



Right to Know (RTK) Week 2013 September 23rd to 28th

The purpose of the *Right to Know Week* is to raise awareness of an individual's right to access government information, while promoting freedom of information as essential to both democracy and good governance.

Each year on September 28th, *Right to Know Day* is officially celebrated in over 40 nations worldwide. In Canada and in many countries around the world, celebrations have expanded into a week-long event. It is an annual celebration of an individual's right to access information held by public bodies, and serves to mark the benefits of a transparent and accessible government.

Right to Know Day:

Right to Know (RTK) Day is an idea that originated in 2002 in Sofia, Bulgaria at an international meeting of access to information advocates, who proposed that September 28th be dedicated to the promotion of freedom of information worldwide. Since 2002, the popularity and scope of *RTK Day* has grown immensely, and celebrations now include more than 60 non-government organizations and information commissions. *RTK Day* is also officially celebrated in over 40 countries worldwide, and in many countries those celebrations have expanded into a week-long event.

Over 60 countries have legislation promoting access to information, and more countries are in the process of developing such laws. Over the years, certain principles have emerged that form the core of the *Right to Know* movement. To mark *Right to Know Day* a decade ago, the [Open Society Justice Initiative](#) announced the following set of 10 principles on the right of access to information developed with partnering organizations:

The 10 Right to Know Principles:

1. Access to information is a right of everyone.
2. Access is the rule — secrecy is the exception!
3. The right applies to all public bodies.
4. Making requests should be simple, speedy, and free.
5. Officials have a duty to assist requesters.
6. Refusals must be justified.
7. The public interest takes precedence over secrecy.
8. Everyone has the right to appeal an adverse decision.
9. Public bodies should pro-actively publish core information.
10. The right should be guaranteed by an independent body.