

# Info Policy News: IPC Planning and Facts About FIPPA

by Devon Greyson.

This quarter's Info Policy news will focus on the results of the Information Policy Committee (IPC)'s recent strategic planning process. Read on to learn about the role of the IPC within BCLA, and the projects that will be our priorities in 2010. One of these priority areas, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, inspires this issue's *5 Facts About* feature, explaining the basics of FIPPA.

Hot topics on the listserv lately have included open access (seemingly a perennial hot topic), ACTA and related intellectual property and treaty transparency issues, the Canadian government's (lack of?) digital strategy, and Consumer Privacy Consultations by the Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

We are eagerly anticipating the Information Policy theme issue(s) of the Canadian Library Association's *Feliciter* magazine, of which IPC member Heather Morrison is a coeditor. And we look forward to the coming year with renewed focus on our committee's priority areas.

## 2010 Directions for the Information Policy Committee

In January, members of the BCLA Information Policy Committee gathered for a strategic planning meeting. Our priorities for this day were to:

1. Review the committee's terms of reference and the BCLA bylaws
2. Define the scope of our focus for the coming year, and
3. Plan some priority actions for the coming months.

At our planning meeting, founding members of the committee shared the history of the committee in order to contextualize our status quo. **The IPC grew in the 1990's from a task force to a full committee of the BCLA board.**

**The IPC's role has traditionally been to advise the BCLA Board** of Information Policy issues that need to be addressed, **and provide support** in doing so by

such activities as drafting letters and holding educational events.

**Official committee members** are active BCLA members who attend IPC meetings and/or otherwise carry out the work of the committee. However, **our listserv** includes many individuals who are not official committee members.

Following a SWOT analysis, the committee identified the following as priority issues for 2010:

- **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**, including BC FIPPA
- **Open Media**, including the open Internet and media democracy/diversity
- **Committee Communications**, including our website, blog, and outreach activities

Stay tuned over the coming months for reports on our activities in these priority areas!

## 5 Facts About: FIPPA

1. FIPPA is the acronym for British Columbia's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
2. FIPPA has 2 main purposes: governing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for access to information held by public bodies, and determining how public bodies may collect, use and disclose personal information.
3. PIPA, the *Personal Information Protection Act*, is the corresponding law that governs how private organizations can collect, manage, use, and disclose personal information.
4. The B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner is in charge of FIPPA and PIPA – the current acting commissioner is Paul D.K. Fraser, Q.C.
5. FIPPA is subject to legislative review on a regular basis. The third legislative review is currently ongoing, and BCLA, via the Info Policy Committee, is a participant.

For more information on FIPPA, PIPA, and the BC Information and Privacy Commissioner, see:

- The website of The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC): <http://www.oipc.bc.ca/>
- The watchdog organization, the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association: <http://fipa.bc.ca/home/>
- The office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada: <http://www.priv.gc.ca/>

### About the Information Policy Committee

The BCLA Information Policy Committee (IPC), a standing committee of BCLA, aims to advance and preserve access to information, and to advocate for the public interest in government decisions relating to information policy.

Any BCLA member is welcome to join the IPC. For more information, join our listserv by using the BCLA website listserv management tool here:

<http://www.bclibrary.ca/listservs/bcla/>

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