



Governance of Cybersecurity Risk Management at the BC Institute of Technology

Audit at a glance

Why we did this audit

- Cybersecurity incidents have increased in number and severity in recent years, and post-secondary institutions have been targets of cyberattacks. Cybersecurity breaches can lead to privacy violations, reputational damage, and financial loss.
- The BC Institute of Technology (BCIT), one of the province's largest post-secondary institutions, stores sensitive student records and research data. BCIT is responsible for managing cybersecurity risks to protect sensitive information.
- A governance framework, as the foundation of effective cybersecurity risk management, helps ensure cybersecurity practices align with an organization's goals.

Objective

To determine whether BCIT established a comprehensive governance framework to manage cybersecurity risks.

Audit period:

January 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Conclusion

We concluded that BCIT established a comprehensive governance framework to manage cybersecurity risks.

We made no recommendations.

What we found

BCIT established policies to manage cybersecurity risks and it was finalizing a suite of cybersecurity standards

- An enterprise risk management policy was in place to manage institutional risks, including cybersecurity risks.
- BCIT had policies to guide cybersecurity across the organization and was finalizing a suite of technical cybersecurity standards for staff.
- BCIT had a documented process for reviewing and updating its cybersecurity policies and procedures.

BCIT defined roles and responsibilities for cybersecurity risk management

- Roles and responsibilities were defined at all levels of the organization, from operational cybersecurity staff to the board of governors.
- Roles and responsibilities were defined in policies and internal guidance documents, terms of reference, and job descriptions.

Audit at a glance *(continued)*

BCIT used its organizational context to inform cybersecurity risk management

- BCIT had various processes for consulting its different business areas about cybersecurity risks.
- It proactively assessed cybersecurity legal requirements by establishing policy and processes to meet privacy and security obligations. It also engaged external cybersecurity legal counsel as an advisor.
- BCIT used its strategic priorities to inform its cybersecurity risk management processes.

BCIT established key processes to support operational decisions about cybersecurity risks

- Objectives for cybersecurity risk management were set.
- BCIT documented its risk appetite.
- BCIT maintained an IT risk register to document, categorize, calculate and prioritize cybersecurity risks.
- There was a process to communicate cybersecurity risk information to senior leadership.

BCIT established and monitored cybersecurity metrics

- BCIT monitored the performance of its cybersecurity risk management activities by using a dashboard that reported on cybersecurity metrics.
 - Dashboard reports supported the board's audit and finance committee with its oversight of cybersecurity.
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