



# Know your rights, protect your privacy

Youth talking to youth



**YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF ONTARIO  
STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN A DIGITAL WORLD

# Roadmap

1. About the IPC
2. Your privacy rights
3. Privacy in your life
4. What can you do?
5. Discussion



# IPC YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Empowering Ontario's next generation of digital citizens



## What is the IPC?

- The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) oversees Ontario's access and privacy laws.
- These laws give the public the right to access their personal information as well as general information from public institutions.
- The laws also set rules to ensure that personal information held by public institutions, health care providers, and child and family service providers is private and secure.

## What is the Youth Advisory Council?

- The IPC's Youth Advisory Council is a group of ten young people between the ages of 15 and 24.
- The members help the IPC stand up for the **access** and **privacy** rights of children and youth.
- If you are interested in joining the Youth Advisory Council, email [youthcouncil@ipc.on.ca](mailto:youthcouncil@ipc.on.ca) or visit this [webpage](#).



Information and Privacy  
Commissioner of Ontario

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



DISCUSSION QUESTION

**What words come to mind when you think of privacy?**



**What are your privacy rights?**

# Governments and public institutions

Canada's privacy laws require **all** levels of government and other public institutions to protect your personal information.

This means:

- limiting the amount of personal information they collect, use, and disclose about you
- these laws also require public institutions to keep your personal information safe and secure

You also have the right to:

- see or get a copy of your personal information
- request **corrections** to your information if you believe your information is incorrect, or information is missing



# For Example:

## Attending secondary school?

In Ontario, MFIPPA (the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) requires municipalities, police service boards, schools and school boards, libraries, and transit commissions (among others) to protect your personal information.

## How about post-secondary school?

In Ontario, FIPPA (the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) requires provincial ministries, community colleges, universities, and other provincial institutions to protect your personal information.



# For Example:

## Need to see a doctor?

In Ontario, PHIPA (the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*) sets the rules that health care providers must follow when they collect, use, or disclose your personal health information, and the reasonable safeguards they must have in place to keep it secure.

## Receiving support from a children's aid society, group home or other child and family service provider?

In Ontario, Part X of the CYFSA (the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*) sets the rules that service providers must follow when they collect, use, or disclose your personal information.





# Private businesses

Commercial businesses in Ontario (like stores, banks, cell phone companies, and online platforms) must follow the rules set out in the Federal law called PIPEDA (the *Personal Information and Protection of Electronic Documents Act*).

These businesses must, for example:

- only collect your personal information if it's reasonable and appropriate
- tell you what they intend to do with it
- obtain your informed consent before using or disclosing it
- protect your personal information
- securely destroy it when it is no longer needed
- allow you to access your own personal information, and
- correct it if they got it wrong



