



*Media Advisory*

September 26, 2011

## IPC recognizes “*Right to Know Week 2011*” with educational outreach at Ontario hospitals

**TORONTO, September 26, 2011** – The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Ontario (IPC) will host educational outreach tables at more than a dozen hospitals across the province this week to recognize “*Right to Know Week 2011*.”

Countries and organizations from across the world will commemorate *Right to Know Week* from Sept. 26-30, 2011 to raise global awareness of individuals’ right to access public information and to promote access to information as a fundamental human right.

The emphasis of the IPC outreach is to educate hospital staff, and the public, on Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation. Hospitals will fall under Ontario’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*, for the first time, as of January 1, 2012. The full outreach calendar is posted on the [IPC web site](#).

The introduction of *FIPPA* will not change the protection of Ontarians’ personal health information, but will give the public a broader right to access records under a hospital’s custody or control, including those relating to administrative and operational functions, policy and financial considerations.

### Did You Know?

- Ontario is the last Canadian province to include hospitals under FOI legislation
- “[Right to Know Week](#)” is celebrated by over 40 countries
- As of 2009, over 80 countries have freedom of information legislation

### *Media contact:*

Tanya Gallus  
Communications Specialist  
**Direct line:** 416-326-3939,  
**Cell:** 416-873-9746;  
**Toll-free:** 800-387-0073  
[tanya.gallus@ipc.on.ca](mailto:tanya.gallus@ipc.on.ca)

