

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **PROGRESS MADE, BUT EFFORT STILL NEEDED TO ENSURE SECURE WIRELESS NETWORKING**

VICTORIA – An audit of five provincial ministries and two post-secondary institutions found both progress and room for improvement in their wireless networking security, says British Columbia Auditor General John Doyle. The results of the audit were released today in the report *Wireless Networking Security in Government: Phase 2*.

“The benefits of wireless computing – flexibility, increased productivity, ease of implementation – are significant, but so are the risks,” said Doyle. “Even as new methods of protecting wireless data are developed, so are methods of breaching these protections. Organizations must be vigilant in reviewing and updating their security to the latest standards and technology.”

This report builds on a previous one, published in February 2009, which found serious gaps in government wireless networking security at locations in Victoria. This latest audit found that, while government had made some progress on wireless networking security, greater effort is still needed to ensure that ministries comply with the policies and procedures that safeguard wireless transmissions.

The two post-secondary institutions audited (Simon Fraser University and the B.C. Institute of Technology) were found to have adequate security settings for their network infrastructures, but had room for improvement in managing and monitoring their wireless networks.

“As the use of wireless technologies increases, so does the importance of proper security. For many parts of government and related entities, wireless technology is an integral part of the corporate IT network,” said Doyle. “My office will continue to expand our audits in this area, and are looking to integrate wireless security reviews into other parts of our work.”

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#### **2009/10 Report #10 – Wireless Networking Security in Government: Phase 2**

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