



## NEWS RELEASE – DECEMBER 14, 2009

### SASKATCHEWAN INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDS IMMEDIATE CHANGES TO THE WAY HEALTH REGIONS DEAL WITH ACCESS REQUESTS FROM PATIENTS

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner, Gary Dickson, has released his *Report on the Management of Access Requests from Patients to Saskatchewan Regional Health authorities*.

This Report emphasizes the importance of the patient's right to access his or her own health information that is held by a regional health authority. It also reviews and evaluates the forms and practices in use by the twelve health regions in the province. Dickson concluded that "*in a number of our health regions, the exercise of the patient/client's right of access has been made more complicated and more difficult than is necessary.*" Dickson stated that "*in some regions, the forms are confusing, ask for more information than is necessary and impose improper conditions on the patient.*" In other regions, brochures produced for the public omit important information or do not accurately describe the relevant law.

Dickson has issued 11 specific recommendations for Saskatchewan regional health authorities to ensure they are meeting all requirements of *The Health Information Protection Act*.

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The Report can be found on the website under the "What's New" tab [www.oipc.sk.ca](http://www.oipc.sk.ca). For a hard copy please contact:

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