

Annual Report 2016



THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE
FOR INFORMATION
AND PRIVACY STUDIES



The Canadian Institute for Information and Privacy Studies Society

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President's Message

Greetings to the CIIPS Society's members, supporters and many friends—

Here's an update on our progress during 2016 toward creating an independent institute for access to information and privacy issues.

CIIPS has been working for three years now to grow our institute into a “going concern” with paid staff and a full slate of programs. We aren't there yet—we continue to be an all-volunteer run organization—but we made substantial progress in 2016.

Here's a brief recap of our work to date:

- 2014 was our year to define our mission, plan our forward path and lay the legal and organizational foundation of the Institute.
- In 2015 we completed our initial 'kickstarter' fundraising campaign, inviting people to donate to the CIIPS Founders Circle. This provided the funds to get operations started and to research possible sources of core funding. We created our business operations, launched our website and began determining how we could make a meaningful contribution to the access to information and privacy 'space' in Canada.
- In 2016 the Board of Directors took a good look at our progress. Because so much time during 2015 had been spent on communications and fundraising, with underwhelming results, we decided to de-emphasize fundraising for the near future and dedicate 2016 to launching our first funded projects.



I'm happy to say that CIIPS now has three projects on the go: A documentary and two research projects.

As soon as the board finds a new, more viable approach to fundraising, we'll get back to the challenge of core funding (All suggestions welcome!). In the meantime, our volunteer staff will continue running things and contracting outside experts to carry out projects.

THANKS TO DEPARTING DIRECTORS



Gareth Kirkby is the person whose intelligence, drive and capacity for work made it possible to activate the CIIPS Society after it sat for way too many years on the side of my desk. However, in March of 2016 he selfishly decided to start making a living and moved on to what I think is a more realistic lifestyle.

We have managed to retain Gareth's services on a paid basis for one of our projects (see below), but he is sorely missed as a board member, officer and prime mover. He has our best wishes and our eternal gratitude for all of his (mostly) volunteer efforts.



We are also saying farewell to two other directors who served as officers during these formative years. The immensely capable and talented **Lindsey Bertrand** served at various times as our secretary, Vice President, and Communications Director. And master of numbers **Stuart MacInnes, CA**, has been our Treasurer and Accountant from the beginning. We are grateful beyond words for their valuable contributions.



To you, our members, supporters and friends: As always, CIIPS welcomes your ideas, input and help of any kind as we continue toward our goal of creating a vehicle for research and education that will make a real difference in people's lives. Talk to you soon.

—Darrell Evans, President, CIIPS

Overview of CIIPS

The great promise of the Internet is to connect individuals, organizations and communities around the globe to each other and to the wealth of information, knowledge and expertise that is our common heritage. But we should have the capability not only to acquire information, but also to use it in ways that enhance our abilities and influence in society.

If the Internet's potential is to be harnessed for the greater public interest, some key questions must be addressed, including: Who will be in control of the information environment? Will there be universal and affordable access to the critical information channels of our time? Will individuals possess the knowledge to maintain their freedom and autonomy, or will we be at the mercy of large corporations and governments?

The Canadian Institute for Information and Privacy Studies Society exists to expand public knowledge of the critical information issues of our time. We are a registered charitable organization. Through programs of research and education, we seek to enable individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential as democratic citizens in today's information environment.

RESEARCH

CIIPS studies issues relating to freedom of information, privacy protection and other information issues relevant to Canadian society. In particular, we sponsor research papers, reports and other materials that:

- compare approaches in various nations and sectors and seek "best practices" from around the world;
- evaluate "made in Canada" policy options;
- seek potential paths forward for public and corporate policy; and
- share research findings with the public, decision-makers, practitioners, and students.

EDUCATION

CIIPS will create educational programs for the general public, youth, high school and university students. The institute will also increase understanding of information rights and related public policy options by developing educational programs independently and also seek partnerships with existing universities, colleges and schools for the development and presentation of courses of study.



The Society's Mission

The Society was formed in 2005 for the purpose of creating and managing an institute dedicated to the advanced study of access-to-information and privacy issues and the advancement of public knowledge of these issues. We adopted the following Mission Statement in 2014. We welcome your thoughts about this statement:

Mission: Through programs of research and education, we seek to increase public knowledge of Access to Information and privacy issues and enable individuals, communities, and peoples to achieve their full potential as democratic citizens in today's information environment.

