

Email sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, all Premiers and the Federal Treasury Board Minister on Monday, September 3, 2018

Dear Honourable Prime Minister, Premiers and Cabinet Minister,

I'm an old, very experienced identity architect who's lead many large Fortune 500 and government identity projects. For the past 15 years, I have been thinking about how our existing Canadian identity verification system no longer works well. Why? It's based on old documents, like birth certificates, designed in the late 1800's that are now easily forged. This results in large identity fraud with costs to citizens, governments and third parties.

Further, we use documents designed for one purpose, driver's licenses, for another, i.e. to verify an identity who wants to buy alcohol, cigarettes etc. These don't allow a citizen to act anonymously, since they contain their name and address.

Our identity information is repeatedly taken by government agencies and third parties to be recorded since there is no central place of trust to refer to for the citizen. This results in increased security risk for the citizen when there are data breaches.

Finally, there is science to contend with. What was once thought of as science fiction, i.e. human cloning, is now nearly upon us. Earlier this year, Chinese scientists announced they had successfully cloned monkeys. For a price, one can clone their pets. Regardless of if human cloning becomes legal or not, our identity verification systems need to be able to differentiate human clone 1 from 2, 3 and 4 against all citizens of Canada.

Taken all together, our existing identity verification systems are outdated. I've written in many papers about new age identity privacy principles:

- A person should be able to act anonymously
- A citizen is able to have multiple personas either physical and/or digital
- They should also be able to "live off the grid" if they so choose
- A citizen should be able to control their provincial/territory vital stats identity except where otherwise specified by laws
- However, when they interact with government or financial services, there should only be one physical identity per citizen

So, the big question is how to we get from where we are today to a new age system, addressing this, that will work for the next 100 years? That's what the [attached paper and recommendations](#) contains.

It presents, in simple language, the different components required to create a new age vital stats system across Canada. The paper is based on privacy first by design. It lays out requirements to create new laws and legislation protecting our biometrics and consent. It shows how we can create a system where a citizen can act anonymously except where required by law as well as put control of identity into their hands.

On page 20, I state the following:

“HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT TO SAY THE IDENTITY SKY IS FALLING AND IMMEDIATELY ADOPT BIOMETRICS AND A NEW AGE VITAL STATS SYSTEM. The paper lays out the complexity of what’s required. **Instead of rushing into this, a pragmatic approach needs to be taken to address this, based on the privacy principles illustrated in this paper.”**

The paper contains numerous recommendations for the federal and provincial governments to begin addressing this. You will note that public consultation is a major component of this.

Some of the recommendations contain short term wins for the citizen, governments and third parties, e.g. creating a Canadian document verification service similar to what Australia has done several years ago.

Others require research, e.g. doing longitudinal studies on babies’ fingerprints and also determining, scientifically, what is required to differentiate human clones.

You’ll also note that we must carefully proceed into digitizing our identities from a legal and infrastructure perspective. If an electro-magnetic pulse event (EMP) occurs, then “poof” goes the heart of legal identity trust in Canada.

The paper ends with this statement:

“Canada, it’s time we collectively address our existing identity verification problems. We must look forward and not backward to design a system, protecting our identity privacy, for the next 100 years.”

Please contact me if you’d like to discuss this further.

With kind regards,

Guy Huntington
President
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“The Business of Identity Management”