



May 30, 2024

Attention:

Mr. Garth Rowswell, Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship
3rd Floor, 9820 – 107 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7
Telephone: 587.404.3735 Fax: 780.427.5688
RSCommittee.Admin@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Mr. Rowswell,

RE: Comprehensive Review of the Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA) as it relates to Non-Profits

On behalf of the Federation of Calgary Communities, thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship during their comprehensive review of the Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA).

The Federation of Calgary Communities is a support network for over 270 small community-based non-profits, including the 156 community associations within Calgary. With a robust network exceeding 20,000 volunteers, we offer support services, ranging from financial audits to governance coaching to program funding. The majority of our member organizations operate entirely on volunteer efforts and manage budgets under \$100,000.

Our members almost mirror the non-profit landscape of Alberta, both in scale and in the composition of their operational boards. In Alberta, 87% of charities have budgets under \$1 million and more than 52% of Alberta charities have operating budgets below \$100K. Our members, akin to numerous non-profits across Alberta, constitute small-scale organizations overseen by actively engaged boards, often lacking significant paid personnel. For many, the luxury of dedicated office spaces or substantial operational budgets remains an unattainable aspiration. In the face of such constraints—financial and organizational alike—we firmly assert that these entities would struggle to meet additional compliance measures beyond those already mandated by existing legislation.

Further, amidst dwindling volunteer interest, heightened turnover rates and funding challenges within the non-profit sector we need a proactive approach. We believe the most impactful and advantageous course of action entails [leveraging existing resources](#), rather than burdening non-

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profits with additional administrative obligations. This stance not only aligns with fiscal responsibility but also underscores the practicality of maintaining the current legislative framework. Altering this legislation would necessitate substantial provincial investments in new web tools, educational initiatives, and training programs to encourage non-profits' compliance. Moreover, it would mandate significant resources for compliance monitoring, particularly for small non-profits, where non-compliance may be prevalent, while the associated risks are not comparable to those of commercial entities.

As we advocate for the interests of small non-profits across Alberta, we emphasize the critical need for a pragmatic approach to legislative adjustments. Maintaining the current framework of the Personal Information Protection Act, while leveraging existing resources, is paramount for the sustainability and effectiveness of small non-profit organizations. Recognizing the constraints of limited budgets and volunteer-driven operations, we urge thoughtful consideration of the implications any changes may have on the ability of non-profits to fulfill their missions. By prioritizing practicality and collaboration, we can ensure the continued vitality of the non-profit sector in Alberta.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our submission. I am available to respond to questions or to appear before the committee, as I did in 2015. I can be reached at 403-244-4111 ext. 201 or Leslie.evans@calgarycommunities.com.

With gratitude,

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