

## Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner sending team to Niagara Region as an educational initiative

Health professionals in the Niagara Region are being invited to a special seminar Thursday in St. Catharines on Ontario's new health privacy law, the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*.

This is one of the key seminars a small team from the office of Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) is holding as part of its *Niagara Region Educational Initiative*, Thursday and Friday. Several times a year, the IPC sends a team to different regions of Ontario to conduct seminars and hold meetings with various local organizations, and to answer questions from the public about individuals' access and privacy rights.

The four-person team visiting Niagara Region will split up and conduct a number of sessions and briefings, including:

- the seminar on the new *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)*, to which health care practitioners and other health information custodians are invited. It is being held in the Mills Room at the St. Catharines Public Library, 54 Church St., from 3:30 to 5 p.m., **Thursday**;
- a seminar on the provincial and municipal *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Acts*, to which freedom of information and privacy co-ordinators from area municipalities, school boards, libraries, health units, police forces and other government institutions are invited (1:30 to 3 p.m. **Thursday**, same location as the *PHIPA* seminar);
- a presentation to journalism students at Niagara College in Welland, **Thursday**;
- a public information table at St. Catharines General Hospital, 142 Queenston St., from 10 to noon, **Friday**, where IPC staff will hand out IPC publications on the new health privacy law and Ontario's two *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Acts* and answer questions from the public; and
- in a webcast from St. Catharines General Hospital, two IPC staff will answer questions from hospitals across Niagara regarding the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, from 12:15 to 1 p.m. **Friday**.

Members of the IPC team will also be meeting with area media to discuss access and privacy issues.

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