
STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2026CITZ0004-000496
May 4, 2026

Ministry of Citizens' Services

Minister's statement about amendments to Bill 9

VICTORIA – Diana Gibson, Minister of Citizens' Services, has released the following statement about updates to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

"Bill 9 is about keeping B.C.'s access and privacy laws strong, modern and effective, while maintaining independent oversight by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

"Through thoughtful discussions with other members of the legislature about government's intent on the updates to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, a small number of areas in Bill 9 were identified where minor adjustments would provide additional clarity.

"Today, I am introducing targeted amendments to Bill 9 to bring further clarity to the legislation and reaffirm British Columbians' right to access government information, while ensuring that it remains one of the strongest acts in Canada.

"We are happy to make these adjustments that provide more precision on the intent of the provisions outlined in the legislation, and I wish to thank MLAs who engaged in good faith on improving the legislation.

"Contrary to some false claims that have been made by official Opposition MLAs, this bill and these amendments do not change FOI response timelines, allow public bodies to refuse legitimate requests or introduce any new fees.

"Protecting transparency and accountability remains central to this work, and our government remains committed to ensuring British Columbians continue to have strong access to government information."

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Contact:

Ministry of Citizens' Services
Media Relations
laura.casselman@gov.bc.ca
250-886-8724

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