

Missing Drive - Letter Notification - December 2016

The missing drive contained information about individuals who attended a K–12 or post-secondary education program in British Columbia between 1986 and 2009.

If you received a letter, from the Ministry of Education, in January 2016, or December 2016, please be aware that your information will have been in one or more of the following categories on the missing drive:

- Name, date of birth, gender, postal code, grades, personal education number (See File Type A).
- Special needs status and personal or family history information, if available; a reference to the special needs category reported by your school to the Ministry of Education regarding a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature, learning disability or special gifts or talents (See File Type B).
- Information about why students withdrew from a primary or secondary school during the school years of 2004/05, 2005/06 or 2006/07 (See Tracking Exiting Students Project file).
- Details from student aid application between 2004 and 2008, including number of dependants, amount of financial aid received, and duration and program of study (See Public Post-Secondary Institute Student Financial Aid Data).
- Information about individuals involved in a cancer research trial in 2008 (See Public Post-Secondary Cancer Research).
- Information about retiring teachers from 2003 (See Teacher Retirement Survey).
- Information about individuals receiving Ministry of Children and Family Development services prior to 2006/2007.
- Information about children under a continuing custody order from 2001 to 2007.
- Information about children in care in September 2000.

Questions about the incident should be directed to Service BC at any of the following telephone numbers:

In Victoria: (250) 387-6121
In Vancouver: (604) 660-2421
Elsewhere in BC: 1 (800) 663-7867

We have reported this incident to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC), which has completed an investigation. If you have questions and concerns you may contact the OIPC by mail at P.O. Box 9038, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9A4, by telephone at (250) 387-5629, or by fax at (250) 387-1696.

MISSING DRIVE CONTENTS

Despite extensive physical and electronic searches, the Ministry of Education has been unable to locate an unencrypted external hard drive with a variety of reports, databases, and some information detailed below.

The missing external drive is a black Western Digital drive about 7-inches high, 5.5 inches deep, and two inches thick. The disk has 437 GB worth of material made up of 8,766 folders with 138,830 files.

Inside some of the files is information on a total of 3.4 million individuals from between 1986-2009

FILE TYPE A:

Contains information on a total of 3,166,388 individuals in the years between 1991-2009

This file type captures all students involved in the BC education system (all K-12 individuals, including those in the Yukon, and every applicant to a public post-secondary institution) during this time, and contains the following individual information:

- Personal Education Number
- full name
- birth date
- home postal code that year
- home address for grade 12 students being mailed their transcript
- the name of the community of the student's latest home address, where known

FILE TYPE B:

Contains information on 1,850,044 individuals in K-12 between 1991-2009

All of these individuals also occur in FILE TYPE A

This file type captures the following individual information:

- Personal Education Number
- birth date
- gender
- home postal code at time of collection
- aboriginality flag, for each year
- special needs status as identified that year and type (Physically Dependent, Deafblind, Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disabilities, Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment, Visual Impairment, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intensive Behaviour Intervention/Serious Mental Illness, Learning Disability, Mild Intellectual Disability, Moderate Behaviour Support, Mental Illness, Gifted, Learning Disability, Moderate Behaviour Support / Mental Illness)
- home language
- status of residency (Resident or Non-Resident)
- English Language Learner status for each year
- French Immersion enrollment for each year
- current grade level that year
- school attending for each year
- type of facility attending (Standard, distance education, alternative, Youth Custody)
- type of school attending (BC Public School, BC Independent School, Extra-Provincial School, Federal band school)
- credentials obtained by student and date obtained (BC Adult Graduation Diploma, BC School Completion Certificate, BC Secondary School Graduation "Dogwood")
- funding code that year (standard, out of Province/International, "Status Indian on Reserve")
- high school Grade Point Average

1990 Middle School File

A file containing 3,457 individuals listed in Grade 6, 7, or 8 in 1990, with the same information as **FILE TYPE B**.

1986-1989 Grade 12 Graduates

A separate file contains information on 188,322 individuals in Grade 12 in the years 1986-1989. The file contains the following individual information:

- Student ID Number
- full name
- birth date
- gender
- graduation status and all credentials obtained
- high school Grade Point Average

BC Course Mark Files

Files which contain all student exams and course information for BC for 1991-2008:

- Personal Education Number
- birth date
- gender
- aboriginality flag, for each year
- special needs status as identified that year and type
- home language
- English Language Learner status for each year
- French Immersion enrollment for each year
- type of facility attending (Standard, distance ED, alternative, Youth Custody)
- type of school attending (BC Public School, BC Independent School, Extra-Provincial School, Federal band school)
- courses taken by students, their course final mark, and provincial exam mark where applicable

Yukon Course Mark Files

Files which contain all student exam and course information for the Yukon for 1991-2008:

- Personal Education Number
- birth date
- gender
- type of facility attending (Standard, distance ED, alternative, Youth Custody)
- type of school attending (BC Public School, BC Independent School, Extra-Provincial School, Federal band school)
- courses taken by students, their course final mark, and provincial exam mark where applicable

Foundation Skills Assessment

Files which contain the Foundation Skills Assessment data for students in grade 4, 7, & 10 between 1999-2008 which contains the following information:

