

Ontario’s public sector needs to take a proactive approach to access and privacy – progressing beyond “patchwork adoption” of open government

TORONTO – Experts from the Office of Ontario’s Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) will make the case for taking a proactive approach at the 2011 Information Management and Access and Privacy Symposium Thursday morning at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (South building).

Brian Beamish, Assistant Commissioner for Access, will discuss the benefits of *Access by Design (AbD)* as it relates to the open data and open government movement. The concept of *AbD* was developed by Commissioner Cavoukian to provide a set of fundamental principles that encourage a proactive approach to releasing government-held information. The objective is to foster a culture of transparency and accountability, where *access is the default*.

“Public institutions require a strategy when it comes to making public data more accessible, and we believe that *Access by Design* provides the roadmap,” says Beamish. “The U.S. and the U.K. have made great progress in this area and there is no reason why other jurisdictions, including Ontario, can’t do the same.”

In order to encourage further adoption, the IPC has created a new web page celebrating examples of “*AbD* in Action,” including Ontario Ministries and Municipalities that have embedded access into the design of certain initiatives. See www.ipc.on.ca.

Commissioner Cavoukian will begin the session by first providing a status update of her concept of *Privacy by Design*, including recent developments relating to how this “made-in-Ontario” program has become a recognized international standard – the Gold Standard – in privacy protection.

Several other IPC representatives will be presenting at the Symposium, on topics including:

- Access and Privacy Resources for Schools;
- Significant IPC Orders over the past year;
- Navigating Social Media Online.

For more information on the Symposium, please visit, <http://www.imaps2011.ca/>.

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