



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Right to Know Week proclaimed by the British Columbia government

Victoria—David Loukidelis, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia, today expressed support for the [BC government's proclamation](#) of September 28 to October 2 as “Right to Know Week” in BC. The proclamation recognizes that the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* grants British Columbians a right of access to information in the custody or control of public bodies and so ensures that citizens have an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

Loukidelis also expressed support for the proclamations by numerous municipalities across British Columbia who have also declared “Right to Know Week” including: City of Vancouver, City of Victoria, Town of Sidney, City of Kelowna, City of Colwood, City of Surrey, District of Saanich, City of Langford, City of Trail, District of Central Saanich, City of Cranbrook and City of Richmond.

“Access laws are of fundamental importance to open and accountable government”, Loukidelis said. “Without a right of access, citizens are unable to use the information they require to participate meaningfully in the democratic process and to hold politicians and bureaucrats accountable to the citizenry.”

The purpose of Right to Know Week is to promote awareness of the rights of British Columbian citizens to access documents held by public bodies and organizations. Information and Privacy Commissioners across Canada and internationally will be holding events to celebrate the week.

This year the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) has produced a number of resources for municipalities, universities and high schools including a series of newspaper articles, public service announcements and a workbook for high school students. As usual, the OIPC is running its annual Right to Know Quiz to test the public's knowledge of access to information laws. The winner will receive an Apple *i-Pod Nano*.

More information about Right to Know Day and Right to Know Week can be found on our website at: <http://www.oipc.bc.ca/RTK/rtkhome.html>

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