2016 Directors & Advisors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2016–2017

Darrell Evans (President), Former Executive Director, BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association

Lindsey Bertrand (Vice President), Communications Specialist, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – BC

Mike Larsen (Secretary), Instructor, Criminology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Stuart MacInnes (Treasurer), CPA, CA, RF, Binnie & Associates

Cindy Brice, Corporate Director, Information Access and Privacy, Provincial Health Services Authority

Kris Constable, Principal, PrivaSecTech

Tom Crean, President and CEO, Heritage Gardens Cemeteries Inc.

Sinziana Gutiu, JD, Policy Analyst, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of British Columbia

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Tim Bray, Software Developer and Writer, and a founder of Open Text Corporation

Andrew Clement, Professor, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto

Gary Dickson QC, Former Information & Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan

Terry Eastwood, Professor Emeritus, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia

Sean Holman, Assistant Professor of Journalism, Mount Royal University

ADVISORS CONTINUED

Tamir Israel, Staff Lawyer, Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC), University of Ottawa

Herb Lainchbury, CEO, Dynamic Solutions Inc; President, Open Data Society of BC

Philippa Lawson, Barrister & Solicitor; Associate, CIPPIC, University of Ottawa

David Loukidelis QC, Chair, Law Enforcement Review Board of Alberta; Former Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC

Brenda McPhail, Director, Privacy, Technology and Surveillance Project, Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Sharon Polsky, President Amina Corp; President, Privacy and Access Council of Canada

Jim Quail, Partner, Quail Worth & Allevato Barristers & Solicitors

Alasdair Roberts, Professor of Public Affairs and Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri

Kevin Scott, President, On The Ground Strategies Inc.

Valerie Steeves, Associate Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa

Micheal Vonn, Policy Director, BC Civil Liberties Association; Member, Advisory Board, Privacy International

Kevin Walby, Chancellor's Research Chair in Criminal Justice, University of Winnipeg

Reg Whitaker, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, York University; Adjunct Professor, Political Science, University of Victoria

2016 Accomplishments

PROJECTS IN 2016

CIIPS launched three projects in 2016:

Best Practices in Internet Crowdsourcing for Nonprofits: A Case Study

Our first funded research project, announced on June 9, 2016, is researching the successful use of crowdsourcing by non-profit organizations. Crowdsourcing is a specific sourcing model in which individuals or organizations use contributions from Internet users to obtain needed services or ideas. The project is funded through a \$25,750 grant from the Canadian Internet Registration Authority's Community Investment Program.

The study seeks to identify best practices for Internet-based crowdsourcing that can be adapted by nonprofit organizations. Through a case study of multiple successful crowdsourcing campaigns by two organizations, the project will analyze how strategic adoption of the practice can improve freedom of, and access to, information; democratic participation; and further develop the Internet as a site of civil society communication, engagement, and decision-making.

Research lead: Gareth Kirkby, MA – Gareth is a former member of CIIPS' board of directors and our former communications director. He is an associate faculty member in the School of Communication and Culture at Royal Roads University in British Columbia.

Project sponsor: The Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) – CIRA manages Canada's top-level '.ca' domain on behalf of all Canadians. A member-based organization, CIRA represents the interests of Canada's Internet community internationally. Through the Community Investment Program, CIRA funds projects that demonstrate the capacity to build a better online Canada.

Documentary project: Democracy and the Duty to Document

People who make requests for government records under Canada's freedom of information laws report that they are receiving less and less information over time. Many requesters claim this is partly due to an increasing failure by officials to create or preserve records of government decisions and actions, and they fear we are losing

transparency, accountability and even key parts of our history.

As a remedy, there has been a chorus of recommendations across Canada for governments to legislate an official "Duty to Document" government decisions and actions. Is this a real solution to the problem of disappearing records, and if so, how would it work?

This 20-30 minute documentary will highlight the importance to a healthy democracy of proper creation, management, and preservation of government records. It will incorporate in-person interviews, photographs, illustrations and animation to communicate the key issues in a succinct and accessible manner.

The target audience is mainly students in law, political science, journalism and administrative fields, but the documentary will provide basic information accessible to a general audience.

