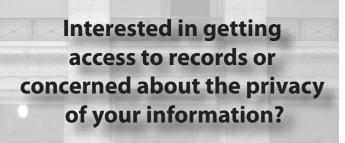
## The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

**Access to Information and Privacy** 



Which public bodies are covered by FIPPA?



FIPPA provides you with a right of access to certain records held by public bodies and controls how information about you should be handled by public bodies.

#### The Ombudsman

The Ombudsman may be able to investigate your complaint about:

- access to information, if you have difficulty getting access to the records you want from the public body
- privacy of your personal information, if you think that it has not been managed properly by the public body

FIPPA gives the Ombudsman the power to investigate your complaints.

The Ombudsman is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly (the provincial politicians elected by the public). The Ombudsman is not part of any government department or agency, and the Ombudsman is not considered a public body under FIPPA.

- Provincial government departments and agencies
- Executive Council (Cabinet)
- City of Winnipeg
- Other municipal governments
- Local government districts, planning districts and conservation districts
- School divisions and districts
- Universities and colleges
- Regional health authorities and hospitals

Public bodies do not include:

- the office of a Member of the Legislative Assembly who is not a minister
- the office of an officer of the Legislative Assembly
- the Court of Appeal, the Court of Queen's Bench or the Provincial Court

#### Other brochures in this series:

The Ombudsman Act: Fair Treatment by Government: Concerned that an action or decision of the provincial government or a municipal government has been unfair?

The Personal Health Information Act: Access to Personal Health Information and Privacy: Interested in getting access to your personal health information or concerned about the privacy of your personal health information?

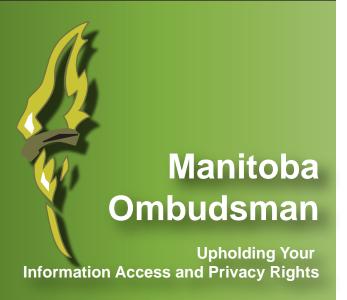
The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act: Disclosure of Wrongdoing: Do you believe that a serious wrongdoing has been committed in the provincial government?

### **Contact us**

In Winnipeg 750-500 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X1 204.982.9130 1.800.665.0531 (toll free) 204.942.7803 (fax)

In Brandon 202-1011 Rosser Avenue Brandon, MB R7A 0L5 204.571.5151 1.888.543.8230 (toll free) 204.571.5157 (fax)

On the web www.ombudsman.mb.ca Services disponibles en français



## What are your access rights under FIPPA?

FIPPA gives you the right to obtain records from public bodies, subject to certain exceptions. You must fill out an Application for Access Form required under FIPPA and submit it to the appropriate public body.

FIPPA gives you the right to complain to the Ombudsman about not getting access, or any concern you have about the handling of your FIPPA request for information.

For example, you can complain that:

- the public body did not respond to your FIPPA request for information within 30 days
- you think fees for the records are too high
- you did not get access to all or some of the records you requested
- the public body has refused to correct information about you that you think is inaccurate

FIPPA is in addition to and does not replace existing procedures for access to records or information normally available to the public.

FIPPA does not apply to accessing records that contain your own personal health information. You must request access to personal health information under *The Personal Health Information Act*.

## What are your privacy rights under FIPPA?

FIPPA requires that public bodies protect the privacy of your personal information.

FIPPA gives you the right of complaint to the Ombudsman if you think the public body:

- should not have collected your information or collected it in a manner contrary to FIPPA
- used your information for some purpose differently from how you expected it to be used
- disclosed your information to some other person or organization and you think this is wrong

## How do you make a complaint to the Ombudsman?

To make a complaint about an access or privacy matter, fill out the FIPPA Complaint Form required by FIPPA and send it to our office. The form is available on our website or by contacting our office (see "contact us").

Additional information to assist you in making a complaint is available on our website.

If you have questions about how to make a complaint, contact us at 204.982.9130 or toll free at 1.800.665.0531.

There is no fee for our services.

# What happens when the Ombudsman investigates your complaint?

#### We will:

- contact you and the public body about your complaint
- investigate your complaint under FIPPA
- decide if the decision, act or failure to act that you complained about was contrary to FIPPA
- tell you about our decision regarding your complaint
- try to resolve your complaint with the public body if we support your complaint
- make a recommendation to the public body as a result of your complaint if we cannot resolve your complaint

upholding your information access and privacy rights upholding your information access and privacy information access and privacy rights upholding access and privacy rights upholding access and privacy rights upholding your information access and privacy rights upholding your rights