- Personal Education Number
- birth date
- gender
- postal code
- English language learner status
- French immersion status
- home language
- residency status
- special needs type
- aboriginality flag
- Foundation Skill Assessment marks for all students who participated

Tracking Exiting Students Project

A 2008 file exists which tracked students withdrawing from the K-12 system for unforeseen reasons in select school districts (districts 59, 61, 67, 70, 78, 79, & 83). The file contains the following detailed information on 200 students:

- Personal Education Number
- full name
- birth date
- gender
- special needs type
- in care status (foster home, group home, independent living, or "turnabout")
- intervention assessment (counseling, admin, school-based team, psych assess, police, community agent, or other)
- intervention specifics
- school completion
- withdrawal from school details (substance abuse, mental health issues, medical reasons, family problems, motivation issues, learning style, school not meeting needs, or other)
- employment
- and a section for miscellaneous comments that contains detailed personal or family data

Yukon Exam Results

There exist files with 1,300 select individuals from 1993-2008 containing:

- Personal Education Number
- gender
- school
- course and exam involvement and marks

Yukon K-12 Distributed Learning

A 2007 file with information for 162 select individuals participating in distributed learning in the Yukon. The files contain the following information:

- Personal Education Number
- full name
- birth date
- home address
- distance learning course description

Yukon Graduation Rates

The drive also contains 2007/2008 graduation files for 370 Yukon students, the information contains:

- Personal Education Number
- birth date
- school
- graduation credential
- English Language Learner Status
- aboriginality flag

Teacher Retirement Survey Data

The drive contains data from the 2003 "BC Teachers' Federation Retirement Survey", given to active BC teachers and administrators, who were at least 52 at the time of the survey, regarding retirement plans.

This file contains 825 unique records of teachers and administrators with the following information:

- first name for all records
- birth date
- gender
- full home address
- private phone number
- survey responses and survey comments:
 - current employment, employment history, teaching subject area
 - retirement plans and any personal/professional issues related to retirement

The file contained no financial, banking, or pension information.

Teacher Correspondence

There exists a file on special education review, containing 169 pieces of correspondence from the public to the Ministry of Education, this information contains:

- full names
- email addresses
- correspondence that is sometimes of a personal nature

Teacher Data - Annual Teacher Congress

There exists a file with data on 342 teachers and school staff who attended the 2006 annual teacher congress, the information contains:

- full name
- personal email address
- school of employment
- type of employment (teacher, counsellor, special educator, librarian, learning assistant, or "other")
- class size and grade composition

Public Post-Secondary Institute Data

A file contains information on 511,945 individuals enrolled in a public Post-Secondary institution between 2002-2009, as well as summaries of K-12 achievements and background for K-12 graduates who do not transition to a post-secondary institute.

This contains the following information:

- Personal Education Number
- Birth date
- Gender
- Aboriginal status
- English Language Learner status
- special needs status
- student postal code
- high school grade point average
- last high school attended
- post-secondary institution(s) attended
- post-secondary institution program enrolments as well as a summary of K-12 achievements and any K-12 credentials received
- post-secondary institution - specific student number
- citizenship

Public Post-Secondary Institute Student Financial Aid Data

A separate file contains information on all 252,000 students applying for and receiving financial assistance from 2000-2008, and contains the following information:

- Personal Education Number
- birth date
- gender
- postal code
- aboriginal status flag
- family info (whether the individual lives with parents or has children)
- native band funding (amount)
- post-secondary program information
- student financial assistance at post-secondary level
 - information comes from StudentAid BC, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Labour Market Development (ALMD), and the Government of Canada
 - includes data on federally provided student assistance, such as Canada Student Loans and Canada Study Grants where applicable
 - includes assessed financial need, unmet need, and finances awarded

The file does not include banking information or Social Insurance Numbers

Public Post-Secondary Cancer Research

A 2008 file of 1,052 cancer survivors in Public Post-Secondary institutes involved in a Cancer Research trial, which contains the following information:

- Personal Education Number
- birth year
- graduation date (1991-2005)

Industry Training Authority

The Ministry participates in data exchanges with the Industry Training Authority for the purpose of program evaluation and providing supports for apprentices. Files contains information on approximately 6,700 individual records of students who enrolled in an industry training program between January 2005 and June 2008:

- full name
- birthdate
- graduation date
- registration and completion date
- specific requirements and completion status of those requirements
- district and school name
- type of training program
- apprenticeship and employer ID

The Ministry of Children and Family Development

The drive contains data exchanges with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. One file includes 9,273 individuals receiving Ministry of Children and Family Development services prior to 2006/2007. The file includes the following information:

- Personal Education Number
- school
- Child in Care status
- supervision status
- adoption status
- school enrollment
- youth agreement
- participation in MCFD program
- Kith and Kin Support (children in home of relative)
- health and behaviour issues
- participation in intellectual disability program
- MCFD region of student
- MCFD office where file is located

A file contains a list of children under a continuing custody order from 2001 to 2007. The file includes 8,170 individuals and the following information:

- Personal Education Number
- school year
- Continuing Custody Order flag

Ministry of Children and Family Development - Education of Children in Care

A file from September 2000 of Children in Care, with information on 10,125 persons, and contains the following information:

- full name
- birth date
- gender
- Ministry of Children and Family Development demographics & case file information