

Privacy moved to the front burner for many Canadian businesses and associations this year with the final implementation of the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Engineering firms and other businesses dealing with privacy issues in general, and PIPEDA in particular, can look to the Internet for authoritative and informative starting points. Professional associations are also getting in on the act by using their online presence to raise awareness, provide guidance and deliver value-added services to members. Here is a sampling:

 **PEO Privacy Policy**
www.peo.on.ca

PEO's recently approved privacy policy is now available to members and the public online. You'll find it on the home page at centre bottom. The policy describes the principles and guidelines PEO follows when collecting, using and disclosing personal information. Like many other professional organizations, PEO has followed the 10 principles outlined in CSA's *Model Code for the Protection of Personal Information*, CSA Q830-03. The 33-page PDF file also includes a number of sub-policies dealing with privacy safeguards, access to records, records retention, Internet privacy and complaints procedure.

 **Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada**
www.privcom.gc.ca

This federal government website provides some of the most detailed help for businesses dealing with privacy issues. From the left menu bar choose "Resource Centre." The "E-Kit for Businesses" includes a number of useful documents. Besides a link to PIPEDA, there is also a detailed guide for businesses, a privacy questionnaire, case summaries of findings under the act, and a downloadable PowerPoint or PDF presentation useful for seminars. You can also get some insight into the British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec privacy legislations by

Privacy help online

choosing "Privacy Legislation" from the left navigation bar.

 **Strategis**
<http://privacyforbusiness.ic.gc.ca>

Look to Strategis' Privacy for Business website for answers to common questions regarding PIPEDA's effect on your firm's business practices. On the left green navigation bar, choose "FAQs." You'll see a range of topics, from PIPEDA's impact on international transactions, to how to handle information obtained before January 1, 2004. Returning to the left bar, the list of news stories under "Privacy in the News" provides an interesting snapshot of public and media perceptions of the privacy legislation. Look at the "Online Guide to Privacy and Security" for step-

by-step interpretation and implementation advice.

 **Ontario Association of Architects**
www.oaa.on.ca

The OAA, Ontario Association of Architects, website provides another example of value-added services to members. OAA has posted not only its own organizational privacy policy, but also some useful documents for practising architects, such as the Model Privacy Policy that architectural practices can use. From the top right choose "Search" and type "privacy policy."

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