



**PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT**  
**Breach Notification Decision**

<b>Organization providing notice under section 34.1 of PIPA</b>	Young Men’s Christian Association of Edmonton (YMCA of Northern Alberta) (Organization)
<b>Decision number (file number)</b>	P2021-ND-030 (File #18288)
<b>Date notice received by OIPC</b>	September 22, 2020
<b>Date Organization last provided information</b>	September 22, 2020
<b>Date of decision</b>	February 23, 2021
<b>Summary of decision</b>	There is a real risk of significant harm to the individuals affected by this incident. The Organization is required to notify those individuals whose personal information was collected in Alberta pursuant to section 37.1 of <i>the Personal Information Protection Act</i> (PIPA).
<b>JURISDICTION</b>	
<b>Section 1(1)(i) of PIPA “organization”</b>	The Organization is an “organization” as defined in section 1(1)(i) of PIPA.
<b>Section 1(1)(k) of PIPA “personal information”</b>	The incident involved all or some of the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• name of child,</li><li>• date of birth,</li><li>• address,</li><li>• home telephone number,</li><li>• names of siblings in care,</li><li>• medical information, including concerns and medications,</li><li>• allergies/dietary restrictions,</li><li>• immunization status,</li><li>• parent/guardian information (name, relationship to child, home and work telephone number, address, and email address),</li><li>• emergency contact information (name, relationship to child, home, cell and work telephone number, home address),</li><li>• information about persons authorized to remove child from the centre (relationship, home, cell and work telephone number).</li></ul>

	This information is about identifiable individuals and is “personal information” as defined in section 1(1)(k) of PIPA.
<b>DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> loss <input type="checkbox"/> unauthorized access <input type="checkbox"/> unauthorized disclosure	
<b>Description of incident</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On or around September 13/14, 2020, an emergency bag containing first-aid and emergency supplies, as well as the emergency information cards of 11 children in care, was stolen from an employee’s vehicle.</li> <li>The breach was first discovered by the employee on September 14, 2020.</li> <li>The employee reported the incident to the Organization on September 15, 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Affected individuals</b>	The incident affected forty four (44) individuals / residents of Alberta.
<b>Steps taken to reduce risk of harm to individuals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided affected individuals with links to resources regarding how they can protect themselves.</li> <li>Filed a police report about the theft.</li> </ul>
<b>Steps taken to notify individuals of the incident</b>	Affected individuals were notified by letter and email on September 15, 2020.
<b>REAL RISK OF SIGNIFICANT HARM ANALYSIS</b>	
<b>Harm</b> Some damage or detriment or injury that could be caused to affected individuals as a result of the incident. The harm must also be “significant.” It must be important, meaningful, and with non-trivial consequences or effects.	<p>The Organization reported “This breach could result in hurt, humiliation, reputational harm and/or the wrongful use of personal information.”</p> <p>I agree with the Organization’s assessment. A reasonable person would consider the contact, identity, medical and emergency contact information at issue could be used to cause the harms of identity theft and fraud, as well as embarrassment, hurt or humiliation. These are significant harms.</p>
<b>Real Risk</b> The likelihood that the significant harm will result must be more than mere speculation or conjecture. There must be a cause and effect relationship between the incident and the possible harm.	<p>The Organization reported “The likelihood of harm is somewhat uncertain as the breach was due to a thief [sic] of a backpack, by an unknown person, with unknown intentions....”.</p> <p>In my view, a reasonable person would consider the likelihood of harm resulting from this incident is increased because the breach is the result of malicious intent (theft). Further, the affected individuals are a vulnerable population (children) and the information has not been recovered.</p>

**DECISION UNDER SECTION 37.1(1) OF PIPA**

Based on the information provided by the Organization and given the circumstances of the incident, I have decided that there is a real risk of significant harm to the affected individuals.

A reasonable person would consider the contact, identity, medical and emergency contact information at issue could be used to cause the harms of identity theft and fraud, as well as embarrassment, hurt or humiliation. These are significant harms. The likelihood of harm resulting from this incident is increased because the breach is the result of malicious intent (theft). Further, the affected individuals are a vulnerable population (children) and the information has not been recovered.

I understand the Organization notified affected individuals by letter and email on September 15, 2020 in accordance with the Regulation. The Organization is not required to notify the affected individuals again.

Jill Clayton  
Information and Privacy Commissioner