



January 22, 2016

Notice to Member Festivals Regarding PIPA

Personal Information Privacy Act Under Review and implications for Member Festivals and MFS

On June 15, 2015, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future was designated as the review committee for the Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA), as required under that law. It is in the consultation phase of its review, and will have its recommendations for adjustments to the PIPA by December 15, 2016. Learn more at <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/committees/abeconomicfuture/PIPA/PIPA.html>.

What aspects of PIPA affect MusicFestivalSuite.com and its Member Festivals?

As MusicFestivalSuite.com is a commercial venture, all aspects of PIPA affect MusicFestivalSuite.com and its Member Festivals. It is true that arts activities and non-profit organizations are exempt in certain areas, but an exception to that rule is where transactions of funds for services rendered occur, such as registrations in music festivals, PIPA also applies. Although PIPA does not apply in its current form to the aspects of MusicFestivalSuite.com and music festivals on the whole with regards to volunteers, adjudicators and Board members, it does apply to Teachers, Parents and Entrants who pay for registrations.

What aspects of PIPA are under review that may affect MusicFestivalSuite.com and its Member Festivals?

None. This is not true of the vast majority of other music festival management softwares available in Alberta. MusicFestivalSuite.com was designed to predict the potential issues that may arise from the review based on legal activities that have taken place since PIPA's inception.

- Exemptions of PIPA for arts activities are under review. MusicFestivalSuite.com has been designed to adhere to even the strictest of changes that could occur here.
- Exemptions of PIPA for non-profit organizations are under review. MusicFestivalSuite.com has been designed to adhere to changes that would even affect how festivals communicate with volunteers and adjudicators, so no issue will arise here.
- Freedom of Expression as exemptions in PIPA are under review. This would only change the need for festivals to obtain permission to print photographs for promotional materials or similar. This has no impact on how MusicFestivalSuite.com works.
- All other areas of PIPA that are under review that would have had the potential to impact music festivals are already covered by federal laws, such as the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) and Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation. MusicFestivalSuite.com is designed with these in mind.

Are there any practices we should be mindful of with regards to PIPA that aren't related to our use of MusicFestivalSuite.com?

Providing schedules in their entirety on your websites may be an issue. If you publish your entire schedule or program on your website complete with performers' names, you are not in violation of PIPA as of yet. Changes to legislation that may occur may prevent the publication of performers' names without their consent. This is why we make performers' schedules available through MusicFestivalSuite.com in anticipation of such an issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MUSICFESTIVALSUITE.COM.