Director: Dwayne Beaver – Dwayne is a writer, director and producer working in film and television, digital media and animation. He currently teaches in Capilano University's Motion Picture Arts, School of Communication and Indigenous Independent Filmmakers programs. He also teaches at the University of British Columbia where has been the Rogers Multicultural Teaching Fellow (2010-2013) and the 2013 Phil Lind Artist in Residence in the Film & Theatre Department.

Project funder: InterPARES Trust – The International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES) is a global project dedicated to developing the knowledge essential to the long-term preservation of authentic records created and/or maintained in digital form and providing the basis for standards, policies, strategies and plans of action capable of ensuring the longevity of such material and the ability of its users to trust its authenticity. Canadian funding for InterPARES is provided by SSHRC and the University of British Columbia.

Freedom of Information Study: The Experiences of novice FOI requesters.

Mike Larsen is CIIPS' secretary, but in his day job he is an Instructor in the Criminology Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. One of his chief areas of instruction and research is Canadian national security practices,



particularly as they involve the aspects of government surveillance and secrecy, public accountability, and freedom of information (FOI).

Mike was lead researcher for the book *Access in the Academy: Bringing FOI and ATI to Academic Research* and co-author of two other volumes. *Brokering Access: Politics, Power and Freedom of Information in Canada* (UBC Press, 2012) explores the policies and practices surrounding access to information at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels. *Surveillance: Power, Problems, and Politics* (UBC Press, 2009) explores how surveillance systems can, under the guise of managing risk or reducing harm, cause or exacerbate poverty, over-policing, suspicion, and exclusion.

Mike is currently doing research into the actual experiences of novice freedom of information requesters in Canada – a neglected area of study which will add important qualitative data to the limited body of quantitative data that has been relied on for analysis of the FOI process to date. This will help bring to light common questions, complaints, and challenges or barriers that are not captured by or reflected in the existing measures used to assess the 'health' of our access regimes.

CIIPS is happy to announce that we will be the publisher of Mike Larsen's first report on the experiences of novice FOI requesters.

A report will be ready for distribution in the latter part of 2017.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The Society held its annual general meeting on May 11, 2016 and elected two new directors: Cindy Brice and Mike Larsen. Cindy is the Corporate Director of Information Access and Privacy at BC's Provincial Health Services Authority. Mike Larsen is an Instructor in the Department of Criminology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Our guest speaker at the AGM was Josh Tabish, whose topic was "Overcoming Canada's digital disconnect".

Josh had been the Campaigns Director at the highly successful activist group OpenMedia and previously served as Coordinator with the Media Democracy Project at Simon Fraser University, where he organized the annual Media Democracy Days conference and the CounterCulture Speaker Series.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016

CIIPS' income was \$29,319 in 2016, including the CIRA grant award of \$25,750. This reflects our shift from general-purpose fundraising to grant-seeking for specific projects. Funds for the "Duty to Document" documentary project were not received until 2017. The 2016 financial statements are available on our website.

CIIPS wishes to thank Retrix Hosting for their donation of email and web-hosting services since 2014.

Founders Circle

Members of our Founders Circle have made substantial donations to ensure the success of the Canadian Institute for Information and Privacy Studies at this early stage of the organization. We thank them for their support, confidence, and generosity.



Brian Campbell – After a distinguished career as a librarian in British Columbia, Brian Campbell treated intellectual freedom work as an integral part of his professional responsibilities—both inside and outside of libraries. He was a champion and chair of the BC Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee in the 1980s and helped found both BC and Canadian library Information Policy Committees. He was founding president of the Vancouver Community Network, a non-profit Internet service provider offering free Internet services. In 2015, Brian received the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada Award from the Canadian Library Association.

The recent death of Brian Campbell, a strong champion of intellectual freedom and access to information, has been felt as a great loss by many in British Columbia. We are extremely grateful that he was a CIIPS supporter.



Stephen Carlman – Former senior editor for daily newspapers and magazines across Canada and London, England, Stephen Carlman now consults on publication management, policy setting, and strategic planning in publishing and communications. He constantly researches the future of information technologies and media strategies. His current interest is in helping people bring a critical approach to both mainstream and social media.



