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NS access and privacy oversight has a new name, new handle.

Halifax – The FOIPOP Review Office is now the NS OIPC. And we're tweeting!

In an effort to better reflect our roles and responsibilities, the Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Office will now be known as the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia.

The name change is part of a larger change to emphasize the NS OIPC's commitment to providing efficient, effective, and independent oversight over Nova Scotia's access and privacy legislation. The move will help Nova Scotians more readily identify the correct office for independent review of their access and privacy complaints, and will help to ensure consistency with the NS OIPC's counterparts across the country.

Independent oversight of government's access to information decisions has resided with the Information and Privacy Commissioner (Review Officer) since the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* came into force in 1994. Since then, the powers of the Commissioner have seen numerous changes including the expansion of oversight authority to include municipalities, school boards and hospitals in 1999 and the investigation of privacy compliance in 2009. In 2013, significant new statutory oversight requirements were introduced under the *Personal Health Information Act*.

A new name more accurately reflects the wide array of duties and responsibilities that have come to be vested in the NS OIPC over the years. Among those duties, the Commissioner has recognized a need for a greater emphasis on educating the public of their access and privacy rights.

One of the ways the NS OIPC will work to bring attention to access and privacy rights is by engaging on Twitter. You can now follow the NS OIPC @NSInfoPrivacy.

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