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BACKGROUND

Commissioner Cavoukian working with Ontario Government to protect personal information on enhanced drivers' licences for border crossings

TORONTO – Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner Ann Cavoukian has had ongoing discussions with Ontario officials for two years on the status of Ontario's Enhanced Drivers' Licence (EDL) initiative, focusing on the need to build in privacy protection and comply with provincial privacy legislation.

Privacy Commissioners from across Canada – meeting in Victoria, B.C. today – are discussing a joint resolution listing the steps that governments need to take to ensure the privacy and security of Canadians personal information under a provincial EDL program. B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner David Loukidelis is the driving force behind the resolution.

“Ontario has already committed,” Commissioner Cavoukian said today, “to many of the key steps that Canada's privacy commissioners want all governments to take before implementing EDL programs.”

For example, Ontario has committed to conducting a thorough privacy impact assessment and security threat risk assessment, said the Commissioner.

The government has also committed to continuing to work with Commissioner Cavoukian's office as it progresses through its next phase.

“I am very pleased with the co-operation and willing attitude of the Ontario government to work with my office and protect citizens' privacy,” said Commissioner Cavoukian.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by and reports to the Ontario Legislative Assembly, and is independent of the government of the day. The Commissioner's mandate includes overseeing the access and privacy provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as well as the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, and helping to educate the public about access and privacy issues.

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