



What is a Privacy Impact Assessment?

A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is a systematic evaluation of the potential impact that a project, program, or system may have on the privacy of individuals. Recently, the BC Government revised FIPPA legislation and requires that ALL applications be assessed.

Key objectives of a Privacy Impact Assessment include:

1. **Identification of Privacy Risks:** Assessing how the project or system may impact the privacy of individuals by identifying potential risks associated with the collection, storage, processing, and sharing of personal information.
2. **Compliance with Privacy Laws and Regulations:** Ensuring that the project or system aligns with BC's privacy laws, regulations, and policies. This is crucial to avoid legal consequences and uphold ethical standards.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** Promoting transparency by informing individuals about the data processing activities and ensuring accountability for the responsible handling of personal information.
4. **Risk Mitigation:** Developing strategies and safeguards to mitigate identified privacy risks. This may involve implementing technical, organizational, or procedural measures to protect personal data.
5. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Involving relevant stakeholders, including individuals whose data will be processed, in the assessment process. This helps in gaining insights, addressing concerns, and fostering a collaborative approach to privacy protection.
6. **Documentation:** Providing a comprehensive record of the privacy impact assessment process, including findings, decisions, and actions taken. This documentation serves as a reference for accountability and future audits.
7. **Continuous Improvement:** Facilitating ongoing monitoring and evaluation to adapt to changes in the project, technology, or regulatory environment. This ensures that privacy considerations remain relevant and effective over time.