

PUBLIC POLICY ISSUE BRIEF

Securing the Data Privacy of Canadians

Overview: Technology has fundamentally and undeniably transformed the lives of all Canadians. Although the impact of technology is often beneficial, it also increases risks to consumers through data breaches, privacy violations, and other cybercrimes. To mitigate these potential threats, The IIA Canada supports data privacy legislation that recognizes the value of strengthening data governance and internal controls through the independent assurance provided by an organization's internal audit function.

Role of Internal Audit

An internal audit function, adhering to The IIA's [Global Internal Audit Standards™](#), provides **independent**, **risk-based**, and **objective** assurance over data-related risk, governance, and internal control processes.

Since internal audit is independent from management – and reports directly to the organization's governing body – it is properly positioned to monitor processes such as system access, platform security, etc. Ensuring internal audit is properly structured represents a core strategy designed to promote **transparency** and **accountability** in the protection of consumer data.



IIA Key Objectives

Strengthen Internal Data Oversight: Require internal audit-led assurance processes at large data-holding companies to evaluate relevant internal controls and governance structures. The presence of this qualified internal audit function will strengthen independent oversight efforts and increase consumer confidence.

Promote Transparency and Accountability: Ensure that executive certifications of internal controls and reporting structures related to consumer data are reviewed by an internal audit function. This independent analysis will provide Canadians with greater assurance that an organization is properly securing data.

Mitigate the Risk of Non-Compliance: Consistency in data privacy laws and regulations across Canada are vital in minimizing the risk of organizational non-compliance and protecting consumer data. IIA Canada supports alignment in federal and provincial data privacy frameworks to ensure the uniform evaluation of data privacy-related risk.

For any questions regarding the internal audit profession, please contact Ryan Singh, Director, Advocacy (Canada), at Ryan.Singh@TheIIA.org.