RE: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Our File TW/019/2012)

On March 11, 2013, the Department of Transportation and Works received a transfer from the Premier’s Office for the following information:

Documentation outlining the nature, extent and cost of the renovations to the Premier’s Office and associated facilities.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to this information has been granted and the following provides information relative to the planned renovations.

Necessary mechanical and electrical system repairs to the Confederation Building East Block are expected to occur over the next 4-6 years (actual progress depends on annual budgetary appropriation). The mechanical and electrical systems include systems such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and fire alarm systems. It also will include accessibility enhancements to various washrooms.

As it is not possible for any employees to remain within their work areas during these upgrades, a phased approach will be utilized that will enable sections of the Confederation Building East Block to be vacant while utilizing existing Government space, both within the Confederation Building East Block (4th Floor, East Wing) and external such as the Argyle Building, as “swing” space throughout the duration of the mechanical and electrical repair project. The 4th floor, East Wing space has been retrofitted to allow for the relocation of a Department or several government offices into this wing of the building. Work related to the swing space is being completed through a negotiated change order with the contractor responsible for the exterior redevelopment project. The anticipated cost of this change order is approximately $550,000 inclusive of an estimated $10,000 for the work associated with the law library renovations on the 5th floor of the Confederation Building East Block and $15,000 for related renovations to the 4th floor West wing. No actual disbursements have occurred to date.
50 employees with the Department of Justice have been relocated to the Government owned Argyle Building. Expenditures to date associated with the actual movement of staff total $76,012.94. No renovations were necessary to the Argyle Building to accommodate Department of Justice employees.

Phase I of the mechanical and electrical repairs will involve Floors 8 and above. Forty-four (44) occupants from Floors 8, 9, and 10, are planned to relocate to this swing space. As of today’s date, 30 of these occupants have been moved. There are no occupants on the 11th floor. It is estimated that this move will cost approximately $70,000. A public tender call for the mechanical and electrical repairs to Floors 8 and above will be issued in May. Phase I of the project will be completed in approximately 8-10 months. Actual expenditures will depend upon the value of the public tender to be called in May. In 2013-14, TW has budgeted $6.25M for the mechanical and electrical repairs project and associated costs including the mechanical and electrical repairs themselves, completion of the standby power project (tender awarded in January 2012), as well as Transportation and Works’ and consulting costs.

Subsequent phases in all remaining sections of the Confederation Building East Block will proceed in the same manner as described above pending budgetary appropriations, with the occupants being relocated to the 4th floor, East Wing, while a tender for mechanical and electrical repairs is issued and completed in each area.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 729-3676.

Sincerely,

JAMIE CHIPPETT
Deputy Minister