

Information:

Notification of low-risk privacy issue

On February 4, 2025, Saskatchewan Polytechnic notified employees, past employees, students and alumni that a directory had incorrect permission settings which allowed broader internal access than needed for business purposes. The directory included employees, past employees, students, and alumni names, Sask Polytech ID numbers and Sask Polytech email addresses.

Sask Polytech is confident that there is low personal risk. While names and ID numbers are considered personal information, the Sask Polytech ID numbers are used for internal purposes only and have no relevance outside of Sask Polytech.

An audit showed no unusual activity. Permission settings have been fixed to allow access for business reasons only, ID numbers have been removed from the directory and inactive Sask Polytech email addresses are being removed.

What was the issue?

Entra is a product included in the Microsoft product suite used by Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The permission settings to the directory were incorrect and inadvertently allowed some Sask Polytech employees and students to access the directory. The directory included employees, past employees, students, and alumni names, Sask Polytech ID numbers and Sask Polytech email addresses.

How was the access to the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Entra directory discovered?

A Saskatchewan Polytechnic user of the Entra directory noticed names and ID numbers displayed in a section of the interface. Realizing that this may be an issue, the user contacted the Manager, Governance and Privacy.

What was done to mitigate the situation?

Saskatchewan Polytechnic has a well-developed response plan when an issue is identified. Immediate steps are taken to mitigate risk and limit potential impact. Priority audits are conducted, and we act quickly to address any issues identified.

In this case, permission settings for the directory were incorrect. As soon as the issue was identified, access to the directory was limited immediately and an audit of the Entra directory was completed. The audit determined there was no unusual activity.

Permission settings have been corrected to allow access for business reasons only. ID numbers have been removed from the directory and the directory is being reviewed to ensure it contains only active Sask Polytech emails and names.

The incident was reported to Saskatchewan's Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner on January 20, 2025. The incident is deemed a breach because the directory contained names and ID numbers which are considered personal information.

On February 4, 2025, Sask Polytech notified individuals in the directory by email to explain what occurred and provide additional information and contact resources.

Why is the breach deemed to be low risk?

Saskatchewan Polytechnic is confident that there is low personal risk. The breach was not due to a cyber-security incident or external access. It was related only to internal permission settings that were incorrect. In addition, the only personal identifiable information which was displayed were names and employee and student ID numbers. While the names and ID numbers are considered personal (constituting a breach), the ID numbers are used only for internal records management and are not used externally. Access to computer systems, email, employee accounts or password resets do not use the numbers. The numbers have no relevance outside of Sask Polytech.

Is any action required by you?

No, there is no action required by you.



If you have questions, please email privacy@saskpolytech.ca.