

Commissioner Frank Work Challenges to Public Bodies Right to Know 2010

I challenge the heads of all public bodies to give explicit policy direction to staff as to how access requests are to be handled. Again, this is not about making everything available all the time, every time. It is about making as much available as possible. It is about when the judgment call has to be made on “does it stay or does it go”, going with it goes.

I challenge them to make these directives public.

I challenge all public bodies to find ways, like the Open City initiative, to make information freely and routinely available to the public. Let the public see, let the public judge, let the public find ways to make the information useful and relevant to themselves and others.

I then challenge them to openly boast specifically about how much information they have made public.

I challenge the heads of all public bodies to treat all access to information requests in the same way.

I challenge myself to work as hard as I and my staff can to mediate and adjudicate in a more timely fashion with the resources we have. We have overhauled our adjudication process twice and we scrutinize requests for inquiry carefully to ensure that cases merit the expenditure of time and resources.

I challenge myself to look for more situations in which the section 32 public interest override might apply.

There will be a lot of elections in the coming year. I challenge the public to make openness and transparency an election issue for every candidate and then to expect delivery on any promises made. I challenge the Premier to appear during Right to Know Week 2011 and talk specifically about what has been done to further open and transparent government.