

**PSCIOC/PSSDC PRIVACY SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**FOR**  
**OCTOBER 2021**

**The Privacy 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.

A virtual annual meeting was held in October 2020 and hosted by British Columbia. Some of the key topics discussed at that meeting included topics such as ethno-cultural data collection, managing access during COVID-19, cyber-security, technology governance for

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the City of San Francisco, and a discussion with BC's Information and Privacy Commissioner. The meeting was well attended with representation from almost every jurisdiction.

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 new working group on GDPR. This group has been meeting on a regular basis and more information is included in the update that follows. It is co-chaired by BC and the federal government. The purpose of the working group is to come to a consistent understanding of a complex piece of legislation with a significant compliance regime and to share information that will impact all jurisdictions.

Members also regularly use 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 privacy breach protocol/reporting, open government, shared services models, legislation, fee structures and common FOI requests.

### **Workplan - Updated to September 2020**

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. This is still a work in progress, but the group is much further ahead in this area than what we have provided in past updates. \
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2. GDPR working group. The privacy subcommittee will be leading a group to discuss the impacts of the new regulations on Canada.
  - a. Separate workplan attached.
3. 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 Fall 2021 to determine whether there are new initiatives to add to this plan.

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

Since the Privacy 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 such as the emergence of Open Government initiatives and their impact on government.

**Next Meeting**

To be determined.