



NEWS RELEASE - June 30, 2010

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner tables *2009-2010 Annual Report*

Saskatchewan's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Mr. Gary Dickson, has submitted his 2009-2010 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly. The document is available at www.oipc.sk.ca.

Dickson stated: "In 2010 Saskatchewan must confront a troubling access and privacy deficit and that deficit is growing." He described the deficit as the gap between more public demand for access and privacy services and lack of resources to meet that public demand. He listed 12 features of the access and privacy deficit including a failure by elected and non-elected leaders in Saskatchewan public bodies to emphasize to their employees the importance of compliance with access and privacy laws.

He said: "This deficit means that Saskatchewan residents may be denied the benefit of their access and privacy rights. It means that some public bodies and trustees will not be held accountable when they fail to comply with the law."

Dickson also noted that recent steps by the Saskatchewan Government to facilitate trade with British Columbia and Alberta may be handicapped by the fact that this province does not have a private sector privacy law to simplify privacy rules for small and medium sized businesses.

The Commissioner also expressed concern about a number of arbitration decisions in which the dismissal of health care workers for egregious breaches of privacy was overturned. "These decisions reflect a worrisome lack of awareness of the electronic health record for all Saskatchewan residents and the critical need to ensure public confidence in this initiative."

-30-

To obtain a copy of the 2009-2010 Annual Report, contact:

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