

ICDPPC Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards

2018

Entry Form

Deadline 29 June 2018

To submit an entry to the ICDPPC Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards please complete and email this form to ExCoSecretariat@icdppc.org no later than 29 June 2018.

Note: ICDPPC member authorities can submit as many entries as they wish but a separate form should be used for each different entry. Please complete the entry in English.

1. Contact details for this entry:

- a. Name and email address of person completing this form:
- b. Name of Data Protection or Privacy Authority: **Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Canada (OIPC)**

2. Eligibility: By submitting this entry I confirm that:

- a. The Authority is a member of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners.
- b. The initiative described in this entry was undertaken since the last edition.
- c. I am aware that the information in the entry (other than the contact details in 1(a) above) will be publicised by the ICDPPC Secretariat.

3. Please indicate which category or categories you wish to enter (delete those that do not apply; you can enter multiple categories):

- a. Innovation
- b. People's Choice

4. Description of the initiative

- a. Please provide a brief summary of the initiative (no more than 75 words):

The OIPC's [Big Data Guidelines](#) develops a framework of privacy protection that sets out the key issues to consider and best practices to follow at each stage of a big data project involving personal information. It offers guidance on how to prevent uses of big data that may be unexpected, invasive, inaccurate, discriminatory or disrespectful of individuals. Topics discussed include:

- Indirect collection and secondary purpose
- Privacy of publicly available information
- Biased datasets
- False correlations
- Non-transparent algorithms

- b. Please provide a full description of the initiative (no more than 350 words):

One of the most challenging problems facing data protection authorities today is how to protect privacy in an era of "big data." The OIPC's [Big Data Guidelines](#) provides a framework of privacy protection that sets out 14 issues to consider and best practices to follow over the course of a big data project.

To protect the privacy of individuals and ensure the fair and ethical processing of personal information, institutions should:

At the collection stage of a big data project:

1. Ensure they have the legal authority to collect and use personal information
2. Employ a research ethics board or similar body to review the privacy, fairness and ethical implications of the big data project
3. Publish a description of the project on their website
4. Treat publicly available information in the same manner as non-public information

At the integration stage:

5. Ensure data linkages are accurate
6. De-identify linked datasets to separate research and administrative functions
7. Destroy copies of datasets as soon as is reasonably possible

At the analysis stage:

8. Ensure analyzed datasets are accurate, complete and up to date
9. Ensure datasets are representative of the target population
10. Review variables to ensure they are not being used as proxies for discrimination
11. Verify the results of the analysis in a manner that is independent of the procedure used

At the profiling stage:

12. Provide individuals with information about the nature of the profile or predictive model being used
13. Provide individuals with an opportunity to challenge or respond to significant automated decisions
14. Consult with the public regarding the appropriateness and impact of profiling and automated decision-making

The result is a framework of controls for big data that prevents uses of personal information that may be unexpected, invasive, inaccurate, discriminatory or disrespectful of individuals.

Our research took roughly ten months to complete and involved a review and analysis of academic papers, privacy laws and publications with a view towards developing a systematic big data protocol for use in the public sector.

- c. Please explain why you think the initiative deserves to be recognised by an award (no more than 200 words)

Equal parts buzzword and concept, big data has proven to be a complex and challenging topic, engaging a number of new and emerging information technologies that may be used to fulfill a wide range of policy goals. What makes [Big Data Guidelines](#) deserving of recognition is that it breaks down the complexity of big data into a series of discrete issues whose analysis provides clarity to the topic as a whole. This is achieved by taking a “divide and conquer” approach. First, it divides the process of conducting a big data project into four stages: collection, integration, analysis and profiling; then it analyzes the issues that arise at each stage; finally, it recommends best practices to mitigate the emerging risks. The result is a document that does not simply talk about “big data” in the abstract, but rather works within a concrete definition of it to the benefit of readers.

Our guidelines are the first of their kind in Canada to discuss big data from the perspective of a big data practitioner. In no small measure, this is what has enabled them to cut through the hype and explain a complex topic in an accessible manner.

- d. Include a photograph or image if you wish (note this will help illustrate the description of the entry on the ICDPPC website; the image can be pasted into the entry or send as an attachment or a link may be provided):



- e. Please provide the most relevant link on the authority's website to the initiative (if applicable) (The website content does not need to be in English): [Big Data Guidelines](#)
- f. Please provide any other relevant links that you wish that help explain the initiative or its impact or success (e.g. links to news reports or articles):

http://blg.com/en/News-And-Publications/Documents/Publication_5021_1033.pdf

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/big-data-requires-new-privacy-legislation-ontario-commissioner-says/390302>

<https://www.itbusiness.ca/news/governments-can-use-big-data-without-sacrificing-privacy-ontario-commissioner-says/86254>

<https://www.accessprivacy.com/News/View/24073>