



NEWS RELEASE - July 20, 2011

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner releases Investigation Report H-2011-001 dealing with patient files discovered in a recycling bin in south Regina on March 23, 2011.

Saskatchewan's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Gary Dickson, has issued his Investigation Report H-2011-001 dealing with 180,169 pieces of patient personal health information (PHI) found in a recycling bin in Regina on March 23, 2011. This included 2,682 patient files as well as descriptions of diagnosis, treatment and care of other patients at the Albert Park Family Medical Centre. The trustee responsible for the records is Dr. Teik Im Ooi.

Dickson concluded that Dr. Ooi violated *The Health Information Protection Act* in multiple ways including:

- She failed to have appropriate written policies and procedures to protect the patient information entrusted to her;
- She failed to safeguard patient information when it was moved to off-site storage locations;
- She failed to have appropriate contracts with service providers; and
- She failed to monitor the security of off-site storage facilities.

Dickson stated: "*This is without question the largest breach of patient privacy that our office has encountered in eight years since The Health Information Protection Act was enacted.*"

Dickson found that as a result of the multiple privacy breaches by Dr. Ooi the patient health information was not protected from viewing by a long list of individuals who would have had no legitimate need to know this patient information. This included her children and their friends, staff and labourers working for the pharmacist next door to Dr. Ooi's clinic, a construction crew, staff and contractors of a Regina shopping centre and more than 3,600 persons who walked through the basement of the shopping centre to view a haunted house exhibit in October 2010.

The Commissioner made eleven recommendations that included a recommendation to the Minister of Justice that he consider prosecution under *The Health Information Protection Act*.

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For a copy of Investigation Report H-2011-001, go to www.oipc.sk.ca under the *What's New* tab.

For further information, please contact:

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