

## Provincial Privacy Legislation

On January, 2004, Alberta's **Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)** became law. The Act protects individual privacy by requiring private-sector organizations to obtain consent for the collection, use and disclosure of personal information in most cases, and provides individuals with a right of access to their own personal information.

All Alberta organizations are subject to the Act; however, it applies on a limited basis to certain non-profit organizations. For organizations established under the Societies Act, the Agricultural Societies Act, or part 9 of the Companies Act, PIPA only applies to personal information that is collected, used or disclosed as part of a commercial activity.

The PIPA website ([www.pipa.gov.ab.ca/](http://www.pipa.gov.ab.ca/)) has information about PIPA tailored to nonprofits including information sheets and answers to common questions including:

- What is a commercial activity?
- Is fund-raising a commercial activity?
- Our non-profit organization has some activities that are commercial activities and some that are not. Does PIPA apply to all personal information held by our organization?
- Can a non-profit organization post names of its members on its web site?
- Our organization trades membership lists with organizations with similar interests in Alberta. The information is used to promote conferences and other events that may be of interest to our members. Can we still do this?
- What will happen if an individual makes a privacy complaint about our non-profit organization to the Information and Privacy Commissioner?
- Can a non-profit organization voluntarily comply with PIPA?
- Our organization receives funding from a provincial government agency. Are we subject to the FOIP Act?