

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Auditor General Finds Government Wireless Security Vulnerable**

VICTORIA – In a report entitled, *Wireless Networking Security in Victoria Government Offices*, Auditor General, John Doyle notes shortcomings in the security of wireless communications in Victoria government offices.

The Auditor General conducted a high-level security assessment of government wireless access points in the Victoria area. Two-thirds of scanned wireless access points near government buildings used only modest encryption, or none at all, to ensure secure transmission of information. In one particular location, it was possible to access information transmitted over an unsecured link from several hundred metres around the building.

Doyle commented, “given that wireless technologies are becoming increasingly popular, it is essential that Government ensure appropriate levels of security for wireless communication”.

The audit also noted that government’s wireless security policies did not reflect best practices. “Wireless technologies and standards are changing rapidly. In this environment it’s important to keep security policies up-to-date so that government systems and confidential data remain protected”, said Doyle.

The results of the audit were provided to the Chief Information Officer in July 2008 so that security vulnerabilities could be addressed before release of the Auditor General’s public report.

The Auditor General makes several recommendations to improve wireless security in government offices. They include reviewing the level of encryption at all wireless access points, reviewing computing security policies and guidelines, and regularly monitoring wireless computing practices.

The report is available on the Auditor General’s website [www.bcauditor.com](http://www.bcauditor.com).

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### **2008/09 Report #15 – Wireless Networking Security in Victoria Government Offices: Gaps in the Defensive Line**

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