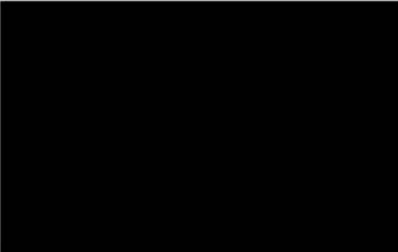




Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Natural Resources

February 12, 2020



Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-43-2020)

On February 6, 2020, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

In regards to NR-261-2019 which was posted online today please provide a copy of the Decision/Direction Note with the title "International travel for the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation to Georgetown, Guyana - December 2019, or January 2020".

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed by the Deputy Minister, to provide access to the requested record. The record is attached.

We are providing access to the most information possible but have made redactions in accordance with Sections 29(1)(a) and 34(1)(a)(iii) of *ATIPPA, 2015* as follows:

29. (1)(a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

34. (1)(a)(iii) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct by the government of the province of relations between that government and the following or their agencies: the government of a foreign state.

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 Office of Public Engagement's 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.

Sincerely,



Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator

Decision/Direction Note
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation

Title: Guyana MOU Next Steps

Decision/Direction Required:

- Authority is requested to send both the Deputy Minister of Natural Resource and the Deputy Minister of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (TCII) to Georgetown, Guyana to engage with Guyanese government officials in a year-one review of the NL-Guyana Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed October 2018, and to develop an action plan for year two of the MOU. (**Recommended**)
- Travel is anticipated to take place either in early December 2019 (Dec 7-10 proposed), or in late January 2020. This travel is considered to be non-discretionary work-related travel. The approximate cost for this travel is \$5,000 per person. Funds are available in the respective executive travel budgets within both Departments, and are within zero-based budget allotments.

Background and Current Status:

- Since 2015 deepwater exploration of Guyana's offshore by ExxonMobil, Hess and others has revealed 14 significant discoveries with more expected. Recent recoverable reserve estimates have increased to more than 6 billion barrels of oil equivalent. Exxon and Hess have been working on an accelerated production timeframe, with the first floating, production, storage and offloading vessel (FPSO) arriving in August 2019, and first oil anticipated to flow in December 2019, ahead of schedule. Exxon expects initial production to quickly ramp up to 120,000 barrels a day and rise to 750,000 a day by 2025 - equal to nearly 20 percent of Exxon's *global* oil and gas production today. Guyana, currently South America's second poorest nation, could see GDP increase by 300% to 1,000% by 2025.
- A June 2017 meeting with the Canadian Trade Commissioner for Guyana revealed that the Guyanese government, having researched jurisdictions with major oil development activities, approached the Canadian High Commission inquiring about Newfoundland and Labrador's (NL) expertise in the oil and gas sector specifically. In developing its oil and gas resources, the government of Guyana is very keen to maximize local benefits for the people and government of Guyana.
- In September 2017 TCII supported the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industries Association (NEIA) and the Newfoundland & Labrador Oil & Gas Industries Association (NOIA) in undertaking simultaneous business development missions to the region, primarily focused on Guyana. A total of 27 NL business delegates participated in the combined missions. During and immediately following this activity, initial discussions were held with the Canadian High Commission regarding potential for an NL-Guyana government to government MOU. In November 2017 a delegation including representatives from the Guyana Chamber of Commerce, the Guyana Private Sector Commission, and The Canadian High Commission in Guyana visited the province and met with various stakeholders in the oil and gas sector. The purpose was to better understand the oil and gas sector in NL and how Guyana and NL organizations may partner in the future on projects in their region.

- In February 2018, 14 NL organizations travelled to Guyana for GIPEX 2018, Guyana's inaugural petroleum industry business summit and exhibition. In October 2018, another TCII funded, NOIA facilitated trade mission to Guyana was undertaken with 22 company participants; and most recently, a mission with 18 company delegates was undertaken in October 2019. So far there has been approximately 14 joint ventures developed between NL and Guyanese businesses, both within the oil and gas supply and service sector, and other areas. These relatively large business delegations are a testament to the recognition in NL of this market as a very lucrative source of business opportunity, both currently in the oil and gas supply and service sector, as well as other downstream opportunities.
- On October 15, 2018 a MOU between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Government of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador was signed by Natural Resources Minister Coady, and the Guyana Minister of Business, the Hon. Dominic Gaskin in Georgetown. The MOU was developed by NR, TCII and IGAS, in consultation with the Canadian High Commission. The MOU allows both governments to work collaboratively in support of opportunities in the oil and gas industry, including knowledge transfer, technology development, training, health, safety and environment initiatives, supply chain development, joint ventures, and exchanges that may also benefit other sectors.

Analysis:

- The MOU established a joint working committee with representation from NR, TCII as well as the Guyana Department of Energy. It also called for the establishment of an annual work plan within 30 days of the MOU signing, and the development and approval of subsequent plans within 30 days of the anniversary date of execution of the agreement. These plans are to be reviewed each year by both parties, with review meetings alternating between Guyana and NL.
- Currently, there is a requirement that both parties meet in Georgetown, Guyana to review and assess the progress of initiatives taken pursuant to the agreement and to discuss potential new areas of cooperation. Both parties are required, as per the agreement, to develop a year 2 action plan which could include continuance of current activities as assessed, and other new areas for collaboration as discussed and agreed to. The work plan would then need to be formalized to reflect these changes.

Alternatives:

- Not attend. - **Not recommended.** There is an ongoing and substantial opportunity to be realized from this special relationship between NL and Guyana and both TCII and NR have a significant role to play in the management of the MOU and development of the province's trade relationship with Guyana. Both the Deputy Minister of NR and the Deputy Minister of TCII are required to attend this review and planning meeting as per obligations outlined in the MOU. [REDACTED]

S. 29 (1) (a)

S. 34 (1) (a) (iii)

Prepared/Approved by: B. Norman/J. Hearn
Ministerial Approval:

November 25, 2019