

September 29, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Lecture & Reception

The Rotunda, Institut français
Room 216, Language Institute Building
University of Regina, Main Campus

▶▶ RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK

Open Government – UK Style

Presented by **Graham Smith**, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Freedom of Information, United Kingdom Information Commissioner



After an uncertain start, the *Freedom of Information (FOI) Act* has become part of the landscape of the United Kingdom's public service. The coalition government is now legislating for the routine publication of data in re-usable electronic formats, with plans to transform public services through greater transparency. The UK Information Commissioner expects to have a key role in promoting, delivering and enforcing the new regime, building on his strong *FOI Act* powers.

Graham Smith was appointed Deputy Information Commissioner for the United Kingdom in 2001, after the *FOI Act* received Royal Assent. Under the *FOI Act*, the functions of the former Data Protection Commissioner were extended to cover Freedom of Information, allowing the new Information Commissioner to appoint two deputies.

Following Deputy Commissioner Smith's remarks, the **Chief Justice E. M. Culliton Right to Know Award** will be presented to a public sector organization that has demonstrated leadership in promoting the public's right to know. The award presentation will be followed by a wine and cheese reception.

September 26 to September 30, 2011 is **Right to Know Week** in Saskatchewan. This week recognizes the importance of the public's right to access public documents through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. This kind of law promotes accountable government by requiring government to operate in a transparent fashion. Any citizen can request access to general information about government programs or expenditures. The citizen can also access their own personal information held by the provincial government, Crown corporations or by a local authority such as a municipality, regional health authority, school division, college or university.

Registration is strongly encouraged. Please register online at www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca (select **News and Events**, then **Events Calendar** and the appropriate calendar date). There is no cost for this event but seating is limited.

