



First Report
Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
Fifth Session, Thirty-seventh Parliament

May 19, 2004

To the Honourable,
The Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia
Victoria, British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the *First Report* of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Fifth Session of the Thirty-Seventh Parliament.

The Committee elected myself as its Chair and Mr. Brian Kerr, MLA as its Deputy Chair at its meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2004. Subsequently, the Committee received a request from the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding supplementary funding for certain work of his office.

Having considered the supplementary funding request of the Information and Privacy Commissioner contained in his submission to the Committee dated May 7, 2004, the Committee recommends,

That the Information and Privacy Commissioner be granted supplementary funding up to a maximum of \$115,000 for the 2004/05 fiscal year. The Committee requests that a supplementary estimate in the proper form be placed before the Legislature as soon as practicable. The funding to be comprised of:

- (a) \$40,000 to pay the expenses incurred in the ongoing judicial review litigation relating to Order 03-14; and**

(b) \$75,000 to pay the expenses of the Commissioner's assessment of, and advice and recommendations upon, any implications of the U.S. Patriot Act for personal information of British Columbians that is involved in the outsourcing of public services to US-linked private sector service providers.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has committed to return any unexpended portions of the above two amounts to the Minister of Finance at the conclusion of the current fiscal year.

It is also understood that the Information and Privacy Commissioner will collaborate with privacy commissioners in other Canadian jurisdictions regarding the implications of the U.S. Patriot Act for privacy compliance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Brenda Locke, MLA
Chair