

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Nova Scotia's Information and Privacy Commissioner releases 2024-2025 Annual Report

HALIFAX – Today, David Nurse, Nova Scotia's Information and Privacy Commissioner, released the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's (OIPC) annual report for 2024-2025.

The Commissioner wishes to acknowledge that the successes achieved during the year ending March 31, 2025, must be credited to his predecessor, Commissioner Tricia Ralph. The report covers the period of April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. Until the end of February 2025, Tricia Ralph served as Commissioner, and Carmen Stuart served as Acting Commissioner during March 2025.

Our work

The OIPC's work is to review access to information decisions made by public bodies, municipalities and health custodians, and privacy complaints about public bodies and health custodians.

Backlog of access reviews stabilized

The Commissioner is pleased to report that the OIPC's backlog of access to information reviews has stabilized due to effective case management strategies and the excellent work of OIPC staff. The Commissioner anticipates that there will be a significant reduction in the OIPC's backlog in 2025-2026.

MOVEit Privacy Breach recommendations accepted

On the privacy side, past Commissioner Tricia Ralph concluded her own-motion investigation into the MOVEit incident in February 2025. The MOVEit breach impacted 168,000 individuals, including Nova Scotia Government employees, and members of the general public, including students. The Commissioner made several recommendations, including that the Nova Scotia Government complete a privacy impact assessment for MOVEit, and post appropriate portions on its website. The government accepted all of the Commissioner's recommendations.

Continuing progress on backlog is key strategic priority

The OIPC's key strategic priority for 2025-2026 is to provide more timely, relevant decisions on reviews filed with our office. Our current inventory of cases means we are taking up to four years to begin investigations. This is unacceptable and we must use every tool we have – including issuing abbreviated review reports and discontinuing reviews in appropriate circumstances – to reduce our inventory and improve the timeliness of our work.

The current delays undermine the relevance of our work and undermine the public's confidence in the OIPC and in our access to information system.

Looking ahead to 2026 with cautious optimism

The Commissioner is looking forward to 2026 with cautious optimism. The Nova Scotia Government began a review of the province's access and privacy laws in 2023, and the Commissioner is cautiously optimistic that the review will be completed in 2025-2026. The Commissioner had the opportunity to meet with the Department of Justice and Service Nova Scotia staff leading the review and is confident that the comprehensive recommendations for modernization put forward by former Commissioners Catherine Tully and Tricia Ralph are being carefully reviewed and considered by government. If and when the government introduces new access and privacy legislation, the Commissioner will provide full and frank advice to the government.

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