

CANADA CHEAT SHEET for DATA PRIVACY LAWS

Federal Laws

Personal Information Protection and Electronics Document Act (PIPEDA) is the primary federal privacy law and governs the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information by **private sector organizations**. It applies to businesses engaged in commercial activities **across provincial and national borders**. Any company engaged in commercial and transactional activities involving the personal information of Canadian citizens must comply with PIPEDA. Non-profit organizations may be subject to PIPEDA or provincial privacy laws, depending on activity or location. [The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act \(PIPEDA\) - Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada](#)

Bill C-27 – Digital Charter Implementation Act 2022 was introduced to overhaul private sector data privacy requirements, passed second reading earlier in 2023 and repeals Part I of PIPEDA. [Bill C-27 summary: Digital Charter Implementation Act, 2022 \(canada.ca\)](#) Included in this was the creation of the Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA) which creates obligations around the design, development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) systems that impact Canadians and their data including how new AI technologies are used and developed. This would be one of the first global efforts to regulate AI. Currently organizations are requested to comply with a voluntary AI code of conduct.

[Voluntary Code of Conduct on the Responsible Development and Management of Advanced Generative AI Systems \(canada.ca\)](#)

Digital Privacy Act is an amendment to PIPEDA effective in 2015 and included mandatory breach reporting and increased fines for non-compliance and/or failure to report breaches. [Digital Privacy Act \(justice.gc.ca\)](#)

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) governs electronic communications and commercial messages. While not strictly a data privacy law, it imposes requirements on obtaining consent for sending electronic messages, including email and text messages. Violations may result in an administrative monetary penalty (AMP), which can cost up to a maximum of \$1 million for an individual, or \$10 million for a business. [Protect your business and comply \(canada.ca\)](#)

Cross-Border Data Transfers may be restricted, depending on the type of information or province/territory in which the activity occurs. There may also be international data transfer regulations like the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** that may be applicable, especially if dealing with data from the European Union.

Provincial Laws

Alberta – Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) applies to provincially regulated private sector organizations and non-profit organizations. [Personal Information Protection Act | Alberta.ca](#)

British Columbia – Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA BC) requires organizations to protect personal information in their custody and control and demonstrate they have the applicable security controls in place to do so. [Personal Information Protection Act \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

Quebec – Privacy Legislation Modernization Act (Law 25) came into effect September 2023 to provide individuals more control over their information, the ability to request and access their information and other requirements.

[Modernisation de la protection des renseignements personnels | Gouvernement du Québec \(quebec.ca\)](#)