



GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2024

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 **17 June 2024**.

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 6.2¹ applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY

Privacy/Data Protection Authority:	Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario	
Person completing this form:	Andrea	Corlett
	<i>First name</i>	<i>Last name</i>
Job title:	Director of Communications	
Email address:	andrea.corlett@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

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)

Released in 2024, *Sharing Information in Situations Involving Intimate Partner Violence: Guidance for Professionals* empowers professionals working in various sectors (including justice, health, children and family services) to make informed decisions about privacy, confidentiality, and public safety in situations of intimate partner violence (IPV). This guidance clarifies that Ontario's privacy laws allow the lawful sharing of information to prevent serious harm, ensuring that timely and relevant information reaches those who need it most.

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

In 2022, a coroner's inquest into the murders of three women in rural eastern Ontario due to IPV resulted in 86 recommendations to avoid such a tragic incident from reoccurring. Among the recommendations was a call for the IPC to collaborate with IPV professionals to develop a plain-language guide to help practitioners navigate the complex issues of privacy, confidentiality, and public safety. Situations of IPV, particularly against women and girls, are rising at alarming rates, and many have been calling on government to designate IPV an epidemic. Recognizing the critical importance of this work and the realities of the current context, the IPC immediately agreed to address the recommendation and committed to working with others over the course of two years to develop the guidance.

The resulting *Sharing Information in Situations Involving Intimate Partner Violence: Guidance for Professionals*, released in 2024, provides a clear and practical framework for practitioners to determine when it is appropriate to share relevant information to protect individuals at risk of serious harm. The guide was developed through extensive consultations with a diverse range of stakeholders, including the justice sector, child and family services, health care providers, and IPV service providers. The IPC also worked with a women's advocacy centre to hold small focus groups with female survivors of IPV to hear their views directly.

The guide addresses key considerations such as the legal parameters for information sharing under Ontario's privacy laws, the principles of necessity and proportionality, and the importance of timely and accurate communication. It emphasizes that privacy laws should not be perceived as barriers but as frameworks that support the responsible and lawful sharing of information to prevent harm and help save lives.

Divided into accessible sections, the guide includes real-world scenarios and decision-making tools to assist practitioners in making informed and timely choices. By fostering a better understanding of the legal context and providing practical guidance, the initiative aims to enhance the ability of professionals to protect vulnerable individuals while respecting their privacy rights.

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

In cases of IPV, practitioners sometimes delay taking action if they are concerned that doing so may violate an individual's right to privacy. *Sharing Information in Situations Involving Intimate Partner Violence: Guidance for Professionals* was developed using an inclusive, innovative, and collaborative approach to addressing this critical public safety issue. Developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, the guide provides a clear, actionable framework with scenarios and

decision trees to support practitioners navigating the complexities of privacy and information sharing in cases of IPV.

This initiative stands out for its commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals while balancing the need for privacy and confidentiality. By demystifying Ontario's privacy laws and emphasizing that they are not barriers to sharing information when there is a risk of serious harm, the guide empowers professionals across sectors to make informed decisions that can help prevent harm and save lives.

The guide's practical tools and real-world scenarios make it an invaluable resource for those on the front lines of IPV prevention, ensuring that timely and relevant information is shared appropriately and responsibly. Its release marks a significant step forward in enhancing the safety and well-being of women at risk of intimate partner violence.

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*)

See attached file(s):
GPA_IPV_1

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*)

<https://www.ipc.on.ca/en/IPVguidance>

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*):

- The Commissioner's interview on *Breakfast Television* about the new guidelines: <https://youtu.be/xJuKavLd7iA?feature=shared>
- News report from Yahoo!: <https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/guidance-outlines-responsible-information-sharing-143700666.html>
- <https://www.lawtimesnews.com/practice-areas/privacy-and-data/ipc-releases-guidance-on-information-sharing-in-intimate-partner-violence-cases/386578>
- <https://pacc-ccap.ca/guidance-explains-privacy-rules-for-situations-involving-intimate-partner-violence/>
- <https://iapp.org/news/a/notes-from-the-iapp-canada-managing-director-31-may-2024>
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