Dear [s.30(1)]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our file #ENV/011/2014]

On March 3, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation received your request for access to the following records/information:

- "Update on the Natural Areas System Plan that as per the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan was to be released by March 31, 2011."
- "Details on the public consultation on the draft Natural Areas System Plan that was promised during the 2011 election campaign. Number of public consultations held? Locations? Attendees?"
- "A copy of the draft Natural Areas System Plan"
- "A copy of the final Natural Areas System Plan and implementation strategy"

Protecting the natural areas of our province remains a priority. New reserves, including the Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve, have been established within the past year and the Glover Island Public Reserve has very recently been re-designated as a crown land reserve for a further 10-year period.

Environment and Conservation continues to work with other departments to identify potential additional areas for consideration. Both the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources are actively engaged in the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement Regional Working Group which is working locally to meet national goals for protected area establishment and caribou management. The determination as to which sites will be designated as reserves remains under deliberation.

With regards to your request, please be advised that the Department of Environment and Conservation has no records responsive to provide regarding public consultations as identified in the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan. As well, while much work has gone into the identification of candidate reserves, draft and final versions of the Natural Areas System Plan have not yet been
developed. As all working documents are still under deliberation, they cannot be released under Section 18 of the Act.

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 the response will be published following a 72-hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five days in the case where records are 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 feel free to contact the ATIPP Coordinator by telephone at (709) 729-7393 or by e-mail at ellenhaskell@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

JAMIE CHIPPELT
Deputy Minister