



OTTAWA EVENTS

OPENNESS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

September 27, 2010 - October 1, 2010

Presented by the **Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada**, in collaboration with:

Provincial and Territorial Information Commissioner Offices

Canadian Bar Association

Carleton University's Faculty of Public Affairs

The Honourable Senator Francis Fox

Microsoft

And with the participation of:

Canadian Access and Privacy Association (CAPA)

Canadian Association of Professional Access and Privacy Administrators (CAPAPA)

Calls for greater openness and transparency are exerting increasing pressure on governments to transform their traditional, reactive information dissemination methods into a mode that facilitates proactive disclosure and open government.

Around the world, governments are recognizing the value of sharing information with the public in accessible, open formats. They are realizing that collaborating with citizens, businesses and non-government organizations to enhance their information sources improves communication channels, promotes citizen engagement, fosters economic opportunities and ultimately results in an open and responsive government.

Under the theme of "Openness in the Public Interest", expert panels will explore the challenges inherent in effecting the transformation from reactive to open government, particularly in an environment of heightened security and budgetary constraints. They will enumerate national and international open government initiatives in the context of the fundamental principles that contributed to their success.

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PROGRAM

Limited seating for all events

Sunday, September 19 and Monday, September 20, 2010

Canadian Bar Association Privacy and Access Law Symposium: *Privacy and Access Rights in the Age of Technology – The State of Canadians' Information Rights in 2010 and Beyond*

The Conference is presented by the Canadian Bar Association's National Privacy and Access Law Section and the CBA's Professional Development Committee, with the participation of the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

Sheraton Ottawa Hotel
150 Albert Street

See *official program* for more details (<http://cba.org/cba/cle/pdf/PrivacyPD2010.pdf>)

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

140 Wellington St., Victoria Building, Room 505

10:00 a.m.–noon

Conference for Parliamentarians: Balancing Openness and the Public Interest in Protecting Information

Balancing the right of access and the requirement to protect information that poses potential injury to a particular public or private interest is at the core of the government's decision-making process when determining what information must be disclosed and what information must be withheld. This determination is especially critical when the information relates to matters of national security. The session will explore the challenges inherent in achieving the appropriate balance between openness and the public interest.

This event will be webcast at www.righttoknow.ca, courtesy of Microsoft.

HOST AND FACILITATOR:

The Honourable Senator Francis Fox, former Cabinet minister responsible for the enactment of Canada's first access to information legislation

PANELISTS:

David Eaves, expert in public policy and open source and network systems

David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States

Vanessa Brinkmann, Counsel, Initial Request Staff, Office of Information Policy,
U.S. Department of Justice

James Travers, columnist, Toronto Star

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Canadian War Museum – Barney Danson Theatre, 1 Vimy Place

10:00 a.m.–noon

Push or Pull: Liberating Government Information

Open government is directly linked to access to information and proactive disclosure. However, it extends beyond these concepts to an entirely new way of looking at how governments provide information and how citizens participate in its dissemination. Governments are examining means to develop initiatives that will make information available in electronic formats that the public can use, re-use and add value. The purpose of this session is to respond to questions regarding how to determine what data users are seeking, how to address the concerns and risks associated with the free flow of government information, and what policy frameworks must be implemented in support of open government.

This event will be webcast at www.righttoknow.ca, courtesy of Microsoft.

FACILITATOR:

John Weigelt, National Technology Officer, Microsoft Canada Co.

PANELISTS:

Nathalie Des Rosiers, General Counsel, Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Toby Mendel, Executive Director of the Centre for Law and Democracy

Kady O'Malley, Parliamentary blogger for CBC.ca's Inside Politics blog

Jeff Sallot, Carleton University journalism instructor and former Globe and Mail journalist

*More panelists to be confirmed...

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Making the Case for Open Government

In times of budgetary restraint, there is a case to be made for open government. By leveraging the potential of business and social networks, governments can effect the transition from service provider to furnishing the platform and data upon which the private sector and individuals can design and generate new services. Panelists in this session will describe strategies employed to promote open government initiatives and the benefits of particular projects that have been launched at national and municipal levels.

