

**For immediate release
September 26, 2016**

Nova Scotia's Information and Privacy Commissioner announces Right to Know Week Plans

HALIFAX - In celebration of Right to Know Week the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia has partnered with the Centre for Law and Democracy and the University of King's College School of Journalism to host a public panel discussion on how well Nova Scotia's access to information law is functioning.

Today with a few simple clicks, we can access information about any subject, from just about anywhere in the world. Access to information about what government does on our behalf is critical to a functioning democracy. In combination, easy access to information and the fundamental importance of information rights should mean that we are living in an era of thriving democracy, robust democratic debate, and routine and easy access to government information. But are we?

The panel discussion will take place on International Right to Know Day, Wednesday September 28, 2016, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Lindsay Children's Room of the Halifax Central Library. It will feature experienced FOI users as they debate what is and is not working in Nova Scotia's access to information regime. They will provide practical information based on their years of experience using Nova Scotia's access to information laws.

The panel will be moderated by Fred Vallance-Jones of the University of King's College and features David MacKenzie, Servicing Coordinator for Communication, Education and Bully Free Workplace Programs of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees' Union, Rachel Ward, a Reporter for CBC Nova Scotia, and Kevin Lacey, the Atlantic Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served following the lively debate.

-30-

For further information, contact:

Catherine Tully
Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia
902-424-4684