



**BY FAX (604) 871-2290**

March 16, 2007

Jinny Sims  
President  
British Columbia Teachers' Federation  
100 – 550 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

Dear Jinny Sims:

**British Columbia Teachers' Federation ("BCTF")—Surrey Teachers' Association ("STA")  
resolution on HIV/AIDS status of students—OIPC File F07-31163**

I write in light of media reports, including the March 11, 2007 edition of the *Surrey Leader*, reporting that the Surrey Teachers' Association intends to ask the BCTF to seek legislative amendments so teachers "can be told of students who have diseases such as AIDS, HIV or hepatitis."

I am aware of no evidence that any teacher has acquired a serious condition or illness that could have been prevented had the status of a student been known in advance. Certainly, standard protocols exist that are used in hospitals and other settings and could be used in the school setting.

By contrast, personal information about one's HIV/AIDS status, in particular, is extremely sensitive and warrants robust privacy protection. I would be strongly opposed to any legislative change that would result in sharing of such personal information in the manner contemplated by the STA's resolution and I urge the BCTF not to advance this idea.

Yours sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

David Loukidelis  
Information and Privacy Commissioner  
for British Columbia

cc: John Wadge  
President, Surrey Teachers' Association

Ross Harvey  
Executive Director, B.C. Persons with AIDS Society

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