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Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Summary

Public Body or Custodian: Service Alberta

Project Title: National Routing System

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OIPC TRAX File: F4753

Project Summary:

The National Routing System (“NRS”) project is a set of protocols and standards for the secure electronic transmittal of vital-event information between Alberta Vital Statistics and provincial vital statistics agencies and the Federal Government. Currently, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Canada Revenue Agency, Statistics Canada and Service Canada participate in this initiative. The established security protocols and standards will allow additional participants to join this initiative at a later date.

The NRS does not involve a central database or a repository of personal data. Instead, the NRS offers a secure means of transmitting and receiving vital-event information, such as deaths, births and social insurance numbers by Vital Statistics Alberta and other project participants.

The purpose of the NRS is to provide a secure communication network for the flow of information that is essential for the following:

- ▶ identity authentication of those applying for benefits;
- ▶ verification of individual program eligibility and entitlement of benefits;
- ▶ validation of one’s personal information prior to the issuance of federal identification, and
- ▶ timely update of vital-event records databases in other Canadian provinces and territories.

To ensure protection of personal information, the vital-event information will be delivered in a manner that follows sufficient security protocols. Components of the structure include:

- ▶ data standards;
- ▶ electronic messaging specifications;
- ▶ design and architectural guidelines;
- ▶ data security encryptions;
- ▶ procedure and exchange agreements, and
- ▶ audit trails.

Accordingly, the NRS will result in various benefits, such as a reduction of identity fraud, benefit overpayment and the costs associated with recovery. Also, the NRS will reduce the burden placed on individuals. For example, the *SIN at Birth Initiative* (a component of the NRS) will eliminate the current system which involves two separate paper-based processes requiring parents to provide the same information about a child to Alberta Vital Statistics Registry and to Service Canada at various times. Parents of a newborn child in Alberta will have the opportunity to register the child's birth and apply for their child's SIN at the same time.

The NRS project is based on a pilot project launched in 2005 by Service Alberta. At the end of the pilot, the project was reviewed and on April 2006, Statistics Canada prepared the Final Evaluation Report. The evaluation revealed that project objectives were met and information was delivered in a manner that follows sufficient security protocols to protect the privacy of individuals. Those involved in the pilot support the initiative proceeding on continual basis.

For additional information on this project contact:

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