



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2006

Right to Know Week proclaimed by the British Columbia government

Victoria—David Loukidelis, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of British Columbia, today expressed support for the BC government’s proclamation of September 24 to 29, 2006 as the first “Right to Know Week” in BC. The proclamation recognizes that an individual’s right of access to information, in the custody or control of government, promotes open government and ensures citizens have an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

“Meaningful access to information in the hands of government is a hallmark of a strong democracy,” Loukidelis said. “Secrecy may be tempting because transparency appears to give ammunition to government critics. But the larger truth is that government is accountable to the citizens it serves, and openness disarms by building the trust needed to ensure accountability.”

Right to Know Week is based on an initiative by an international group of freedom of information organizations which met on September 28, 2002 to create a network of freedom of information advocates and to promote open government. September 28 became known as Right to Know Day and is celebrated in over 60 countries around the world.

The first Right to Know Week is being recognized across Canada and will be marked by events focussing attention on an individual’s right of access to government-held information and on promoting open and transparent government. Further information on Right to Know Week events across Canada can be found at <http://www.righttoknow.ca> .

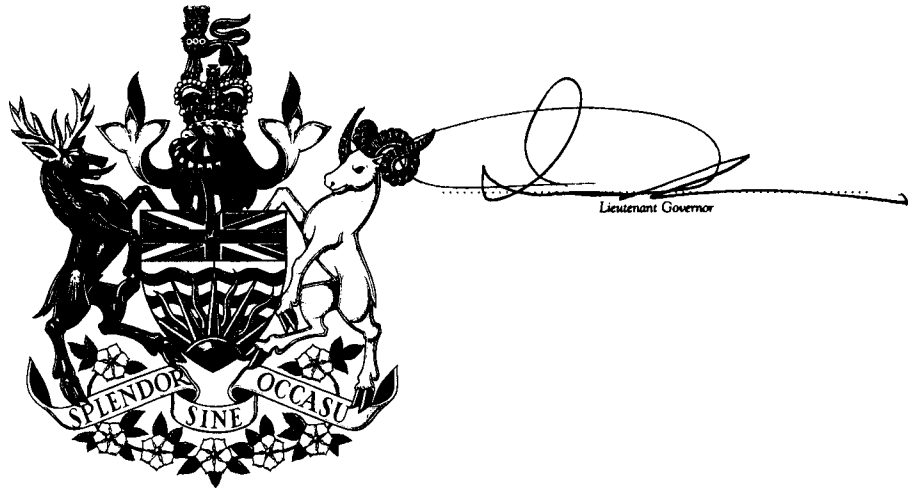
In Vancouver, Right to Know Week will be marked by a BC Information Summit based on the theme: Open Government: What works and what doesn’t. The first BC Information Summit will bring together a group of experienced Freedom of Information requesters and experts to explore the challenges of ensuring transparent government. The Summit takes place September 29, 2006 at the University of British Columbia’s Robson Square Campus. Details of the Summit and registration instructions can be found at <http://www.infosummit.ca> or by calling (604) 255-1336.

More information about Right to Know Day and Right to Know Week can be found at Right to Know Week Frequently Asked Questions at [http://www.oipc.bc.ca/pdfs/private/Right To Know FAQ.pdf](http://www.oipc.bc.ca/pdfs/private/Right_To_Know_FAQ.pdf).

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Canada
Province of British Columbia
A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has adopted the principle of open and transparent government,
and

WHEREAS the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* grants British Columbians a right of
access to information in the custody or under the control of public bodies, and

WHEREAS the access to information ensures British Columbia citizens have an opportunity to participate
meaningfully in the democratic process, and

WHEREAS access to information promotes open government, and

WHEREAS a celebration of the right of British Columbians to access information will promote citizen
participation in the processes of governance, and

WHEREAS Our Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, has been
pleased to enact Order in Council 903 on October 11, 2002;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that September 24 to 29, 2006,
inclusive, shall be known as

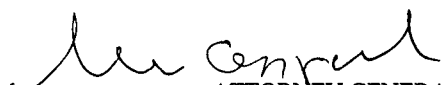
"Right to Know Week"

in British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our
Province to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in
Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this thirteenth day of September, two thousand six and in the fifty-fifth
year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.


ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MULTICULTURALISM