

# Readiness is your best cyber defence

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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.

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