



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **OMBUDSMAN AND KNOWLEDGE NETWORK PARTNER TO PROMOTE FAIRNESS AND INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS**

VICTORIA - Provincial Ombudsman Howard Kushner today announced a new initiative undertaken in partnership with the Knowledge Network to give British Columbians information on the significant role his office plays in promoting fairness in B.C.

“We are announcing the release of three, five-minute videos about the work of our office, using some of the cases we have investigated to explain what the Office of the Ombudsman does,” said Kushner. “It is important that British Columbians are informed of the impartial and confidential investigations that our office can conduct to determine if a public agency is treating the people it serves in a fair way.”

The videos use interviews with the Ombudsman, and with some of the people the office has assisted, to profile real-life stories that demonstrate how the Office of the Ombudsman not only resolves problems but also lessens the chances of similar problems arising in the future.

In addition to the videos, curriculum material for Socials 11 and Law 12 is now available to assist teachers in delivering courses to high-school students. “The course material will provide students with a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Office of the Ombudsman,” said Kushner.

Kushner notes that the videos will be shown on the Knowledge Network beginning in July 2004 and will run a few times a week for several months. These videos are also accessible on the Ombudsman’s website at [www.ombudsman.bc.ca](http://www.ombudsman.bc.ca).

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