



NEWS RELEASE – December 6, 2010

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner issues his *Report on Systemic Issues with Faxing Personal Health Information.*

In his report, Commissioner Gary Dickson reviewed the causes and contributing factors that led to 60 faxes containing personal health information being sent in error to the wrong address – in this case a private business in Saskatoon. The 60 faxes had been sent in 2009 by 31 different trustee organizations including regional health authorities, pharmacies and physician offices throughout Saskatchewan.

In evaluating the policies and procedures of those trustees, Commissioner Dickson found the average score of the 31 trustees was only 13.7 out of 38 points. No physician office had a score higher than 20 and no pharmacy had a score higher than 25. The Commissioner stated, *“Most trustees have not adequately investigated the breach. More importantly, their current fax policies and procedures do not address the issues that caused these breaches, and therefore, are not likely to prevent a reoccurrence in the future.”* The Commissioner offered three recommendations for all Saskatchewan trustees to improve HIPA compliance in this area.

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This Report is now accessible at www.oipc.sk.ca under the *What’s New* tab.

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