

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was enacted by the Alberta Legislature on June 1, 1994. The Act applies to the records of a broad range of 'public bodies' but was proclaimed on October 1, 1995 for provincial government departments only. Enforcement was extended to educational and health care institutions as well as local government bodies over a period of months beginning in the fall of 1998. Post-secondary educational institutions including the University of Calgary came under the legislation on September 1, 1999.

### Right of Access

The Act is intended first of all to allow any person the right of access to the records in the custody and under the control of a public body although this right is subject to limited and specific exceptions. Excluded, for example, are questions to be used on an examination or test, teaching materials or research information of employees of a post-secondary educational body, and material that has been deposited in the archives of a public body by or for a person or entity other than the public body. This last exclusion means that restrictions established by donors such as the Students'

of principle.”<sup>1</sup> It concluded that if the information was of the type appropriate for preservation, agencies were obliged to put in place practices that would acknowledge the potential value of the records.

In response to the deliberations, the Society of American Archivists proclaimed:  
“Organizations - large and small, public and private -