Dr. Ian Scott Cornell – Scott Cornell is a surgical pathologist at Royal Columbian Hospital in Vancouver region. He has a longstanding interest in privacy issues related to health information. He sees a role for CIIPS in providing sensible guidance to the public and private sectors. Scott has served on the board of the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association, and has been a privacy officer for Excelleris and Dr CJ Coady Associates.



Tom Crean – From 1978–2016, Tom Crean served as president of his family’s third-generation funeral home, Kearney Funeral Services, Vancouver’s only remaining Canadian or family funeral home. In addition to his volunteer work in groups serving his business sector, Tom has been a board member of key organizations involved in public education, civil liberties, and information and privacy. He is a board member of the BC Association for Media Education, President of the Family Association for Media Education, and President of the Family Funeralhome Association. Tom has a passion for educating students and the general public about information and privacy issues.



Canadian Taxpayers Federation (represented by **Troy Lanigan**) – Troy Lanigan was appointed president and CEO of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation in 2009, after serving the organization in various capacities since 1992. Troy was a founding director of voting reform advocacy groups both in British Columbia and nationally. He is a board director of the Stockholm Sweden-based World Taxpayers Association and has spoken at conferences internationally. Troy has a degree in economics and political science from the University of Victoria.



Paulette Lacroix – Paulette Lacroix is an independent management and privacy consultant specializing in healthcare transformation, informatics, electronic records management, and privacy. Her experience in health information/informatics has included advancing electronic records at a provincial and regional level, as well as developing university curricula. Paulette is a member of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) and plays a leadership role in developing the Canadian program of the organization.



Philippa Lawson – Philippa Lawson is a Canadian lawyer with 19 years experience practicing telecommunications, privacy, and consumer protection law from a public interest perspective. She was founding Executive Director of the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC), a technology law clinic based at the University of Ottawa.



David Loukidelis, QC – David Loukidelis served as BC's Information & Privacy Commissioner for 11 years. Prior to that, he was a founding member of the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association. David was the main author of Information Rights for British Columbia, which played a key role in the enactment of BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act in 1993.



Mary Marshall, LLB, LLM – Mary Marshall has worked as a lawyer on significant projects and committees as legal consultant, as a leader in preparing policy papers and advice on privacy legislation and amendments to the Alberta Health Information Act and the province's Mental Health Act. Mary has provided health law and policy advice to provincial and national health governance bodies, boards, and committees across Canada and has a wealth of experience in all aspects of health care policy.



Linda McKay-Panos, BEd, JD, LLM – Linda McKay-Panos is executive director of the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre and a sessional instructor in the faculties of Law and Arts at the University of Calgary. Linda has authored several publications and made numerous presentations dealing with civil liberties, access to information, privacy, security, human rights, discrimination, equality, and related topics. She has been doubly awarded for her work in human rights in Alberta.



Newspapers Canada (represented by **John Hinds**) – Newspapers Canada is the industry voice for Canadian newspapers, representing 830 daily, weekly, and community papers. The group has been involved in assessing and responding to the

state of Freedom of Information since 1997 and funds a wellknown annual FOI audit. John Hinds, president and CEO, has been a public advocate for journalistic freedom and democrat reform. Previously a lawyer in private practice, he has also served as political assistant to government ministers.



Alasdair Roberts – Alasdair Roberts is a professor in the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, and also holds professorships in law and political science. He is the author of many articles and books on public policy issues, especially relating to government administration, secrecy, and the exercise of government authority. His book *Blacked Out: Government Secrecy in the Information Age* received four major academic awards. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and co-editor of the scholarly journal *Governance*.



Valerie Steeves – Professor Valerie Steeves' main area of research is human rights and technology issues. She has written and spoken extensively on privacy from a human rights perspective, and is currently a researcher with the New Transparency project at Queen's University, which is examining surveillance as a technology of governance. Valerie is the author of a number of award-winning educational games designed to teach children how to protect their human rights in cyberspace. Professor Steeves is chair of the National Privacy Coalition.



Micheal Vonn – Micheal Vonn is a lawyer and has been the Policy Director of the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) since 2004. Micheal has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in the Faculty of Law and in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies where she has taught civil liberties and information ethics. She was honoured as a recipient of the 2010 AccolAIDS award for social and political advocacy benefitting communities affected by HIV/AIDS. She is an Advisory Board Member of Privacy International.



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