



Information and Privacy  
Commissioner/Ontario

Commissaire à l'information  
et à la protection de la vie privée/Ontario

News Release

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## **Ontario's Privacy Commissioner to launch groundbreaking graduate initiative at the University of Toronto on Identity, Privacy and Security**

On September 17, 2007, Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Ann Cavoukian, will be presenting the inaugural lecture at the University of Toronto's new interdisciplinary program called the Identity, Privacy and Security Initiative (IPSI), [www.ipsi.utoronto.ca](http://www.ipsi.utoronto.ca). This initiative links two new graduate concentrations in privacy and security, offered this fall through the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and the Faculty of Information Studies. A key goal of IPSI is to bring together faculty and students from different disciplines to study and think together about identity, privacy and security and related technologies, policies and sciences.

Commissioner Cavoukian was appointed as the Chair of the Advisory Council for IPSI. "Given the Commissioner's strong support over the past two decades for privacy-related research, education and innovation, we are delighted that Dr. Cavoukian has agreed to act as the Advisory Council Chair," says Dr. Tim McTiernan, Interim Vice-President, Research, at the University of Toronto. "We feel that she is the ideal partner for this exciting initiative."

In her lecture, Commissioner Cavoukian will be discussing how privacy can remain a viable option as we enter into an age where we are immersed in a rich information environment, frequently sharing information about ourselves and others. "Maintaining privacy in the information technology age is indeed possible but only if we 'build it in' — architecting privacy directly into the technology. I call this 'privacy by design' and believe that it holds the future for ensuring that privacy remains a reality," says the Commissioner.

What Commissioner Cavoukian finds most exciting about these new graduate programs is that they hold the potential to educate and give rise to new generations of technologists, computer programmers, systems architects and corporate policy makers who will understand the inherent and fundamental value of protecting privacy. Says the Commissioner, "In essence, the IPSI program will not only educate future generations on how to build privacy into technology, but it will also hopefully develop a 'culture of privacy' — a way of thinking that is committed to better information management and the protection of privacy. Even the most advanced technologies and the most rigorous privacy policies will not be wholly effective if organizations do not accept the protection of privacy as part of their institutional culture."

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While she has enjoyed the challenges of working with organizations in championing the building of privacy into technology, the Commissioner nevertheless looks forward to the day when ... “all organizations view building privacy into technology as second-nature, as part of their institutional culture, and not an issue of debate. And, this can only be achieved by educating those who will later fill the positions involved in systems design, policy and decision making.”

Commissioner Cavoukian will be giving her inaugural lecture for the Identity, Privacy and Security Initiative at the George Ignatieff Theatre, in Trinity College, on September 17, 2007, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information please visit our website, [www.ipc.on.ca](http://www.ipc.on.ca) or call (416) 326-3333.

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