

Transcript Episode 18 Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2022-2023 Annual Report

Ron Kruzeniski:

Today I filed my ninth annual report with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for Saskatchewan. The focus of the report is on data. Data, that is your personal information. We are providing a lot of that data on the internet. And should we be concerned about it? Yes, we should be. We should also be concerned that organizations that collect it are protecting it, taking every steps that they can take to reduce the risk of breaches occurring. So I would ask that you read the annual report to take a look at some of the suggestions of what organizations can do to protect your and my personal information.

Now, an annual report is intended to focus on what's occurred in the last year. And first of all, on May 31st, we issued our 1000th report since I was appointed as Commissioner, and I thank the staff for all their hard work in processing all those reports. Now, focusing more so on the fiscal year itself, we opened 285 new files and we closed 350 files. The significance of that is it allowed us to close some of those older files and get closer to our target of having a resolution or a report out in 180 days.

We also, during that year, informally resolved 26% of our files. Now I'd like that number to be higher. Why? Because citizens and public bodies get their answer a lot sooner when a file can be informally resolved. We also issued 148 reports during the last fiscal year. That is the highest number of reports issued in one year. And again, I thank the staff for their efforts in getting those reports out to citizens and to public bodies.

We also provide summary advice along the way, and last year we provided summary advice in 1,303 different instances. Now, what's a summary advice call? It's when people call in for general information. What's the procedure? What's the next step? I really encourage each of you if you have a question, to call in and ask and find out what the procedure ought to be or what your next step ought to be.

Finally, I want to focus on the Freedom of Information legislation. It was introduced in 1992. It is now over 30 years old. The Health Information Protection Act was introduced in 2003 and is now 20 years old. These pieces of legislation need to be updated and modernized. I and our staff will be working on proposals to update and modernize that legislation, and we'll make proposals that others can consider and determine whether that would be the best course to follow.

So in closing, as you work on the internet and provide information, be careful. Only give as much as you need to. And to those organizations that collect our information, I ask that they take every step to reduce the risk of a breach occurring. Please read our report and I hope it provides assistance to you in dealing with personal information and looking forward to modernizing legislation.