Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our file #ENV/010/2013]

On March 6, 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation received your request for access to the following records/information:

"ANY and ALL information contained in government records with respect to any Management Plan and/or Recovery Strategy Plan for the conservation and preservation of the George River Caribou Herd. Information to include, but shall not be limited to, joint management plan, joint management agreement, and joint management arrangement, with the Government of Canada, and/or the Province of Quebec. Details to include but shall not be limited to, the underlying principles, objectives and responsibilities of any existing Management Plan, and/or Recovery Strategy, and membership of any existing Management Board, including the date any such Management Board or Management/Recovery Plan was developed and/or implemented. Details to further include any information relating to studies or reports, on the monitoring of 'critical biological activities' (e.g. calving, post-calving, etc.); the survival of, and the 'well-being' of the George River Herd."

The Department conducted a thorough search for records concerning the management of the George River Caribou Herd. On April 15, 2013, you were supplied a fee estimate based on records for the biological activities of the herd. You discussed the nature of these records with the Departmental ATIPP Coordinator in a telephone call on May 8, 2013. Of primary interest was whether or not these records would provide you with the information you are seeking. You specified that your request was to obtain information on the existence of co-management boards and a management plan for the herd.

Please be advised that the Department engages in many activities to monitor and manage the George River Caribou Herd, as outlined in the 2013-14 Hunting and Trapping Guide which is available on line at http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/hunting/hunting_guide_2013.pdf. However, there is no management plan or co-management board currently established with the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Province of Quebec, and the
Government of Canada, for the George River Caribou Herd. As such, our records indicate that the Department of Environment and Conservation has no records responsive to your revised request for information related to the existence of a management plan and co-management board.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this response or you may appeal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 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
34 Pippy Place
P.O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Trial Division, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that this response will be published following a 72-hour period after the response is sent electronically to you, or five days in the case where the response is mailed to you. It is the goal to have the response posted to the Office of Public Engagement's 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 contact the Departmental ATIPP Coordinator at telephone 709-729-7393.

Sincerely,

JAMIE CHIPPETT
Deputy Minister