

**PSCIOC/PSSDC PRIVACY SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**FOR**  
**JANUARY 2023**

**The Privacy and Access Subcommittee – Overview**

The PSCIOC / PSSDC Privacy Subcommittee was established in the 1990s. Initially a subcommittee of the Public Sector CIO Council, for the last number of years, it has reported jointly to the Public Sector CIO Council and the Public Sector Service Delivery Council.

Membership ideally includes representation from all levels of government including federal, provincial, territorial and municipal. Members of the subcommittee are typically from government bodies that provide central access and privacy services (advice, policy, legislative support, etc.) for government, along with several major federal government departments.

**Mandate**

The Mandate, described in the Terms of Reference, is threefold:

- To provide a national forum for the exchange of information relating to access to information/Freedom of Information and privacy research, best practices, training, IT products, and other resources, in support of public sector programs and objectives;
- To support the mission of the PSCIOC "to enable enhanced service to the Canadian public through collaboration across governments and demonstrated leadership in the management of information and technology"; and
- To support the mandate of the PSSDC to “share information, develop partnerships and facilitate potential solutions that can be used to improve public sector service delivery” by playing a leadership and coordination role in matters related to access to information and privacy protection.

**Meetings, Conference Calls and Other Communications**

The Subcommittee Terms of Reference notes that at least one formal meeting will be held each year. Where practical, these meetings will be held in conjunction with access and privacy conferences, or other similar events held throughout the country.

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A virtual annual meeting was held in October 2022 and was hosted by Saskatchewan. Some of the key topics discussed at that meeting included digital innovation and digital ID, data analytics and governance, and artificial intelligence. The meeting was well attended with representation from almost every jurisdiction. The subcommittee is currently planning an annual meeting for October 2023 that will be hosted virtually or in person.

The Subcommittee supplements the face to face or annual meetings with regular conference calls. Working groups, project groups and other sub-groups of the Subcommittee will hold additional calls as required to conduct business. The subcommittee received approval from the Joint Councils to move forward with a working group on GDPR. This group met on a regular basis and was co-chaired by BC and the federal government. The purpose of the working group was to come to a consistent understanding of a complex piece of legislation with a significant compliance regime and to share information that could impact all jurisdictions. The GDPR working group was concluded after presenting on their completed work plan in November 2021.

Members also regularly use Microsoft teams and e-mail to ask questions of other members, to learn from the experience of others, and to share information about activities within their jurisdiction. In the past year, the group has completed a number of jurisdictional scans on access and privacy issues.

Over the past six months, there has continued to be an active dialogue on issues such as updates to privacy legislation and policy, technology modernization in support of access service delivery and privacy impact assessments, privacy and access educational resources, information sharing, and access to information fee structures and common FOI requests, among other topics.

### **Workplan – Updated to January 2023**

Over the past few in-person meetings, the subcommittee has discussed major objectives to add to the work plan. Some of these items are still ongoing. In addition, the group has been tasked with some deliverables from the Joint Councils that has been added to this list. It focuses on the following areas:

1. Develop a shared document library. The group is now utilizing MS Teams to store documentation, share and collaborate. Overall, this has been working well but there have been some challenges for certain jurisdictions to access external MS Teams environments.

2. Ad-hoc jurisdictional scans on a number of topics including access to information fees and statistics, data-residency and privacy impact assessment requirements.

The group will need to revisit the workplan in Winter 2024 to determine whether there are new initiatives to add to this plan.

### **Watching Brief / Information Sharing / Face-to-Face Meetings**

Since the Privacy & Access Subcommittee also plays an advisory and community of experts' role, there is significant time spent in keeping abreast of any new legislation, policies, breaches and issues and their impact on government.

### **Next Meeting**

February 14, 2023