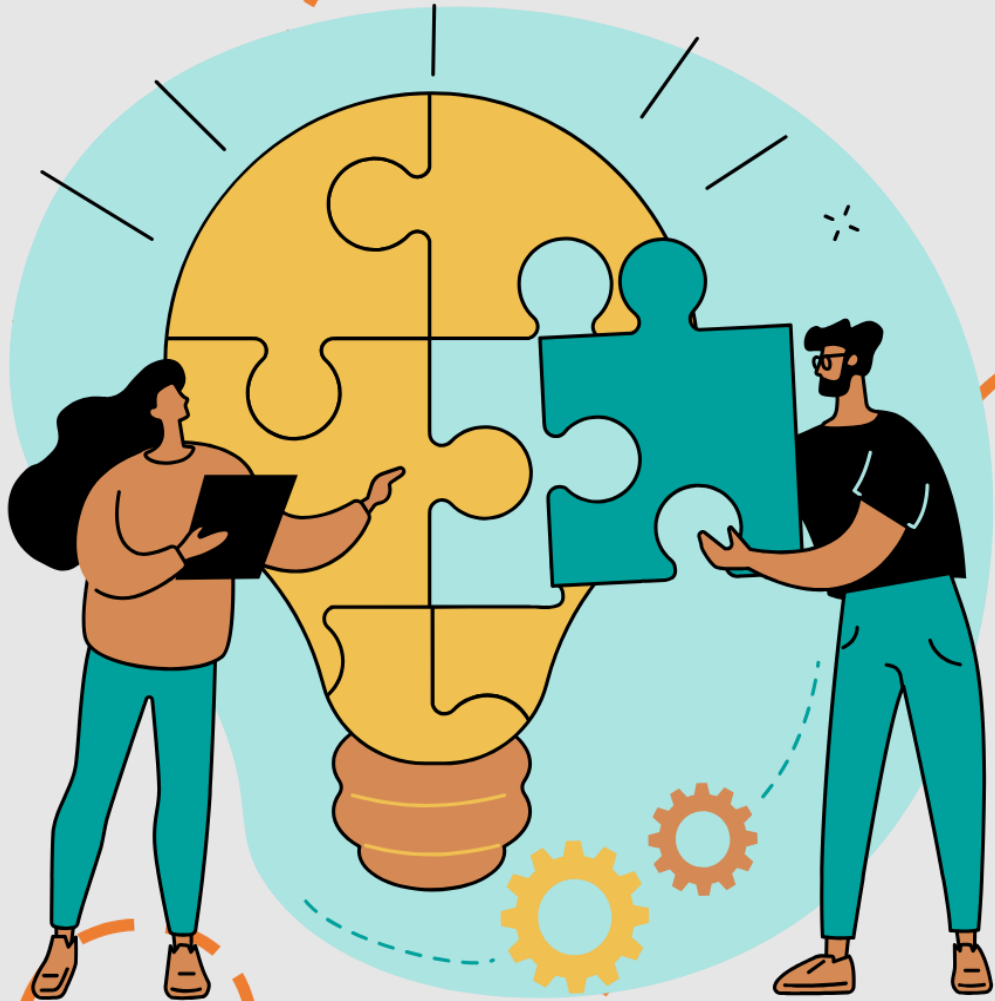
# What if your privacy rights are not being respected?

- If you think your personal information has been mishandled, you should first bring your concern directly to the institution or private business.
- If you can't resolve the issue directly with the organization and it is based in Ontario, you can file a formal complaint with the Information and Privacy Commissioner at [www.ipc.on.ca](http://www.ipc.on.ca) or contact [info@ipc.on.ca](mailto:info@ipc.on.ca).
- If the organization is a private business, you can file a complaint with the Federal Privacy Commissioner. Learn more at [www.priv.gc.ca](http://www.priv.gc.ca).



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a smartphone. The phone's screen is illuminated with a bright blue light, and the person's index finger is touching the screen. The background is dark and out of focus, featuring several circular bokeh lights in shades of white and yellow. The overall mood is modern and digital.

# Privacy and you



DISCUSSION QUESTION

**When do you think  
about your privacy?**



We live most of our lives **online**.

We use technology to do things like:

- talk to friends and family
- participate in school
- shop or obtain other services
- work
- play games
- watch TV and movies

Many of these tools are **collecting information about us**, even if we don't realize it.

**QUESTION:** How much personal data do you think your phone collects about you?

“It is now estimated that **72 million** pieces of personal data will be collected on every child around the world before their 13th birthday”

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Source: *Washington Post*, [“Your kids’ apps are spying on them”](#)



As technology evolves, it's raising some big questions that we have yet to answer.

**What do you think?**



# Age verification



- Some people believe that parental consent should be obtained for all children under a certain age, like 13 or 16.
- Others think it's best to leave it to young people to exercise their own judgment, depending on their level of maturity.
- Others think young people should be barred from adult content on the internet altogether.



# Right to be forgotten

- Countries around the world have developed, or are thinking of developing, laws to protect young peoples' rights to erase their personal information on the internet.
- But this can be difficult when the information has already been spread to other platforms.
- Erasing information can also be tricky when you consider other people's freedom to express themselves, or to say things they feel are meaningful and important.



# AI and cyberbullying

- AI has been used to create fake images about people that can be hurtful and inappropriate.
- In Canada, there are laws against posting real intimate images of other people on the internet without their consent.
- Some provincial laws also extend protections to address the harms from fake intimate images that have been posted without consent.



