



Access to government information

“Making it Right to Know”

OTTAWA EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2009

Monday, September 28

Tuesday, September 29

Town Hall: Citizens' Engagement and State Accountability

Conference for Parliamentarians: Transparency in the Digital Era

Location: La Nouvelle Scène, 333 King Edward Ave.
(between Rideau and York)

Location: 140 Wellington St., Victoria Building,
Room 505

Time: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Time: 10 a.m.–12 noon

A range of distinguished panelists will share their experience and thoughts on various topics related to the right to know, including: the role of media as catalysts, as illustrated in Canada by the sponsorship scandal, the Maher Arar case, and more recently, the listeriosis crisis; the right of citizens to hold Parliament accountable, with a special reference to the UK experience; security concerns or international relations considerations vs. fundamental democratic rights in times of conflicts; and access to information in the digital age.

This conference aims to engage Parliamentarians in a debate and reflection on the new paradigm that the digital world has introduced for the right to know. Greater transparency in the digital era requires more than sound information management and the use of state-of-the-art information technology. It calls for a fundamental change of attitudes from disclosing information on a need-to-know basis to managing information with the presumption of disclosure as the default mode. How can public institutions trigger and accelerate this change of attitudes for the benefit of Canadians?

This event will be webcast at:

<http://www.righttoknow.ca/en/Content/podcast.asp>
and broadcast on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC).

The Canada School of Public Service will provide access to this conference as part of its Armchair Discussions (<http://www.righttoknow.ca>).

Audience: General public

Audiences: Parliamentarians and staff, government officials, access to information professionals

Master of Ceremonies: Lisa Campbell,
Interim Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada (OIC)

Opening remarks: Suzanne Legault,
Interim Commissioner, OIC

Facilitator and Panelists:

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David Akin
National Affairs correspondent for Canwest News Service,
blogger "On the Hill," new media expert

The Honourable Senator Francis Fox
Host and facilitator. Former Cabinet minister responsible for the enactment of Canada's first access to information legislation.

Jennifer Bell
Executive Director, VisibleGovernment.ca

Dr. Daniel Caron
Librarian and Archivist of Canada

Ben Leapman
Sunday Telegraph (UK) journalist who contributed to exposing the UK Parliamentary expenses scandal

David Eaves
Expert in public policy and open source and network systems

David McKie
CBC investigative journalist, author and instructor of computer-assisted reporting techniques at Carleton University

Suzanne Legault
Interim Commissioner, Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada

Kerry Pither
Human rights and civil liberties advocate and commentator, author of *Dark Days: The Story of Four Canadians Tortured in the Name of Fighting Terror*

Stanley Tromp
FOI caucus coordinator of the Canadian Association of Journalists and author of *Fallen Behind: Canada's Access to Information Act in the World Context*

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

Lucy van Oldenbarneveld, facilitator
Host of CBC News at Six (Ottawa)

Dave Wallace
Chief Information Officer, City of Toronto

Wednesday, September 30

Thursday, October 1

Legal Panel: Democracy, the Right to Information and the Role of Legislation

Location: University of Ottawa, 550 Cumberland St.
Tabaret Hall, Room 112

Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

A group of legal experts and scholars will discuss the connections and interplay between democracy, the right to information and the role of legislation, particularly in a fast evolving and increasingly complex environment.

This event will be broadcast on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC).

Audience: Academics, students, lawyers and representatives of the judicial branch

Facilitator and Panelists:

Amir Attaran

University of Ottawa Associate Law Professor and Canada Research Chair, Population Health and Global Development Policy

Jim Bronskill

Canadian Press reporter and Carleton University instructor

Col. Michel W. Drapeau

Counsel, Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa and co-author of *Federal Access to Information and Privacy Legislation – Annotated*

David Fraser

Chairman of the Canadian Bar Association's Privacy and Access Law Section (Halifax)

Vincent Kazmierski, facilitator

Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Supervisor of Carleton University's Department of Law, and author of: "Something to Talk About: Is There a Charter Right to Access Government Information," 2009, *Dalhousie Law Journal*

Denis Kratchanov

General Counsel/Director, Information Law and Privacy Section, Justice Canada

David Stratas

Litigation Partner with Heenan Blaikie LLP (Toronto) and expert in administrative/constitutional/regulatory law

Paul Szabo

Member of Parliament and Chair of the "Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics" Standing Committee

Diane Therrien

Counsel, Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada

International Panel: 'ATI without Frontiers:' International Perspectives on Access to Information

Location: University of Ottawa, 550 Cumberland St.
Tabaret Hall, Room 112

Time: 10 a.m.–12 noon

Benefiting from the experience of world-renowned experts, this panel will assess freedom of information globally and examine current initiatives and obstacles to promoting greater access to official information held by national and international institutions.

This event will be broadcast on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC).

Audience: Activists, journalists, academics, students and general public

Facilitator and Panelists:

Toby Mendel

Senior Legal Counsel and Law Programme Director at ARTICLE 19. *The Right to Information in Latin America: A Comparative Legal Survey* is his most recent publication.

Laura Neuman

Manager, Access to Information Project
Associate Director, Americas Program
The Carter Center

Priscilla Platt, facilitator

Partner with Heenan Blaikie LLP (Toronto) specializing in privacy and access to information law

Michèle Stanton-Jean

President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Stanley Tromp

FOI caucus coordinator of the Canadian Association of Journalists and author of *Fallen Behind: Canada's Access to Information Act in the World Context*

Josée Villeneuve

Director of Systemic Issues, Policy and Parliamentary Relations, Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada

*Official Right to Know logo designed by:
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