



OFFICE OF THE
INFORMATION & PRIVACY
COMMISSIONER
for
British Columbia

August 31, 2007

Editor
National Post
300 - 1450 Don Mills Road,
Don Mills, Ontario M3B 3R5

Dear Editor:

Editorial on the Virginia Tech shootings & privacy (August 31, 2007)

Your editorial pinning the murderous shooting rampage at Virginia Tech on privacy is inaccurate and itself dangerous. To suggest that privacy is a "fad" irresponsibly ignores that it is a longstanding foundation of all of our cherished rights and liberties. The official report on the tragedy makes it very clear that those involved failed to properly apply privacy laws, which did allow them to share Cho's personal information and did allow them to take action. Canadian privacy laws similarly allow disclosure and action in such cases and privacy is not to blame for this tragedy.

Yours sincerely,

David Loukidelis
Information and Privacy Commissioner
for British Columbia