

July 25, 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED];

**Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-120-2019)**

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On July 9, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

**For the past three fiscal years (16-17, 17-18, 18-19) how much did the department of natural resources spend per year on helicopter rental? Were these expenditures part of an annual contract and if so please provide copies of the contracts. If these expenditures were on an as needed basis please provide copies of invoices from the supplier.**

The Department of Natural Resources have reviewed this request and are pleased to provide the following information in relation to your request.

The current contract for helicopter services for Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is maintained and administered by the Department of Transportation and Works. The five year contract with Universal Helicopters Newfoundland and Labrador LP has a start date of November 1, 2015. The contract is for retention of Five (5) helicopters along with crews, required equipment and facilities, on and as needed basis. Monthly, the Department of Transportation and Works pays for the retaining fee as per the rates specified in the contract and then pro-rates the cost to other Departments based on prior usage. The retaining fees are adjusted annually for CPI on the 1st day of April. When a helicopter is required, Departments requiring the service pay the cost of fuel and oil, and, if applicable, travel costs for helicopter crew.

Please note that for a copy of the contract you would need to contact the Department of Transportation and Works as this record is not in the custody and control of the Department of Natural Resources.

In 2016-17 the retaining fees paid by the Department of Natural Resources amounted to \$106,140;

In 2017-18 the retaining fees paid by the Department of Natural Resources amounted to \$190,238; and

In 2018-19 the retaining fees paid by the Department of Natural Resources amounted to \$193,424.

In 2016-17 the service fees paid by the Department of Natural Resources amounted to \$176,727;

In 2017-18 the service fees paid by the Department of Natural Resources amounted to \$147,350; and

In 2018-19 the service fees paid by the Department of Natural Resources amounted to \$149,233.

As per our telephone conversation on July 17, 2019 you advised that the explanation and numbers being provided was sufficient to satisfy your request and therefore you did not require the individual invoices in the custody and control of the Department of Natural Resources.

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 this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it 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 letter posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or [rhynes@gov.nl.ca](mailto:rhynes@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Hynes".

Rod Hynes  
ATIPP Coordinator