

News Release

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Commissioner Ann Cavoukian sending teams to three Ontario cities for *Right to Know Blitz Day* and sponsoring special luncheon

Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, is sending teams to three cities on Monday, September 29, for a *Right to Know Blitz Day*.

The Commissioner is also sponsoring a special luncheon that week (on Thursday, October 2) in Toronto as part of her educational initiatives to help increase Ontarians awareness of their rights under Ontario's freedom of information legislation.

Both events help mark the third annual *Right to Know Week* in Canada – sponsored by provincial Information and Privacy Commissioners and the federal Information Commissioner. This special week is based on the international *Right to Know Day*, September 28. On September 28, 2002, freedom of information organizations from more than a dozen countries met in Sofia, Bulgaria, and agreed to collaborate in the promotion of individual right of access to information and open, transparent government.

The IPC has also set up a *Right to Know* section on its website (www.ipc.on.ca) that includes information about your rights under Ontario's freedom of information laws, an FOI Quiz, and much more, including information about how to file an FOI request – as well as how to file an appeal to the IPC if a provincial or municipal government organization denies your request.

“Our *Right to Know Blitz Day*, special luncheon event and the section of our website dedicated to *Right to Know Week* are three of the tools we are using to focus attention on the public's right to access government-held information,” said Commissioner Cavoukian. “I cannot stress enough the importance of freedom of information. If citizens are to participate meaningfully in the democratic process and hold politicians and bureaucrats accountable, they must have timely access to the information held by government.”

During the IPC's *Right to Know Blitz Day*, the IPC is setting up information tables in malls in Toronto, Mississauga and Hamilton, where staff will be handing out IPC publications and answering questions from the public.

Details about our special luncheon event will be announced later. To help promote Ontarians' right to know in 2006, Commissioner Cavoukian organized a sold-out luncheon that featured media representatives. In 2007, another sold-out IPC luncheon included a panel featuring Ontario's Ombudsman, Auditor General, and Conflict of Interest Commissioner, with Commissioner Cavoukian as moderator.



Details regarding our information tables in Toronto, Mississauga and Hamilton will be announced shortly, followed by information about our luncheon event.

Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by and reports to the Legislative Assembly, and is independent of the government of the day. The Commissioner's mandate includes overseeing the access and privacy provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as well as the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, and helping to educate the public about access and privacy issues.

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