

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 Act*. This kind of law promotes accountable government by requiring government to operate in a transparent fashion.

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.

