

Readiness is your best cyber defence

May 08, 2025

This article is part of BLG's 12-part series: [12 Strategic Priorities for Privacy, Cybersecurity, and AI Risk Management](#). Each piece in this series provides a practical roadmap for Canadian corporations – helping management and boards take proactive steps to strengthen resilience, manage risk, and prepare for what's next.

Cybersecurity incidents are no longer theoretical – they are a statistical certainty. For Canadian companies, readiness is your best cyber defence. The stakes are rising, and the response must be immediate, coordinated, and effective. The speed and precision of a company's incident response can determine whether it suffers reputational damage, financial loss, or regulatory scrutiny – or emerges with trust intact.

Why it matters

Cyberattacks are growing in both sophistication and volume. Threat actors are targeting organizations across every sector. Ransomware, data exfiltration, and business email compromise are only a few of the tactics now regularly employed. In this environment, reactive responses are no longer viable.

From a legal and regulatory standpoint, breach reporting obligations have tightened across jurisdictions, particularly with Québec's Law 25 and the broader federal framework.

Failing to meet disclosure deadlines – or to demonstrate preparedness – can expose an organization to investigations, fines, and litigation.

What management and boards must prioritize

1. **Board-approved and -tested incident response plan**
The plan should not remain theoretical. It must be reviewed regularly, tested through tabletop exercises, and approved at the board level. Gaps need to be identified before a real crisis unfolds.
2. **Trained executive leadership**
Executives must understand their roles in a breach scenario. Crisis management training – including for the C-suite – is essential to ensure that decision-making under pressure proves aligned and effective.

3. **Clear regulatory notification pathways**

Organizations must understand whom to notify, by when, and how. This includes privacy regulators, industry-specific organizations, employees, customers, investors, and potentially law enforcement. Internal coordination between legal, privacy, IT, and risk teams is critical.

4. **Board-level engagement**

The board must actively oversee and understand incident response preparedness. This includes reviewing response exercises, understanding key vulnerabilities, and holding management accountable for readiness.

Final thoughts

Cybersecurity resilience begins before a breach occurs. Boards and executives must **collaborate, plan, and practise** – because the moment you need to respond is not the time to prepare.

By

[Hélène Deschamps Marquis](#)

Expertise

[Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection, Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)

BLG | Canada's Law Firm

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 725 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

blg.com

BLG Offices

Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower
520 3rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 0R3

T 403.232.9500
F 403.266.1395

Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1P 1J9

T 613.237.5160
F 613.230.8842

Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre
200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744
F 604.687.1415

Montréal

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West
Suite 900
Montréal, QC, Canada
H3B 5H4

T 514.954.2555
F 514.879.9015

Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON, Canada
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000
F 416.367.6749

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to constitute legal advice, a complete statement of the law, or an opinion on any subject. No one should act upon it or refrain from acting without a thorough examination of the law after the facts of a specific situation are considered. You are urged to consult your legal adviser in cases of specific questions or concerns. BLG does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of this publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. If this publication was sent to you by BLG and you do not wish to receive further publications from BLG, you may ask to remove your contact information from our mailing lists by emailing unsubscribe@blg.com or manage your subscription preferences at blg.com/MyPreferences. If you feel you have received this message in error please contact communications@blg.com. BLG's privacy policy for publications may be found at blg.com/en/privacy.

© 2025 Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP is an Ontario Limited Liability Partnership.