Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: HCS/071/2016]

This is to confirm that on May 6, 2016, the Department of Health and Community Services received your request for access to the following records/information:

“I would like any information gathered / used by the Dept. Of Health and Community Services regarding the reduction of X-Ray Services (hours available) at the Grand Bank Health Center. This reduction of service was announced during the Provincial Budget 2016.”

The Department has reviewed your request in the context of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) and Beverley Clarke, Deputy Minister, made a decision and is pleased to inform you that access to these records has been granted, in part. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed. Some information has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Act:

- Section 29(1)(a) – Policy Advice or Recommendations
- Section 40(1) – Disclosure of Personal Information

As required by 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed and have provided you with as much information as possible.

Please be advised that you may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). 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. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:
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 (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

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 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 undersigned by telephone at 709-729-7007 or by email at VanessaMacey@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vanessa Macey
ATIPP Coordinator
Records removed due to Cabinet confidence
From: King, Neil  
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 4:43 PM  
To: Haggie, John <JohnHaggie@gov.nl.ca>  
Cc: Anderson, Alicia <AliciaAnderson@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Bernard <BernardDavis@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: TRIM: X-Ray Cuts in Bonavista

Hello Minister Haggie,

Wrt the meeting next week regarding the x-ray cuts at the Bonavista Hospital, representatives from the Town of Bonavista will meet here and members of the local Chamber of Commerce will join via conference call.

I've given this issue quite a bit of thought as to how we can come to an acceptable compromise. I would suspect that no matter what comes from the meeting it will not please the Chamber. However, with that said I would propose

[Redacted]

Thanks,

Neil

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.
Power, Angela

From: Haggie, John
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Power, Angela
Subject: FW: TRIM: Detrimental decision to the Bonavista Peninsula Community Health Centre
Attachments: .....

From: @gmail.com
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2016 10:32 AM
To: Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Bennett, Cathy (Minister) <CBennett@gov.nl.ca>; Haggie, John <JohnHaggie@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail) <PADavis@gov.nl.ca>; Kent, Steve <SteveKent@gov.nl.ca>; Michael, Lorraine <lorraine@easternhealth.ca>; King, Neil <NeilKing@gov.nl.ca>; openline@vocm.com; telegram@thetelegram.com @thetelegram.com; King, Neil <NeiiKing@gov.nl.ca>; openline@vocm.com; hereandnow.nl@cbc.ca
Subject: TRIM: Detrimental decision to the Bonavista Peninsula Community Health Centre

To whom it may concern,

When I heard the news that the X-ray/Lab department at the Bonavista Peninsula Community Health Centre was going to be a recipient of budget 2016 cuts, I asked questions and sought out the details of the impact it may have on the Bonavista Peninsula. With X-ray being closed Monday to Friday from 4pm - 8am and all day Saturday and Sunday's, this will affect the Bonavista Peninsula tremendously. I know firsthand the impact it will have on a personal level.

I'd like to share my story with you. Attached you will find a photo of [redacted] who has gone through what none of us will ever experience in a lifetime. When [redacted] was taken to hospital because of a very [redacted] condition, which was revealed through x-ray that the [redacted] was [redacted] but rather it was [redacted]. With regards to the cost savings... there is NONE. One certified X-ray technician position for the sake of lives isn't saving money when I will have to pay for an ambulance, which government subsidizes, a nurse and/or a doctor to travel to Clarenville as well, an hour and a half away from Bonavista which is time enough

All redactions are personal in nature and have been withheld under s.40.
to determine whether my life or not. Upon arrival to the referring hospital, a x-ray technician will have to be called in, which is no cost savings whatsoever. It will result in higher cost than the current services.

What about other situations that may arise? For example, if a car accident occurs involving one or more vehicles on routes 230, 235 or 238 after 4 pm or on a weekend a patient may have a blood clot, punctured lung, broken bones, fluid or bleeding in the abdomen etc. Without X-ray Services the Physician will have to rely solely on clinical symptoms to Diagnose a patient, rather than diagnostic imaging which would provide a definitive Diagnosis. This is not a fair or equitable service to the people of the Bonavista Peninsula. We do not deserve a lesser service than the hospital currently provides. This is regressive, not progressive healthcare. Is that how healthcare should be in this day of age?

There are other ways to be fiscally responsible with the provinces healthcare funds than those that have been proposed. It makes more sense to limit the amount of X-rays and laboratory testing after regular hours to emergency situations only. Another example could be to have twelve hour shift work instead of overtime/call back or when called back to stay for the entire amount of time that they are being paid. This would avoid compensating technicians for multiple calls in short periods of time.

I am currently circulating a Petition on behalf of the people of the Bonavista Peninsula to present to the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador. I have already expressed my concerns in person to MHA Neil King on April 29, 2016 but have yet to receive a follow up call regarding the situation. To be honest I do not expect one since he did not ask me for my contact information.

I implore you to consider this plea to reverse your decision on removing X-ray services from the Bonavista Hospital on behalf of my and every citizen on the Bonavista Peninsula.

Sincerely,
April 18, 2016

Ms. Carol Anne Haley, MHA  
Burin – Grand Bank District  
P.O. Box 490  
Grand Bank, NL  
A0E 1W0

Dear Ms. Haley:

RE: Health Care Services

I have reason to believe that Eastern Health is contemplating reducing the hours of service at the Grand Bank Health Care Clinic, and closing the lab and x-ray services at this facility as well. As you can appreciate, this will have major consequences for the people of the Greater Lamaline Area, Fortune and Grand Bank.

We have a new clinic, which along with an excellent ambulance service, provides our people with good health care service. This clinic, with its Lab and X-ray Department, are very busy and the statistics on the usage of this clinic will show just how many people use this facility on a daily basis. There are five physicians allocated to this area plus a Nurse Practitioner. All of them are very busy dealing with the health needs of our people, and we can ill afford to scale back the level of service provided by this clinic.

Further, many of our citizens are seniors who need the services of the health care system within a reasonable distance of their community and available 24/7. We have the Blue Crest Long-term facility in Grand Bank with approximately 86 residents, there is also the Seniors Cottages with another 23 units. In addition, there is the relatively new Retirement Center with capacity for 74 residents and another 10 units for seniors is being constructed this year.

This area cannot survive with a 12/18 hour clinic and no Lab and X-ray. It would be outrageous for government to make any changes to our current level of service. This would cause tremendous grief and hardship for all our citizens and would not be acceptable to the residents of this area.
April 18, 2016  
Ms. Carol Anne Haley, MHA  
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I am told that Eastern Health is meeting this week to decide what services to cut or reduce to save funding as per government’s directive. These recommendations will be presented to government for their approval.

Council is requesting that you, as the MHA for this District, provide assurances to people serviced by this clinic that there will be no reduction in hours of operation or any changes to the lab and x-ray department.

A timely response to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF GRAND BANK

Rex C. Matthews  
Mayor

RCM:smmd

A timely response to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF GRAND BANK

Mayor

RCM:smmd