

News Release

October 15, 2007

## Ontario needs transparent and open government

Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Ann Cavoukian, is sponsoring a special luncheon Wednesday, October 31 to help focus attention on Ontarians' **right to know** what elected and appointed officials are doing – and why.

“Government accountability is the cornerstone of democracy,” said the Commissioner. “For citizens to participate meaningfully in the democratic process – and be able to hold politicians and bureaucrats accountable – they have to have access to the information held by government.”

The October 31 luncheon, co-sponsored by the IPC and the Toronto Regional Group of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada, will feature a panel – moderated by Dr. Cavoukian – that includes Justice Sidney B. Linden, the recently appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner; André Marin, Ontario's Ombudsman; and Jim McCarter, Auditor General of Ontario.

The panel will explore a variety of issues related to Ontarians' **right to know**, including what is working and, more importantly, what is not, when it comes to government openness and transparency.

The luncheon is being held at the Dominion Club, at King and Yonge Streets, Toronto. Advance registration is required. For ticket information and registration details, please visit:

<http://m1e.net/c?63851148-vexgqUHXyWnIw%402772603-25iTcnB0IIwoc>. Or send an e-mail to [info@ipc.on.ca](mailto:info@ipc.on.ca) and registration information will be e-mailed to you.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by and reports to the Ontario 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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