

November 16, 2001

Ref: 3822

To: All Deputy Ministers

Re: Single Identifier for Transacting with Government Electronically

The purpose of this memo is to advise you of the intent to establish a single identifier for organisations and individuals transacting electronically with government. This policy direction will be implemented over time and will be outlined in more detail as it is developed. Initially, focus will be on implementing the identifier for organisations such as businesses dealing with government. The working title of the identifier is BCeID.

A single corporate identification will:

1. ensure that any organisation can interact with the BC Government's online services using a single userid and password; and
2. eliminate the duplicate identifiers and enrolments currently in existence.

Currently, programs across government use different identifiers to register and/or identify organisations that interact with them. No corporate approach or defined standard has been established to date and, therefore, multiple identifiers exist. This means that it is difficult for two or more programs to share the same identifying entries. Once an identifying entry is established by one program, other programs cannot reliably link to it because no common data standards are in place to support doing so.

As Government's electronic service delivery initiatives are rolled out, it is essential for the appropriate common information technology infrastructure to be in place. Part of that infrastructure is a registration service to permit users conducting business-to-government interactions to be authenticated. It is also contemplated with this policy direction that there must be an increased emphasis on data sharing across ministries on information related to the enrolment process.

Please advise any staff in your ministry involved in developing electronic service delivery initiatives of this corporate policy direction. They should work with staff from my office and the Information Technology Services Division of the Ministry of Management Services to ensure there is a common corporate approach and solution to this issue. This may mean that some project-specific scheduling will need to be adjusted to accommodate the corporate plan.

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Thank you for your assistance and any questions regarding BCeID should be directed to Floyd Mailhot, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives at Floyd.Mailhot@gems8.gov.bc.ca.

(Originally Signed By:)

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