

DOC/2017/01746-03

May 30, 2017



Dear [REDACTED] s.40(1)

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: MAE/17/2017]

On May 1, 2017, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment received your request for access to the following records/information:

"The following is from Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Council Minutes of April 11/17

MYCW Agreements

3. Letter of concern

Committee will draft a letter of concern to Department of Municipal Affairs over the Multi-Year Capital Works new allocation plan. The change in cost share may adversely affect choice in Town projects to follow.

1. Request copy of letter from Town of PCSP if received.

2. Request copy of change in cost-share, referenced in PCSP Council Minutes item of April 11/2017.

3. Following from the information provided for #2 above, Request any documentation that the total Municipal share of the agreement/contract can be imposed on only residents benefiting from the infrastructure.

4. Request copy of any documentation concerning an agreement/contract between the Provincial Government (MA) and a municipality when a specific group of residents (not general town revenue) are actually the party paying the non-Provincial part of the contract/agreement.

5. Request any documentation disclaiming that in a situation as per #4, the group of residents who are responsible for paying the non-Provincial part of the contract/agreement are technically the other party to the contract/agreement with MA.

6. *In the situation referenced in #4, when a specific group of residents are the party paying the non-Provincial part of the contract/agreement, request any documentation that specific residents cannot opt out of that cost-share/contract agreement and of course, any resultant services or any monetary commitment.*

7. *Following from Information on Municipal Capital Works on the Municipal Affairs website, Request any documentation on range of possible sources of funding by municipalities for their share in a Provincial-Municipal cost share agreement when the parties are Municipal Affairs (Provincial Government) and the Municipality.*

8. *Request any documentation that a Municipality can enforce cost recovery for water/sewer on a specific group of residents within a town, without providing for these residents to provide input and some indication of agreement.”*

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister to provide access to the requested information. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies, where available, have been enclosed. Also, please note the following with respect to your specific requests:

1. No responsive record.
2. News release from March 13, 2017:
<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2017/ma/0313n03.aspx> (Copy attached)
3. No responsive records.
4. No responsive records.
5. No responsive records. Agreements are with the Towns, not individual residents.
6. No responsive records. The residents are not party to the Agreement.
7. Municipal share funding sources typically include:
 - a. Borrowing;
 - b. Federal Gas Tax;
 - c. Budgeted Funds;
 - d. Revenues and Fees;
 - e. Municipal Operating Grants; and
 - f. Provincial Gas Tax Revenue Sharing.Details on many of these programs are on the Department's website.
8. No responsive records. Please refer to the *Municipalities Act, 1999* for the council's authority related to services, taxes, and fees.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the *Act*). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the *Act*.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 709-729-5846 or by e-mail at aliaskary@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



ALI ASKARY
Manager, Information Services / ATIPP Coordinator
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosure

[Skip to Main Content](#)**Municipal Affairs and Environment**

March 13, 2017

**Provincial Government Announces New Municipal Infrastructure Program**

Today, as part of Budget 2017, the Provincial Government introduced a new three-year municipal infrastructure program and a call for applications from interested communities. One hundred million dollars in provincial funding will be invested in municipal infrastructure over the next three years through the Multi-Year Capital Works (\$70 million) and Municipal Capital Works (\$30 million) programs.

In addition to the funding provided under this program, the Provincial Government continues to leverage federal funding to maximize infrastructure investment in this province by providing \$35 million over the next two years to allow an investment of \$60 million through the Small Communities Fund of the New Building Canada Fund.

In total these investments, along with already approved or submitted projects are expected to result in \$209 million in expenditures on infrastructure projects in the upcoming fiscal year. The Provincial Government is anticipating the release of details from the Federal Government on its Phase 2 infrastructure plan and is positioned to take advantage of Newfoundland and Labrador's full share.

In response to consultations with residents and stakeholders, the program's new approach to cost-share ratios incentivizes regional collaboration through infrastructure and sharing of services. Municipal projects that support improved drinking water, wastewater and disaster mitigation initiatives will be funded on a 90/10 cost-share basis with the Provincial Government contributing the larger share. Additionally, unless the project already falls into the 90/10 category, projects which are regional in nature will qualify for a 10 per cent lower municipal cost shared ratio. The program also now includes cost-share funding for generators. For more information on the new cost-share ratios, see the backgrounder below.

Through the program's new approach to cost-share ratios, approximately \$10 million in savings is expected to be achieved over the next three years, which will be reinvested into the municipal infrastructure programs.

Quotes

"The new municipal infrastructure program delivers on our government's vision for The Way Forward to advance regional collaboration through infrastructure and sharing of services and to leverage federal infrastructure funding. The program supports

government's priorities of strengthening municipal infrastructure, providing better access to higher quality water and wastewater systems, and enhancing disaster mitigation. In addition, we will provide communities with available funding information in advance so that capital funding is more predictable, allowing communities to better plan for longer-term funding options."

Honourable Eddie Joyce

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

"We're glad to see the province make good on its commitment to leveraging federal infrastructure funding. We were concerned that Newfoundland and Labrador would not receive our share of the available federal funding because we did not have the required leveraging investment. This move ensures we will receive all of the significant federal funding available to the sector. In addition to the funding, being able to plan infrastructure investments effectively is critical. Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador is pleased that the continued multi-year capital works plan and the new step of pre-announcing intake dates for three years on other programs makes planning that much easier for municipalities."

Karen Oldford

President, Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

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Learn more

Project applications for new Municipal Capital Works and Multi-Year Capital Works projects as well as Small Communities Fund projects are now being accepted -

www.gov.nl.ca/ma.

Follow us on Twitter: @GovNL and @MAE_GovNL

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Backgrounder

Cost-share ratios under the Three Year Municipal Infrastructure Program

Project Type	Population	Municipal Share	Provincial Share
Priority projects, i.e. water, waste water, disaster	Less than 3,000	10%	90%
	3,000 and 7,000	20%	80%
	Greater than 7,000	30%	70%
Fire Vehicles and Equipment	Less than 3,000	20%	80%
	3,000 and 7,000	30%	70%
	Greater than 7,000	40%	60%
Recreational projects, buildings, including fire halls	All population bands	40%	60%
Roads and other funding requests	All populations bands	50%	50%

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12:15 p.m.

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