

Fact Sheet: Artificial Intelligence and Automated Systems

Use by public bodies under the *Protection of Privacy Act*.

Introduction

Artificial intelligence and automated systems are increasingly used across the public sector. These technologies offer immense value in their versatility and ability to enhance efficiency, automate processes and generate insights. For governments and public bodies, they improve services for citizens, drive innovation, optimize operations and helping to solve complex challenges.

The Government of Alberta and public bodies are enabled to use these technologies in accordance with all relevant legislation.

Protection of Privacy Act Requirement

Section 5(2)(d) requires public bodies, as part of collection notices, give notice if the public body intends to use the information collected in an automated system to generate content or make decisions, recommendations or predictions. This requirement supports transparency in how personal information being collected will be used.

As the legislation applies from the date of proclamation, public bodies may use personal information collected prior to that date in artificial intelligence and automated systems. As new personal information is collected or programs are updated and revised, public bodies must update their collection notices to reflect any use of artificial intelligence or automated systems.

Considerations

In addition to adhering to all legislated obligations, public bodies are encouraged to establish and implement policies for artificial intelligence and automated decision-making system use that promote transparent, responsible, secure, ethical and human-centered use. Key principles to consider include:

- **Security and Privacy:** strong protection of information, including personal information, in the custody and control of a public body.
- **Ethics and Bias Mitigation:** consider ethics and mitigate the effects of bias wherever possible to ensure fairness and public accountability.
- **Trust:** communication and methodology are developed and implemented in a transparent manner.
- **Human Control:** human accountability of outputs, delivery outcomes, and solutions.

Definitions

Artificial intelligence system: a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers from the input it receives how to generate outputs (such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions) that can influence physical or virtual environments. Different artificial intelligence systems vary in their levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment. (Source: OECD AI Principles, April 2025)

Automated System: any system, software or process that uses computation as whole or part of a system to determine outcomes, make or aid decisions, inform policy implementation, collect data or observations, or otherwise interact with individuals and/or communities. Automated systems include, but are not limited to, systems derived from machine learning, statistics, or other data processing or artificial intelligence techniques, and exclude passive computing infrastructure. (Source: National Archives (USA), Office of Science and Technology Policy, May 2025).