



PIM PREFACE

Privacy issues today generate regular headlines, but occasionally the most important privacy developments take place behind the scenes. The Privacy and Information Management Toolkit, the product of a remarkable group of dedicated education professionals, unquestionably qualifies.

Several years ago, this group identified the need for Ontario schools to factor privacy into the emerging requirements for data collection, retention, and use. Over the course of many months, volunteers from across the province proceeded to develop a series of best practices and guidelines that provide Ontario schools with the tools needed to address their reporting obligations, address emergent privacy developments, and comply with legal obligations. Its common sense advice and accessible language ensures that the toolkit will be useful and relevant to school boards of all sizes for years to come.

Just as important, the PIM toolkit ensures that Ontario schools will have the trust and confidence of their communities - teachers and administrators who handle personal information, parents who entrust their schools with their children, and the students, who depend upon striking the right balance between privacy and access.

The PIM Toolkit is an exceptional achievement that is due largely to the dedication and perseverance of the PIM Task Force members. Led by co-chairs Gina Coish and Erica vanRoosmalen, the group features Chief Information Officers, Records Management Coordinators, ICT Directors, Researchers, and Education leaders. This diversity has helped foster the development of a forward-looking toolkit that should prove invaluable to district school boards across the province.

I am proud to have played a small role in encouraging the development of the PIM toolkit and add my sincere congratulations to the PIM Task Force for this terrific achievement.

Professor Michael Geist

Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law
University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law

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