



Information and Privacy
Commissioner of Ontario

Commissaire à l'information et à la
protection de la vie privée de l'Ontario



OFFICE OF THE
**INFORMATION &
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER**
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

IPC and OIPC BC Order LifeLabs to Release Documents Related to Cyberattack *Information Key to Coordinated Investigation of Privacy Breach*

TORONTO – Wednesday, April 1, 2020 – The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia (OIPC) have ordered LifeLabs to produce documents critical to uncovering the causes of, and LifeLabs' response to, the recent cybersecurity attack that affected the health information of 15 million Canadians.

Today, the IPC published an order requiring LifeLabs to release documents related to the cyberattack. The documents, which provide information detailing the extent of the fall 2019 attack and LifeLabs' efforts to respond, are integral to the coordinated investigation of the incident by the IPC and OIPC.

The OIPC had already ordered LifeLabs to release this information. The laboratory testing company is currently attempting to block access to the documents sought by the OIPC in B.C. Supreme Court, claiming the contents are protected by privilege.

The IPC is exercising its powers under Ontario's health privacy law, while the OIPC is exercising its powers under British Columbia's private sector privacy law to gain access to the information.

"The millions of Canadians whose personal health information was exposed deserve answers. The release of these documents is vital to uncovering the underlying causes of the privacy breach, addressing them, and rebuilding trust. If LifeLabs was committed to cooperating with our investigation, they would voluntarily make this information available to us. Should LifeLabs choose to challenge our order in court my office is prepared to defend this decision."

— Brian Beamish, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

"Canadians are depending on our offices to help them understand what caused this significant breach and they want assurances that their personal health information is now safe. These documents are absolutely critical to that determination. Citizens have told us they are very concerned about how this privacy breach has affected them. We commit to fully investigate its causes and consequences and are vigorously contesting LifeLabs' efforts to resist producing these documents in British Columbia."

— Michael McEvoy, Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia

- [Read the IPC's order](#)
- [Read the OIPC's order](#)
- Background: [LifeLabs Privacy Breach – December 17, 2019](#)

Note to media: As this breach is still being investigated, and certain matters are now before the courts, we will not be providing any further details at this time.