



Redefining Fairness and the Roles of the Ombudsman for the 21st Century

*Presented by Kevin Fenwick, Saskatchewan's Ombudsman, and Dr. Joseph Garcea,
Head of the Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan*

**October 13, 2009
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Regina, Saskatchewan**

**JS Window Room, 2nd Floor, Gallery Building
University of Regina, College Ave. Campus**

In 1809, Sweden appointed the first parliamentary ombudsman. Since then, the institution has taken root around the world and developed into multiple forms. The central purpose of the Ombudsman has been to uphold the principle of fairness in the way that governmental agencies deal with those they serve. In addressing matters relevant to the societies they serve, Ombudsmen in various jurisdictions, including Saskatchewan, have redefined fairness and the roles of the Ombudsman. Key questions that will be addressed include:

- How has Saskatchewan redefined fairness and the roles of the Ombudsman to date?
- How should they be redefined and are likely to be redefined in the future to keep up with changes in society and government?
- Can one office still promote and protect fairness in such diverse fields as health care, insurance, utilities, social services and prisons?
- Do other jurisdictions provide any useful models for Saskatchewan to consider in improving the definition of fairness and the roles of the Ombudsman?

Kevin Fenwick Q.C. has been Saskatchewan's Ombudsman since October 1, 2004. His office promotes and protects fairness in government services. This involves taking complaints from the public against provincial government agencies and educating the government about fairness. Mr. Fenwick practiced law for fifteen years and worked with the Dispute Resolution Office branch of Saskatchewan Justice for fifteen years. In addition to training others in conflict resolution, he has concentrated on large-scale and multi-party facilitation, strategic planning, and organizational change.

Joseph Garcea is Head of the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. He teaches courses in Canadian governance and politics, public policy, and public management. His research and publications have focused on a wide range of policy areas, including Saskatchewan's Ombudsman Office, local government, immigration, citizenship, multiculturalism, urban Indian reserves, and the demographic profile of political representatives in Saskatoon and Regina.

Registration is strongly encouraged. Please register online by visiting www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca and click **News and Events**. There is no cost for this event but seating is limited. For more information contact us at 306.585.5869 or js_outreach@uregina.ca.

