



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

<b>Organization providing notice under section 34.1 of PIPA</b>	YMCA of Northern Alberta (Organization)
<b>Decision number (file number)</b>	P2021-ND-270 (File #020916)
<b>Date notice received by OIPC</b>	February 10, 2021
<b>Date Organization last provided information</b>	February 10, 2021
<b>Date of decision</b>	February 10, 2022
<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 pursuant to section 37.1 of the <i>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>	<p>The incident involved all or some of the following information:</p> <p><u>Child:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• name,</li><li>• date of birth,</li><li>• address,</li><li>• home telephone number,</li><li>• name of other sibling in YMCA Child Care,</li><li>• medical concerns,</li><li>• medications,</li><li>• allergies/dietary restrictions, and</li><li>• status of immunizations.</li></ul> <p><u>Parents/Guardians:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• name,</li><li>• relationship to child,</li><li>• workplace,</li><li>• home and work telephone number,</li><li>• home and work address,</li><li>• postal code, and</li><li>• email.</li></ul>

	<p><u>Name of emergency contact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relationship to child,</li> <li>• home, cell and work telephone number, and</li> <li>• home address.</li> </ul> <p><u>Name of persons authorized to remove child from the centre:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relationship to the child, and</li> <li>• home, cell and work telephone number.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transportation information to and from YMCA Norwood Child Care and school (if applicable),</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bus company name,</li> <li>• telephone number,</li> <li>• bus number,</li> <li>• pick up location,</li> <li>• pick up and drop off time (if applicable).</li> </ul> <p><u>YMCA forms and agreements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• admission agreement,</li> <li>• transportation agreement,</li> <li>• policy sign-off form,</li> <li>• information sharing agreement,</li> <li>• field trip and area permission form,</li> <li>• infant care incentive acknowledgement form (if applicable),</li> <li>• Weemarkable communications agreement (if applicable), and</li> <li>• YMCA family support workers – Your family rights and FOIP notifications (if applicable), part time care agreement (if applicable).</li> </ul> <p>Much of the information at issue is about identifiable individuals and is “personal information” as defined in section 1(1)(k) of PIPA.</p>
--	--

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

loss
  unauthorized access
  unauthorized disclosure

<b>Description of incident</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On February 4, 2021, the Organization was the target of a break and enter.</li> <li>• A cabinet that contained personal information was stolen.</li> </ul>
--------------------------------	---

<b>Affected individuals</b>	The incident affected approximately 105 individuals.
-----------------------------	--

<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 and sought police advice.</li> <li>• Remained available to answer questions and provide support.</li> </ul>
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing relevant policies, procedures and systems to increase the security of the building and the storage of private information.</li> </ul>
<b>Steps taken to notify individuals of the incident</b>	Affected individuals were notified by email on February 4, 2021.
<b>REAL RISK OF SIGNIFICANT HARM ANALYSIS</b>	
<p><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>	<p>The Organization reported,</p> <p><i>This breach could result in hurt, humiliation, reputational harm and/or the wrongful use of personal information, or identity theft.</i></p> <p>I agree with the Organization’s assessment. A reasonable person would consider the contact, identity, medical and emergency contact information could be used to cause the harms of identity theft and fraud. Email addresses could be used for the purposes of phishing, increasing the affected individuals’ vulnerability to identity theft and fraud. Medical information could also be used to cause harm, humiliation and embarrassment. These are all significant harms.</p>
<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>	<p>The Organization reported,</p> <p><i>The likelihood of harm is somewhat uncertain as the breach was due to a theft of a number of items (which the personal information was one) by an unknown person, with unknown intentions. However, it is highly unlikely (sic) that the person(s) responsible for the theft had been aware of the personal information prior to the theft, or that the personal information was the target of the theft.</i></p> <p>In my view, a reasonable person would consider that the likelihood of harm resulting from this incident is increased as it was the result of malicious intent (break-in and theft). Although the Organization reported it is unlikely that the thief was aware of the personal information prior to the theft, this is only speculation. Further, the affected individuals are a vulnerable population (children).</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 could be used to cause the harms of identity theft and fraud. Email addresses could be used for the purposes of phishing, increasing the affected individuals' vulnerability to identity theft and fraud. Medical information could also be used to cause harm, humiliation and embarrassment. These are all significant harms.

The likelihood of harm resulting from this incident is increased as it was the result of malicious intent (break-in and theft). Although the Organization reported it is unlikely that the thief was aware of the personal information prior to the theft, this is only speculation. Further, the affected individuals are a vulnerable population (children).

I require the Organization to notify the affected individuals in accordance with section 19.1 of the *Personal Information Protection Act Regulation* (Regulation).

I understand the affected individuals were notified by email on February 4, 2021. The Organization is not required to notify the individuals again.

Jill Clayton  
Information and Privacy Commissioner