

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner Tables 2021-2022 Annual Report

June 28, 2022

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner, Ronald J. Kruzeniski, Q.C., has tabled his office's <u>2021-2022 Annual Report: Time for a Digital ID</u>, with the Legislative Assembly.

In his report, the Commissioner addresses the need for the development of a Digital ID for Saskatchewan residents, the move toward virtual health care, the systemic issue of misdirected faxes and recommendations for legislative change.

Digital ID

As several other Canadian provinces shift towards the use of a digital ID, it is the hope that Saskatchewan develops a digital ID that meets the needs of our province. Commissioner Kruzeniski states:

"I would hope the Government of Saskatchewan continues to consult, educate and explain the benefits of a digital ID for citizens of our province. My hope is that Saskatchewan develops a digital ID that meets our province's needs, maximizes the benefits and minimizes the risks."

Virtual Health Care

Virtual heath care has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and consideration is required to ensure that personal health information is adequately protected. Commissioner Kruzeniski outlines ten expectations that should be considered as these virtual care initiatives move forward.

Spotlight on Misdirected Faxes

Over the last decade, there has been concerns with misdirected faxes which continues to be a systemic issue impacting patient privacy and the delivery of patient care. Several recommendations have been made to collectively address this concern including the elimination of traditional fax machines.

Recommendations for Change

The Commissioner concluded by summarizing the recommendations for legislative change to amend *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, The Local Authority Freedom of Information and*

Protection of Privacy Act and *The Health Information Protection Act*. The goal is that these recommendations will address the gaps and challenges with the legislation as we move from a paper-based society to a digital one.

The Commissioner's 2021-2022 Annual Report which includes: accomplishments, goals for the future, a thorough statistical report and recommendations for the development of a digital ID, virtual care initiatives, handling of misdirected faxes and legislative change can be viewed here.

A video containing the Commissioner's comments on the Annual Report can be viewed here.

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