

**For immediate release
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Halifax - Nova Scotia's Information and Privacy Commissioner announces Right to Know Week plans

Monday, September 28, kicks off Right to Know Week in over 40 countries around the world. Catherine Tully, Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia, joins them in recognizing this critical part of democratic government.

To mark Right to Know Week, Commissioner Tully has partnered with the Right to Know Coalition of Nova Scotia to host a panel discussion on how to promote open government. The discussion will take place at Halifax City Hall on Monday, September 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

The panel will include two representatives from the province of Newfoundland and Labrador to discuss that province's new access to information law. The government there recently passed a new access to information act that significantly modernized the province's access to information regime. Advocates of the right to know have enthusiastically cheered the change.

The panel members are Steve Kent, Deputy Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Toby Mendel, Executive Director of the Centre for Law and Democracy, Maria Lasheras, Nova Scotia's Chief Information Access and Privacy Officer and Sean Murray from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Newfoundland and Labrador. Commissioner Tully will moderate the panel.

Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil has proclaimed the week of September 28 - October 3 to be "Right to Know Week" across the province. The Town Council for Bridgewater has also proclaimed "Right to Know Week" within the town.

The Right to Know Week page on the Commissioner's Office website has more information on the right to know in Nova Scotia, including a fun summary of how to exercise your right to know and links to news stories of the right to know in effect. You can view that page at www.foipop.ns.ca.

Right to Know Week is celebrated across Canada and around the world, beginning as "Right to Know Day" celebrations in 2002.

Nova Scotians have a right under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to access government information. Nova Scotia's courts have described the *FOIPOP Act* as "deliberately more generous" than other Canadian access to information statutes.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia provides independent oversight over the acts governing access to information and the treatment of personal information by provincial government departments and health care custodians.

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