



What Students Need to Know About Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Grade 5 Program






The Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario (IPC) provides an active outreach program for Grade 5 students to help increase the understanding of two very important public values: (1) open government; and (2) personal privacy. As part of this outreach program, the IPC has developed an elementary school program: *What Students Need to Know about Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy*.

What Students Need to Know provides an opportunity for students and their teacher to discuss why access to government-held information and personal privacy are important public values, and how these values are reflected in our relationships with governments.

The *What Students Need to Know* program is focused on introducing students to the importance of these two values, and how they are relevant to their lives. Our hope is that once the values are learned and understood, they will find expression and ongoing relevance as students mature. The elementary school teacher's guide contains a number of activities which are designed to generate questions and stimulate group discussion of open government and privacy protection.

Teacher's Guide

The guide for Grade 5 teachers is available to teachers free of charge. The guide contains the following activities:

-  **Teacher's Notes** — provides background and sources of information.
-  **Introduction** — provides students with an overview of the subject matter.
-  **Privacy Alert** — uses an application form for a book club to introduce students to the concept of informational privacy.
-  **Thinking about Individual Rights** — uses a series of statements to focus the students on the concepts of "rights."
-  **A Day in the Life of a Student** — uses everyday activities to demonstrate how personal information is collected, used and sometimes abused.

This material complements the Grade 5 Social Studies unit on *Aspects of Government*.

The teacher's guide can be downloaded in PDF or HTML format from the IPC's website at www.ipc.on.ca. You can also have the PDF version e-mailed to you — just send your request to *schoolprogram@ipc.on.ca*. If you do not have Internet access, you can order a guide by contacting:

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Telephone: 416-326-3333
Toll free: 1-800-387-0073
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Speaker's Program

The IPC also has a Grade 5 speaker's program, *Ask An Expert: What Students Need to Know About Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy*, where a staff member introduces the topics and leads the discussion of the first activity.*

For additional information on this program, please contact Bob Spence at 416-326-3939, toll free at 1-800-387-0073, or by e-mail at bob.spence@ipc.on.ca.

* A limited number of IPC speakers are available.

About the Commissioner

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by the Ontario Legislature. This independence from the government of the day allows the Commissioner to be impartial when carrying out duties under the *Acts*.

Other brochures available from the Information and Privacy Commissioner:

*Access to Information under Ontario's
Information and Privacy Acts*

*Your Privacy and Ontario's Information
and Privacy Commissioner*

*The Appeal Process and Ontario's Infor-
mation and Privacy Commissioner*

*A Mini Guide to Ontario's Freedom of
Information and Protection of Privacy
Act*

*A Mini Guide to Ontario's Municipal
Freedom of Information and Protec-
tion of Privacy Act*

For more information, call or write:

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