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REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

SUBJECT **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)
Overview 2025**

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides an annual year end update on key metrics of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received in 2025 and provides an overview of privacy protection-related activities lead by the Privacy and Information Services division in 2025.

BACKGROUND

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*, the CRD has a responsibility to protect and uphold people's foundational rights to the protection of their privacy, and to access to information about CRD activities, including information about themselves in the CRD's custody or under its control. The Privacy and Information Services Division is accountable for administering the Act and supporting all CRD departments in meeting their obligations under the Act. This report provides a year-end update on the work of the Division in 2025. It also looks ahead to changes anticipated in 2026.

IMPLICATIONS

Over the last five years, the landscape for privacy and access in British Columbia has changed considerably. New legislative amendments have recently been proposed by the Province and if passed, the amending bill would introduce new requirements for local governments under FOIPPA, potentially adding to the complexity of Privacy and Access to Information work. This underscores the need for well-designed, consistent, and sustainable privacy and access practices. Appendix A outlines these proposed legislative changes and their impacts.

FOI Requests and Privacy Management Program

The CRD has been taking incremental steps since 2022 to strengthen its privacy governance and align with the evolving expectations set out in FOIPPA. The CRD has codified its commitment to maturing its Privacy Management Program in Goal 12a of the CRD Corporate Plan. In 2025, in furtherance of that goal, Privacy and Information Services successfully implemented a number of program enhancements that will benefit both the public and CRD employees, and will assist the CRD in becoming fully compliant with these expanded obligations. A summary of the operational work of the division includes:

- Conducting **97** privacy risk assessments and privacy advice on CRD projects and initiatives.
- Investigating and remediating **12** actual or suspected privacy breaches.
- Responding to **255** formal Freedom of Information Requests, involving the processing of over **22,000** pages of records.
- Assisting other CRD departments to respond to informal, routine or proactive disclosures.
- Facilitating the provision of evidence to police agencies.

- Leading mandatory training sessions for CRD employees.
- Consulting on requests from other public-sector entities where CRD information is being considered for disclosure.
- Responding to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in the context of investigations and audits.

Appendix B contains data tables and visualizations for the Division's key performance metrics.

Building Inspection Records Program

In March 2026, new building bylaw amendments came into effect that changed how several categories of building inspection-related records are accessed. Records that fall within the categories identified in the bylaw are no longer eligible to be requested under FOIPPA and will instead be available through a pay-for-service model.

In the 2025 fiscal year, building inspection records accounted for approximately 63% of all FOI requests received by the CRD. Over time, this change is expected to reduce the overall FOI processing workload for the Privacy and Information Services Division.

In the near term, however, the division's level of effort has increased as staff support Building Inspection in designing and implementing the new program. While the access pathway has changed, FOIPPA's disclosure and privacy protection requirements continue to apply. As a result, skilled professional judgment remains necessary to review records prior to release, ensuring lawful, consistent, and defensible disclosure decisions under the new model.

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The protection of privacy rights and the provision of access to information fall under the Community Need for Open Government. These activities also support legislative compliance, transparency and business systems and processes in the Corporate Plan and are important for good governance.

CONCLUSION

The CRD has identified enhanced privacy practices as a key strategic priority in its Corporate Plan. In 2025, the Privacy and Information Services Division successfully implemented a number of program enhancements in furtherance of this goal. This work will continue in 2026, with a sustained focus on improved user experience, greater consistency in decision-making, and stronger alignment with legislative requirements and emerging best practices. At the same time, the overall volume, complexity, and sensitivity of privacy and access work continues to increase, requiring ongoing attention to building capacity, expertise, and maturity across the CRD, in order to empower all CRD employees to contribute to effective privacy and access practices.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Overview of Proposed FOIPPA Amendments (Bill 9-2026)

Appendix B: 2025 Key Performance Metrics