



RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK

SEPTEMBER 28 to OCTOBER 5, 2007

WHAT IS RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK?

Right to Know Day is held around the world on September 28. It is intended to raise awareness of the importance of the public's right to government information. It is a day on which legislators, academics, civil libertarians, social activists, journalists and regulators from around the world promote the importance of transparent and accountable government. Freedom of information ensures full citizen empowerment and participation in government. Right to Know Week in BC starts on September 28, 2007 and runs until October 5, 2007. All week, events are held to highlight the importance of open government.

WHY ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS MATTER!

- Public institutions are answerable to the citizens they serve
- Allows citizens to trace and scrutinize government actions
- Provides citizens with the information they require to fully participate in the democratic process
- Gives citizens the right to know what information about them is being collected, how it is being used, and to whom it has been disclosed.

“Other accountability mechanisms have no viability without the oxygen of information - information about what governments think, decide and do; information about what governments know about their citizens and about the costs and effects of government decisions and actions.” John Reid, former Information Commissioner of Canada

KNOW YOUR ACCESS RIGHTS!

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act gives citizens the right to:

- Request records from public bodies without having to explain why they are asking
- Have their access request responded to in 30 days
- Be told what information is being withheld and why
- Access their own personal information free of charge
- Request inaccurate personal information be corrected
- Complain to an independent oversight body if they are unhappy with the response to their access request
- For more information: www.oipc.bc.ca