

## Privacy Complaint Victory

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has addressed a privacy breach that resulted in the confidential medical information of tens of thousands of disabled Ontarians being revealed to front line social service workers. Concern about this issue was raised by Dr. Gary Bloch, a family physician with St. Michael's Hospital, in a letter to Privacy Commissioner Ann Cavoukian, on November 22, 2005.

Prior to the change, the files of recipients of the Ontario Disability Support Program included International Classification of Disease codes for their medical diagnoses. These numbers could easily be decoded by front line social service workers, through a quick internet search of the World Health Organization web site. These codes have now been removed from all client files.

“The speed with which the government responded to this gross neglect of privacy rights