov.bc.ca/FOIPPAUpdates> and [training opportunities](#) are available to support public bodies' understanding of the changes as they work through implementation in their organizations.

- For questions about the 2021 amendments, please contact IM.ITPolicy@gov.bc.ca.
- For general privacy related questions, please contact privacy.helpline@gov.bc.ca.