**T H E N E W S**



**'Bodily autonomy is being invaded':  
Students appear nude in AI-altered  
photos at London, Ont. high school**

[Source: CTV News, 2024](#)



**What can you do?**



# Remember:

- Be cautious and thoughtful, as what you post can have **unintended consequences**.
- Keep in mind what you post online is not always private.
- Even if you delete something, there is no guarantee it's gone.
- Control your digital footprint and **adjust your privacy settings**.



# Remember:

- **What you post can affect others** and their privacy. Show respect and responsibility.
- When in doubt, **seek guidance** from trusted adults.
- **Speak out** against cyberbullying and online harassment when you see it.





DISCUSSION QUESTION

**What are some other ways you can protect your privacy and personal information?**



# More resources



# Digital Privacy Charter for Ontario Schools

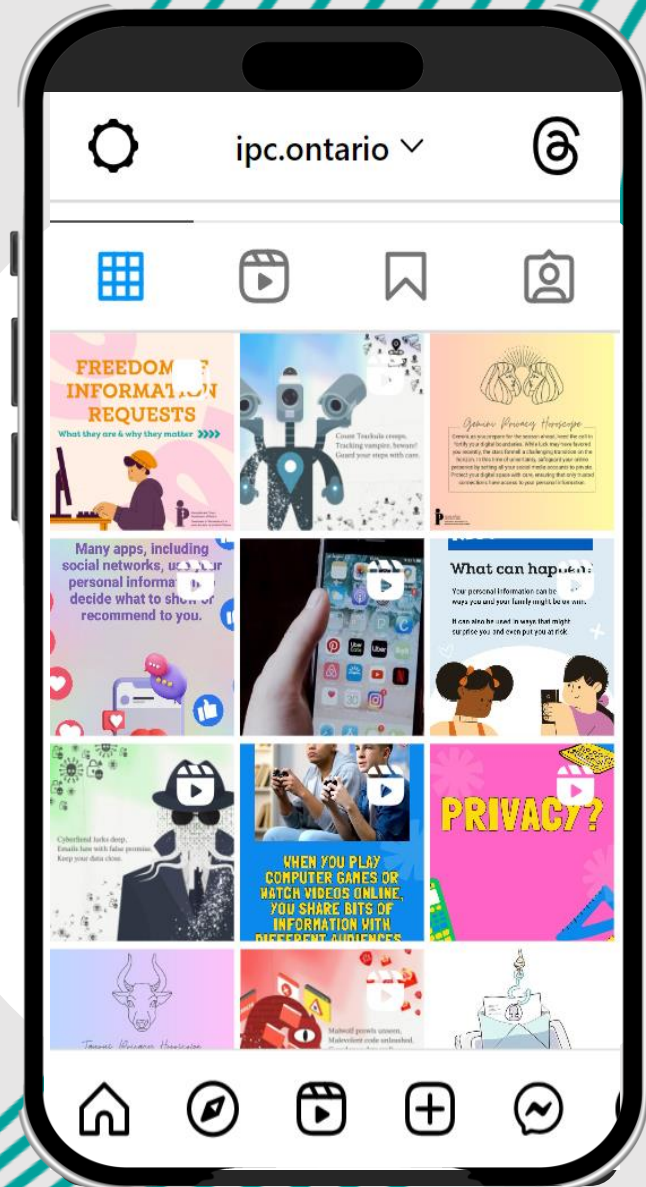
- We know that our schools play an essential role in preparing us to be safe and responsible digital citizens and empowering us to exercise our privacy and access rights.
- This is why the IPC developed a Digital Privacy Charter for Ontario Schools.
- The charter consists of the following 12 high-level commitments that Ontario Schools can pledge to support students.
- The commitments are based on requirements under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA).

**Encourage your school to sign on!**





Follow the IPC  
on Instagram!  
[@ipc.ontario](https://www.instagram.com/ipc.ontario)



# Check out the IPC podcast, *Info Matters*

Some episodes you may enjoy:

- [Teenage confidential: Teens, technology, and privacy](#)
- [In their own words: Students from Westboro Academy speak out about privacy](#)
- [Empowering young women and girls in the digital world](#)
- [From high school to university: a young person's perspective on digital privacy](#)
- [Teaching kids about privacy](#)





# Questions? Comments?



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## CONTACT THE IPC

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