



Right to Know (RTK) Week 2015 Essay Competition

As part of the celebrations for Right to Know (RTK) Week 2015 the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) and Office of Public Engagement (OPE) launch the 5th RTK Week Essay Competition, along with co-sponsors Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), College of the North Atlantic (CNA) and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD).

In light of the extensive revision of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015*, this year's essay competition will highlight the purpose of RTK Week which is to raise awareness about everyone's right to access government information, while promoting freedom of information as essential to both democracy and good governance. It is hoped that the RTK Week Essay Competition will help further this purpose, particularly amongst secondary and post-secondary students.

The winning essay writer will be awarded a prize valued at \$600.00 and the essay will be published on the OIPC website and/or sponsor websites and internal publications. Second and third place entries will be awarded prizes valued at \$250.00 and \$150.00, respectively.

This contest is open to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians studying at the secondary or post-secondary level, as well as non-residents studying at Newfoundland and Labrador secondary and post-secondary institutions.

Entries are to be a maximum of 1,000 words, and must be submitted either in hard copy or electronic form, directly to the OIPC at the below address postmarked no later than December 31st, 2015.

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
P.O. Box 13004, Station "A"
St. John's, NL A1B 3V8 **OR** commissioner@oipc.nl.ca

Employees and relatives of employees of the OIPC are not eligible to enter.

Judging of the contest will be conducted as follows: the OIPC will receive all entries and remove all identifying information (names, addresses, etc.), assigning each a numeric code. The essays will then be submitted to a separate judging panel consisting of employees of the OIPC, and representatives from each of the OPE, MUN, CNA and NLESD.

Judging takes place in early January with the goal of announcing a winner in connection with Data Privacy Day 2016.

This year's essay topic will be:

Balancing the right of businesses to protect their information against the right of citizens to know how Government is spending public money.