



**F09-11-MS Accentuating the Positive—Municipality Severs Only
Negatives from Audit Report**

A newspaper reporter requested a copy of a corporate audit a municipality had conducted on the effectiveness of its administrative operations. The municipality cited section 22 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in redacting all of the negative comments in the report, including its findings and recommendations. The positive comments were released.

The municipality explained to us that, as the negative comments in the audit report might identify employees of the municipality, it was concerned that releasing those comments might enable identification of those employees and thereby constitute an invasion of their privacy. This explanation was not entirely convincing to us, especially in light of the marked distinction between negative and positive conclusions in the decision whether or not to sever information in the report. Following mediation, the municipality released all of the report except for three very small sections that were subject to section 22(3)(d) of FIPPA.