OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 25, 2026 BY EMAIL

Rob Botterell
Rob.Botterell.MLA@leg.bc.ca
MLA Saanich North and the Islands
9828 Fourth St., Sidney, BC
V8L 2Z3

Dear Rob Botterell:

Re: Letter requesting public consultation on removal of the BC Government Directory

Thank you for your letter dated August 21, 2026, requesting I exercise my powers under s. 42 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) to formally address the cybersecurity risks associated with BC Government Directory, and the associated loss of transparency that results from the elimination of such a public resource.

As reported in the media, I agree that removing the directory is a serious transparency issue, which contributes to an erosion of the public's trust in our democratic institutions. I also recognize that we exist in a rapidly changing online/digital environment, where threat actors are increasingly targeting key individuals and public servants based on publicly available information. The cybersecurity threats are very real and must be taken seriously – not only to protect employees from such things as "doxxing" or harassment, but to also protect sensitive infrastructure and assets from widespread automated spear-phishing attacks.

My office's Emerging Information and Privacy Technologies team has been looking into these issues since public access to the directory was removed on August 18, 2026. The team will evaluate the validity of the security risks and identify how organizations can remain transparent in the circumstances.

I anticipate this work will result in public reporting of our findings, including advice or recommendations for public bodies.

As this is a matter of public interest, please note that I intend to publish a copy of this letter to the OIPC website.

Sincerely,

Michael Harvey
Information and Privacy Commissioner
for British Columbia

cc: Honourable Diana Gibson, Minster of Citizens' Services