

PSCIOC/PSSDC PRIVACY SUBCOMMITTEE
ACTIVITY REPORT
FOR
SEPTEMBER 2020

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.

The group last met in September 2019 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Some of the key topics discussed at that meeting included a PIPEDA overview, GDPR, a session on New Brunswick cybersecurity, access and privacy centralization, privacy and access reporting

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metrics and a jurisdictional roundtable. The meeting was well attended with representation from almost every jurisdiction in-person and by teleconference. Due to COVID-19, the group is planning virtual meetings between October 19-30, 2020. BC is hosting the meetings with input from the rest of the members.

The Subcommittee supplements the face to face meeting 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.

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 January 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. This could be in the form of a SharePoint or like site that can be accessed by all members of the subcommittee. Members currently spend a large amount of time canvassing the group with similar or duplicative issues because there is not a shared document library. This is essential once common metrics have been developed (as per above) to help streamline information sharing.
 - a. Status Update – the group is currently transitioning over to Microsoft Teams as a tool for collaboration and information sharing. This is an issue that the group has struggled with for some time and we are hopeful this will provide a good

platform to move forward.

2. Streamline privacy impact assessments. This group was asked by the Joint Councils to look into options for streamlining privacy impact assessments.
 - a. Status Update – the group would like to canvas the Joint Councils on the priority of this work. It has been some time since the issue has been discussed at that level. Within the subcommittee, some initial work was started but most jurisdictions were comfortable with the current processes around privacy impact assessments. As with many other topics, individual jurisdictions are reaching out with questions on this topic. One of the topics for the upcoming virtual meetings is privacy impact assessments within an agile development cycle. .
3. 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.

The group will need to revisit the workplan in Fall 2020 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

Virtual meetings between October 19-30, 2020.