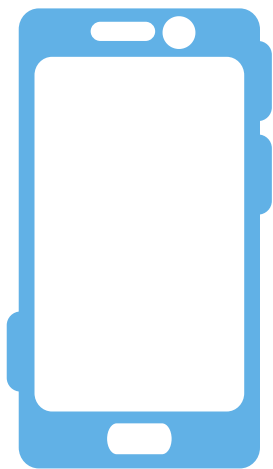


# SMART DEVICES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## WHAT IS A SMART DEVICE?



**A smart device is an electronic instrument that is able to perform autonomous computing without direct input from users, gather data and adapt to environmental changes through sensors, and connect to a wider data network called the Internet of Things**

- The Internet of Things market is projected to grow rapidly in the coming decade with the introduction of 5G technology
- The speed of 5G technology will revolutionize connectivity and data sharing amongst almost all sectors of society ranging from retail to healthcare

## POSITIVE IMPACTS

**With the growing use and variety of smart devices, there are numerous ways they can benefit our society:**

- Assist our society in tracking human rights violations
- Ensure our safety e.g. security cameras
- Provide access to health care e.g. individuals who live in rural and remote areas
- Provide empowerment and aid in the promotion and protection of human rights
- Provide educational opportunities e.g. individuals with disabilities have the same rights to equal opportunities and they may not be able to learn in the traditional way - smart devices provide this equal opportunity



## HARMFUL IMPACTS

**Smart devices are extremely powerful and we may not be aware of the risks they pose on our human rights:**

- Surveillance and policing of our everyday actions and conversations
- Personal data can be gathered and used for purposes that you are unaware of
- Lack of transparency and clarity in the fine print and software updates e.g. it is difficult to know whether the device is functioning as promised, or how it is interacting with other devices, or what changes are made behind the scenes during updates



# SMART DEVICES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## STATISTICS

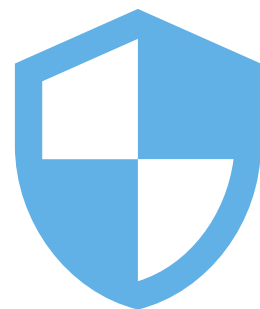
According to Statistics Canada's 2019 Internet Use Survey:



94% OF CANADIANS HAVE HOME INTERNET ACCESS RANKING CANADA 14TH ON THE 2019 GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY INDEX



53% OF CANADIAN INTERNET USERS HAVE AN INTERNET-CONNECTED SMART HOME DEVICE IN THEIR HOME



61% OF CANADIAN INTERNET USERS DELETED BROWSER HISTORY AND 42% CHANGED PRIVACY SETTINGS TO LIMIT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION



### Federal Legislation

#### Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act

Nearly all-encompassing but only provides general recommendations instead of obligations

#### The Criminal Code

Only covers certain types of criminal offences (e.g. against voyeurism)

#### The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Covers general protections but does not have a specific description of privacy rights

#### The Privacy Act

Only applies to public sector activities

### Ontario Legislation

#### Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)

Only applies to specific "institutions"

## WHAT ABOUT CANADA?

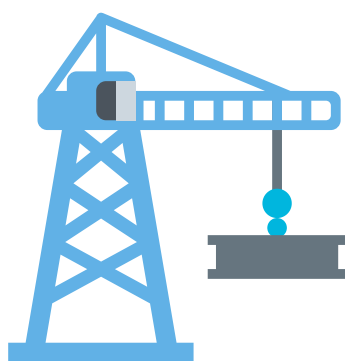
There have been a series of laws and regulations aimed at protecting Canadian citizens' personal information, both at the federal and provincial level. However, existing legal frameworks which were mostly initiated in the era of paper-based administration, must be modernized to keep pace with the technological and social changes.

## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

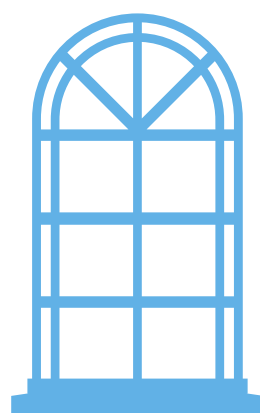
Based on the observations of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics, there are three key actions that could be taken to better safeguard the privacy of Canadian citizens:



MODERNIZE LEGISLATION



BUILD UP CAPACITY



ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY