

## **Commissioner Cavoukian outlines what will need to be done to protect privacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

TORONTO – Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner Ann Cavoukian is unveiling a key white paper outlining what will need to be done to protect privacy in the future, at a special presentation at the University of Waterloo, on Monday, September 29, 2008.

“As a regulator, I have been called many things during my tenure,” said the Commissioner, “but rarely have I been called a dreamer. But that is precisely the practice one must engage in if privacy is to not only survive, but thrive, well into the future. But dreaming is not enough. As a pragmatist, I must embed that dream into reality. One way of doing so is seeking to embed privacy into the design and architecture of all technologies, so that it may live well into the future. So you might call me a *radical* pragmatist, because I dream BIG – in technicolour; there is no black and white anymore.”

The paper the Commissioner is releasing is *Privacy and Radical Pragmatism: Change the Paradigm*, which was previewed at the Harvard Privacy Symposium last month. It sets out the Commissioner’s vision, philosophy and approach to advancing information privacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in a positive sum, privacy-enhancing paradigm.

“Taking a pragmatic approach requires that we understand not only the potential harm of surveillance technology, but also the proposed benefit,” said Commissioner Cavoukian. “We must then work to incorporate a positive-sum, privacy-enhancing paradigm to decrease the harm to privacy, but also to achieve the benefits that the technology in question was designed to deliver – positive sum, not zero sum.”

Among the points she raises in this white paper, regarding how *radical pragmatism* can actually be applied are:

- Engineering privacy into biometric information systems is not only desirable and possible, but may also be accomplished in ways that achieve positive-sum results for all stakeholders. Biometric Encryption (BE) technologies are a good example of how privacy and security can both be increased in a positive sum model. BE offers viable prospects for one-to-one, on-card matching of biometric, and privacy-enhanced verification of identity in a wide range of contexts;

- Among the most promising consumer privacy-enhancing technology (PET) solutions in the radio frequency identification (RFID) sector is the “clipped tag” RFID developed by IBM, which helps to defeat unwanted surveillance, thereby delivering greater privacy. Similar innovations in user-centric RFID PETs have far-reaching consequences and commercial potential for use in RFID-embedded identity documents, payment tokens, mobile authentication, and other authorization-form factors (e.g., transit fare cards, loyalty cards);
- The Commissioner also cites in this white paper: CCTV secure image encryption, privacy-enhanced network tracing and monitoring, whole body imaging, private digital identities, and privacy-enhancing age verification.

The Commissioner’s presentation to faculty, students and special guests at the University of Waterloo Monday is at 11 a.m., in the lecture theatre in the Hall of the Humanities.

The paper will be posted to the IPC’s website, [www.ipc.on.ca](http://www.ipc.on.ca), about 12 p.m. on Monday.

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