This event will be webcast at www.righttoknow.ca, courtesy of Microsoft.

FACILITATOR:

Suzanne Legault, Information Commissioner of Canada

PANELISTS:

David L. McClure, Ph.D., Associate Administrator, Office of Citizen Services and Innovative Technologies, General Services Administration (US)

Chris Moore, Chief Information Officer, Edmonton

Michael Mulley, Web applications developer, creator of OpenParliament.ca

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Carleton University Senate Room, Robertson Hall, 1125 Colonel By Drive

Accessing Democracy – Hosted by Carleton University's Faculty of Public Affairs

8:30–9:00 a.m. **Continental breakfast**

9:00–9:15 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**

John ApSimon, (Interim) Dean of Faculty of Public Affairs, Carleton University

Suzanne Legault, Information Commissioner of Canada

9:15–10:45 a.m. **Mediated Access: Journalists' Perspectives on the Uses and Abuses of Access Regimes**

Access to government information is widely recognized as a key to democratic participation. Nonetheless, most citizens never file formal access to information requests. Rather, they benefit from information released as a result of access requests filed by journalists. This panel will discuss the benefits and detriments of our existing access to information regimes that have been identified by journalists who use the regimes on a regular basis. It will also consider the ways in which the right to access government information may be protected through changes implemented by courts and legislatures.

FACILITATOR:

Susan Harada, former CBC journalist and associate professor for Carleton University's School of Journalism

PANELISTS:

Dean Beeby, Deputy Bureau Chief, The Canadian Press

Vincent Kazmierski, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Carleton University

David McKie, Instructor, School of Journalism, Carleton University

Klaus Pohle, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, Carleton University

11:00–12:30 p.m. **From Principle to Practice: Enhancing Access in the Public Service**

Effective access to information regimes is dependent on public servants who are dedicated to the principle of open government. Drawing on the expertise of public servants and those who work with them, this panel will explore the ways in which the principle of open access may be fostered and supported within the public service.

FACILITATOR:

Chris Dorman, Director, Arthur Kroeger College, Carleton University

PANELISTS:

Ralph Heintzman, Adjunct Research Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa

Ross Hodgins, Senior Advisor, Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada

Tracey Lauriault, PhD candidate, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University

Robert Shepherd, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University

Fraser Taylor, Director, Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre and Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University

12:30–2:00 p.m.

Complimentary Lunch

2:00–3:30 p.m.

Accessing Research: Accessing Government Information in the Research Process (co-sponsored by the *Canadian Journal of Law and Society*)

Access to Information requests can be an important tool for academic research. At the same time, academic research can be inhibited through manipulation of access legislation. This panel will explore the ways in which access to information regimes can both help and hinder academic research.

FACILITATOR:

Michael Mopas, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University

PANELISTS:

Mike Larsen, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology, York University

Justin Piché, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University

George Rigakos, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Carleton University

Kevin Walby, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto

Steve Worth, M.A. candidate, Department of Law, Carleton University

3:30–3:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Vincent Kazmierski, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Carleton University

4:00–6:00 p.m.

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association
Post-conference Reception**

Mike's Place (Second Level Unicentre on campus)

OTHER EVENTS:

LIVE CHAT SESSIONS WITH INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS!

Sign up and chat at www.righttoknow.ca

**All scheduled times are Eastern Daylight Time*

Monday, September 27, 2010

11:00 a.m.–noon Live online chat with **Suzanne Legault, Information Commissioner of Canada**

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

10:00–11:00 a.m. Live online chat with **Maria MacDonald, PEI Information and Privacy Commissioner**

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

11:00 a.m.–noon Live online chat with **Ann Cavoukian, Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner** and **Brian Beamish, Ontario Assistant Commissioner for Access**

Thursday, September 30, 2010

2:00–3:00 p.m. Live online chat with **Irene Hamilton, Manitoba Ombudsman**

Friday, October 1, 2010

1:00–2:00 p.m. Live online chat with **Frank Work, Alberta Information and Privacy Commissioner**

Visit www.righttoknow.ca for more information