GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2023

Entry Form

To submit an entry to the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards please complete and email this form to secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org **no later than 9 June 2023.**

Note: GPA member authorities can submit as many entries as they wish, but a separate form should be used for each different entry, submitted by the deadline above.

Languages: The GPA documentation Rule 6.2[1] applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY	
Privacy/Data Protection Authority:	Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Canada
Person completing this form:	Vance Lockton *First name* *Last name*
Job title:	Policy Manager
Email address:	vance.lockton@ipc.on.ca

2. ELIGIBILITY

By submitting this entry, I confirm that (*please tick all boxes to confirm)*:

☒   The Authority is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly

☒   The initiative described in this entry was undertaken since January 2022.

☒   I am aware that the information in the entry (other than the contact details in 1(a) above) will be publicised by the GPA Secretariat.

3. CATEGORIES

Please indicate which category you wish to enter.

*Please tick **one**; please use a separate form for each category you wish to enter:*

☒   Education and Public Awareness

☐   Accountability

☐   Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

☐   Innovation

☐   People's Choice

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[1] GPA Rules and Procedures, Rule 6.2 'Assembly documents':
Without prejudice to section 4.2, Assembly documents, including accreditation and observer applications may be submitted in English or in another language. In the latter case, the documents shall be accompanied by an English version. Members with the ability and the resources to do so are encouraged to translate proposed resolutions and other Assembly documents such as the Assembly Rules and Procedures.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

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

Info Matters is an educational podcast about people, privacy, and access to information. On *Info Matters*, we have candid conversations with people from all walks of life about the access and privacy issues that matter to them. We demystify new data technologies and explore their potential impacts on society. We hear real stories, learn interesting facts, and provide practical tips on how to protect personal information and access government-held information.

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

In 2022, the IPC released a second season of *Info Matters*, featuring discussions with compelling thought leaders on privacy and transparency issues that relate to IPC's four strategic priorities. For a taste of season two of *Info Matters*, here are some of our most popular episodes:

In conversation with Jim Balsillie: Data, technology, and public policy
This episode featured an interesting discussion with the founder of the Centre for International Governance Innovation about the impact of digital transformation on our human rights, collective well-being, and democracy.

Real or fake? The buzz about synthetic data
In this episode, Commissioner Kosseim spoke with Dr. Khaled El Emam, Canada Research Chair at the University of Ottawa, about how synthetic datasets are made from real patient data and how they can be used to advance important health research while minimizing privacy risks.

Giving foster kids a fair shot in life
Commissioner Kosseim discussed helping former foster children reclaim control over their personal information so they can get a fresh start in life with Jane Kovarikova, founder of the Child Welfare Political Action Committee.

Family ties: Using investigative genetic genealogy to solve crimes
Commissioner Kosseim spoke with renowned DNA forensics expert Dr. Frederick Bieber about the use of these investigative techniques by police and the potential privacy risks for people who participate in recreational genealogy.

Power to the people! Access, privacy, and civic engagement
Commissioner Kosseim and author Dave Meslin explored the role of civic engagement in fostering greater government transparency and user-friendly privacy policies.

[Health equity: Using data to make a positive difference for communities](#)
Commissioner Kosseim speaks with Dr. Kwame McKenzie, CEO of the Wellesley Institute, about how anonymized data can be used to advance equity in health care and health outcomes to make a positive difference for marginalized communities.

Now in its third successful season, *Info Matters* continues to deliver timely, in-demand information on the privacy and access issues that people care most about. With listeners from across Canada and around the world, *Info Matters* is available on all major podcast streaming services.

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

The *Info Matters* podcast has seen an impressive increase in the number of downloads (38.5%) and unique listeners (41.6%) over the past year. The podcast has been downloaded nearly 10,000 times since its launch in 2021. We're reaching more people and partners directly, building our reputation as a modern and effective regulator along the way. It's no surprise that in 2022, *Info Matters* was [ranked 13th on a list of 60 top data privacy podcasts](#).

The number of podcast listeners worldwide is expected to grow to over 465 million in 2023. The IPC was the first of its data privacy regulatory peers in Canada to recognize the educational value of podcasting, seizing this effective form of communication to educate people from all walks of life about the access and privacy issues that matter to them.

We've worked hard to make our podcast stand out from the crowd, by creating original, high-quality, and valuable content. Our episodes are a source of sound information, nuggets of wisdom, and thought-provoking insights. With new listeners tuning in every day, more people are turning to *Info Matters* as the first place they go to for answers on all things access and privacy.

d. **Please include a photograph or image, if you wish** *(This will be published with your entry on the GPA website. The image can be pasted into the box below, be sent as an attachment or a link may be provided)*

<Large-sized images provided as attachments with entry>

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)*

For a full list of podcast episodes, visit:

https://www.ipc.on.ca/media-centre/info-matters-podcast/

f. **Please provide any other relevant links that help explain the initiative or its impact or success** *(e.g. links to news reports or articles):*

Info Matters was ranked 13 on Feedspot's list of the top 60 data security podcasts.