



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRANSLINK EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION MUST BE DISCLOSED

VICTORIA — In two orders issued today, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has ruled that the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink) must disclose the details of wages, fees and other payments to the third party, a former management-level employee.

“These two orders are the latest in a series of decisions requiring public bodies to disclose the amount of remuneration paid to current and former employees,” said Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham. It was abundantly clear that this kind of information must be disclosed, as TransLink agreed from the start. However, by notifying the third party in advance, it gave him the opportunity to delay the disclosure by initiating the formal review that resulted in this order. Commissioner Denham noted further, “In cases of requests for remuneration paid to their employees, there is no need for public bodies to notify those employees: they should just release the information. In fact, remuneration for employees of public bodies is another category of information that would be suitable for routine proactive disclosure.”

Two different applicants made requests for information on remuneration paid to a particular former employee. The third party objected to the release of any details of the payments he received, arguing that disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of his personal privacy. TransLink and both applicants all argued that FIPPA did not require TransLink to withhold information on remuneration paid to employees of a public body.

The adjudicator agreed that the information at issue was remuneration paid to an employee of a public body and required TransLink to disclose the information to the requestors.

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