

November 20, 2017

DOC/2017/04543-03

Dear [REDACTED]:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* [Our File #: MAE/102/2017]

On October 23, 2017, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment received your request for access to the following records/information:

"All expense records / budgets for 2017 'regional government' public consultation."

On October 25, 2017 via phone conversation, you explained how you wanted to know the costs of the regional government public consultations as well as this initiative's defined budget.

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 the information requested is enclosed in this letter. To clarify the information is provided in this list below.

- The regional government public consultants budget is included in Local Governance and Planning division budget 2017-2018 estimates under Transportation and Communication and Purchased Services, which is seen on page 268 in budget 2017 documentation online via <http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2017/estimates/estimates.pdf>. Please note these cost estimates also include other Local Governance and Planning divisional initiatives besides regional government public consultations such as municipal training, Premier's Forum. Hence, there is no defined budget for the regional consultations it is included in the divisional operating accounts estimates as stated above
- The costs of the regional government public consultations spent to date is presented in the table below.

Cost item	Cost
Travel	\$15,920.55
Advertising	\$4,040.00
Meeting Room / Equipment Rental	\$1,320.00
Total	\$21,280.55

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 709-729-7183 or by e-mail at lisas@gov.nl.ca .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and the last name "Sullivan" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Sullivan
ATIPP Coordinator
Enclosures

Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.
- (2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days
- (a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or
 - (b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).
- (3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.
- (4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.
- (5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.
- (6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52(1) or 53(1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.
- (7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.
- (8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to
- (a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;
 - (b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;
 - (c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or
 - (d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.
- (9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.
- (2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days
- (a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or
 - (b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).
- (3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.
- (4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45(2).