

**Gary Dickson, Q.C.** was appointed Saskatchewan's first full-time Information and Privacy Commissioner effective November 1, 2003.

He was elected as the M.L.A. for Calgary Buffalo in a 1992 by-election. He was re-elected in 1993 and 1997. In the Legislature he served as the critic for Freedom of Information and the Protection of Privacy, Health, Human Rights, Consumer Affairs and Justice. He was House Leader for the Official Opposition. During his legislative period, he was directly involved in the development, enactment and implementation of the Alberta *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Health Information Act*. He participated as the senior Opposition member of Premier Klein's Access to Information Panel that conducted 3 months of public hearings in 1993 and authored the report that led to Alberta's current FOIP Act. He was a member of the Select Special Committee of the Alberta Assembly that undertook a comprehensive review of the FOIP Act in 1998. He was a member of the Health Minister's Health Information Task Force that undertook some 8 months of consultation and study of health information issues. From 1992 to 2001, he was the member of the Legislative Offices Standing Committee that oversaw the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

He was founding Co-Chair of the Canadian Bar Association Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section (Southern Alberta) and an Executive Member of the CBA National Privacy Law Section. He was also chair of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce Health Information Committee. In 2002 and 2003 Mr. Dickson co-chaired a Private Sector Privacy Law Working Group of Alberta lawyers advising the government of Alberta in the creation of the *Personal Information Protection Act*.

He was a contributor to the *Privacy Handbook for Canadians: Your Right and Remedies* published in 2002. He also was author of the Advanced Access to Information and Privacy Module for the Local Government course offered by the University of Alberta and Dalhousie University.

Mr. Dickson has spoken and written extensively on access, privacy and health information issues including stints as a columnist for the *Calgary Herald* and the Human Rights columnist for *LawNow*.

Mr. Dickson was a sessional lecturer on human rights for the University of Calgary and received both the Alberta Human Rights Award from the Human Rights and Citizenship Commission and the Civil Liberties Award from the Alberta Civil Liberties Association.

He was born in Edmonton and lived in Drumheller, Alberta until finishing high school. He earned a B.A. in political science/history from the University of Alberta. He received his LL.B. from the University of Alberta in 1971. He was called to the Alberta bar in 1972. He practiced law in Calgary, Alberta until he became an M.L.A. He is a member of the Law Society of Alberta and the Law Society of Saskatchewan