

Cybersecurity Policy Report, Canadian Privacy Office Appeals Court Ruling on Facebook Sanctions, (May 15, 2023)

Cybersecurity Policy Report

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By [Tony Foley](#)

The Canadian Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) announced that it would appeal a recent decision by the Federal Court dismissing the OPC's application in relation to a 2019 investigation into Facebook's alleged violations of data protection law.

The [2019 investigation](#), conducted in tandem by the OPC and the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia, found a variety of shortcomings in Facebook's privacy practices related to the unauthorized use of the data of millions of users by Cambridge Analytica ([CPR, April 26, 2019](#)).

Facebook disputed the OPC's findings and would not agree to implement the OPC's remedial recommendations, leading the OPC to file an application with the Federal Court seeking an order compelling Facebook to correct its privacy practices to comply with Canadian privacy law. Facebook brought a separate application seeking review of the OPC's investigation and decision, and in April 2023, the Federal Court dismissed both applications.

"The issues at the heart of this case are directly related to the fundamental privacy rights of Canadians and their ability to participate with trust in our digital society," said Canadian Privacy Commissioner Philippe Dufresne in a Friday [news release](#) announcing the appeal. "For that reason, my Office is appealing the Federal Court's decision as the matter raises important questions with respect to the interpretation and application of privacy law in Canada that will benefit from clarification by the Federal Court of Appeal."

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