

FOR RELEASE
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EPIC HONORS CANADIAN PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER STODDART RECEIVES
2012 INTERNATIONAL PRIVACY CHAMPION AWARD

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM – The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) has awarded the 2012 International Privacy Champion Award to Canadian Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart for her work to safeguard privacy and to promote collaboration among privacy officials around the world.

The award was presented at the annual conference on Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection in Brussels, Belgium on 26 January 2012, just in advance of International Privacy Day.

“Commissioner Stoddart is a leading figure in the privacy world, a dedicated servant of the public who has worked to safeguard a fundamental human right and to build an important network of privacy officials around the globe,” said Marc Rotenberg, President of EPIC.

In accepting the award, Commissioner Stoddart thanked the staff of the Office of Privacy Commission of Canada for their devotion to their jobs and their passion for privacy that has made possible many remarkable achievements.

“In an age when the privacy landscape is global and increasingly complex, we also count on a worldwide network of colleagues who share our commitment to privacy protection,” said Commissioner Stoddart.

In 2010, Commissioner Stoddart led an unprecedented collaboration involving ten data protection authorities that issued a joint letter reminding companies of their responsibility to respect privacy laws in the countries where they provide their products and services. In 2007, she hosted the 29th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in Ottawa. At the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, Commissioner Stoddart has chaired a group of privacy experts reviewing the OECD Privacy Guidelines. Her OECD committee also set out recommendations for cross-border enforcement of privacy laws.

“Commissioner Stoddart has been an outstanding leader at the OECD, helping to build a framework for cross-border cooperation on privacy enforcement and now guiding a review of the OECD Privacy Guidelines,” said Michael Donohue, Senior Policy Analyst at OECD. “Her commitment to practical and globally effective approaches to privacy protection is critical as OECD member countries confront new challenges.”

Commissioner Stoddart was among the first data protection commissioners to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the privacy policies and practices of the popular social networking site, Facebook. She also investigated a massive data breach at U.S. retail giant TJX, which owns Winners and HomeSense stores in Canada. More recently, she found that Google Inc. contravened Canadian privacy law when it collected personal information from unsecured wireless networks for Google StreetView.

Simon Davies, Director of Privacy International, said “Jennifer is uniquely qualified to receive this award. She has created a regulatory regime that is second to none. Her dedication has motivated other Commissioners across the world to achieve a greater vision and her remarkable abilities have inspired substantial change in the privacy environment.”

In 2011, Commissioner Stoddart found that Staples Business Depot stores had failed to fully wipe customer data from returned devices such as laptops and USB hard drives destined for resale – even though the company had previously committed to addressing the long-standing problem.

David Flaherty, former Commissioner for British Columbia, said “Among her many accomplishments, Commissioner Stoddart has revitalized the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and successfully expanded its work on behalf of Canadians.”

The 2009 EPIC International Privacy Champion Award was given to Italian jurist Professor Stefano Rodota. The 2010 EPIC International Privacy Champion Award was given to Australian jurist Michael Kirby. The 2011 EPIC International Privacy Champion Award was given to MEP Sophie in’t Veld.

EPIC also presents an award to a leading Privacy Advocate in the United States on International Privacy Day. The 2010 EPIC US Privacy Champion Award was given to Beth Givens, founder and director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse in San Diego, California. The 2011 EPIC US Privacy Champion Award was given to Jeff Chester, founder and director of the Center for Digital Democracy in Washington, DC.

The 2012 EPIC US Privacy Champion Award was presented in Brussels to Christopher Soghoian, a computer researcher and privacy advocate.

Lillie Coney, Coordinator of the Privacy Coalition and Chair of the Public Voice conference, said “Combining technical know-how, legal expertise, clever campaign strategies, and a passion for the right of privacy, Chris Soghoian has emerged as one of the leading privacy advocates in the United States.”

January 28 is International Privacy Day, the day that the first international convention for privacy was announced. Many groups around the world are hosting events to mark the occasion.

The members of the jury for the 2012 EPIC International Privacy Champion Award were Simon Davies, Director, Privacy International; David Flaherty, former Commissioner British Columbia; Pamela Jones Harbour, Former Commissioner, US Federal Trade Commission; Deborah Hurley, Chair, EPIC Board of Directors; Kristina Irion, Assistant Professor and Academic Coordinator of the Media, Information and Communications Policy Stream, Central European University; Rebecca MacKinnon, Author, *Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom*; Pablo Molina, Chief Information Officer, Georgetown University; and, Marc Rotenberg, President, EPIC.

About Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart

Jennifer Stoddart was named Privacy Commissioner of Canada in 2003. . In December 2010, Commissioner Stoddart was reappointed for a three-year term. Commissioner Stoddart holds a Bachelor of Civil Law degree from McGill University, as well as a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Québec at Montréal and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto's Trinity College. She has held several senior positions in public administration for the Governments of Québec and Canada since being called to the Québec Bar in 1981. In 2011, Canadian Lawyer magazine named Commissioner Stoddart to its list of the "Top 25 Most Influential" in the justice system and legal profession in Canada.

About EPIC

The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) is one of the leading privacy advocacy and research organizations in the world. Based in Washington, DC, EPIC was established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues. EPIC maintains two of the top-ranked privacy web sites – EPIC.ORG and PRIVACY.ORG.

More Information

Commissioner Stoddart, EPIC 2012 International Champion of Freedom Award, Acceptance Speech

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