August 13, 2013

Dear [Redacted] - 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 #: PRE-11-2013]

On July 17, 2013 the Premier’s Office received your request for access to the following records:

All correspondence from the public to the Premier – letters, emails and telephone logs – regarding Bill 29.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted in part, as attached.

Access to information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act):

30. (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

As required by subsection 7(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is excepted from disclosure as well as information that is not responsive to your request and have provided you with as much information as possible.

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal 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 responsive records 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 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 feel free to contact the undersigned at (709) 729-3570 or deniseking@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Denise King
Director of Policy
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Premier]
Cc: 
Sent: 7/26/2012 at 9:10 AM
Received: 7/26/2012 at 9:10 AM
Subject: FW: Government direction.

From:  
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 12:29 PM
To: Dunderdale, Kathy
Subject: Government direction.

Dear Premier Dunderdale,

Your government is losing all credibility with the passage of the new access to information/privacy legislation. As many others have said: What is it they are trying to hide from the people. Show leadership and withdraw this regressive legislation. We want progressive laws, not ones that rank us with third world dictatorships.

St. John's, Newfoundland,

Non-responsive
E-mail Message

From: Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
To: 30.(1)
Cc: 30.(1)
Sent: 6/18/2012 at 9:32 AM
Received: 6/18/2012 at 9:32 AM
Subject: Bill 29

Ms. Dunderdale:

I dont usually Email my elected officials, but I feel the need to do so now. I must first say that I have been impressed by the way youve governed the last 8 months. Youve handled most files well. I like the way you stood up to Danny early. Im a big supporter of Muskmat. You seem to have a pretty good team of cabinet ministers. I was not pleased, however, that you waited until the new year to open the house. I understand that it may be a thorn in your side, but its necessary. Its also what you signed up for.

Bill 29 is a mistake. You should own up to it now, and everybody would respect you. The pundits would be able to say that you listened. It reminds me of when Clyde Wells tried to privatize Hydro. Arent we all glad that didnt happen? Yeah, youll take some heat from the opposition, but who cares, youd still be doing whats right.

Transparency in govt is critical. Its not up to you or your ministers to decide what a frivolous request is. The AG provides an important function. He uncovered the spending scandal.

I want you to succeed. I heard Dean McDonald on the radio this morning. Hes gunning for you. Dont give him any more ammunition.

St. Johns

30.(1) Non-responsive
I am very disappointed in your administration's attitude toward freedom of information. We the people OWN the information because OUR taxes paid for it. Forcing this bill through puts our "democratic" province in company with other repressive regimes that our military sometimes has to help overthrow! SHAME
Dear Ms. Dunderdale,

I - like most people in this province - am largely divorced from politics. I've never gone to a protest or sat in the gallery at the House of Assembly. But all that changed this week when I went to see for myself the farce that was playing out in the House and then went to the protest yesterday at Confederation Building.

In the space of one week I heard MHAs - members of your party - proudly proclaim their ignorance on geography and politics. Keith Russell had never heard of filibustering before (or so he told Randy Simms on VOCM). Was he asleep through all of high school? More shocking was the ignorance that was displayed in the House on Wednesday night. You can quibble over the r-word all you like but you can't deny that the comments made by your MHAs were ignorant, small minded and deeply, deeply offensive. I am disgusted.

As you weren't at the protest yesterday at Confederation Building, let me share this with you: there were people there protesting against Bill 29 who voted for your party. They won't make that mistake again. And there were people from Burin who wrote in support of the protest and against Bill 29.

The day the government passes legislation that makes politically apathetic like me sit up and take notice, is the day they have gone too far. Bread and circuses aren't enough Ms. Dunderdale. I hope you enjoy your days as a one-term premier.
I am disgusted with the passing of the changes to The Access To Information Act and as a resident of this Province I am wondering what it is this government is trying to hide! It calls into serious question this government's integrity and I will not be supporting the Conservative Party in the next Provincial elections!
Hi Mrs. Dunderdale,

I just wanted to express my opinion on the recent passing of bill 29 from the respect of a 23 year old student from Western Newfoundland. I have never extended my opinion on any government decision to date, however this has been of particular interest to me. In my opinion any publicly funded operation should have a certain degree of transparency as we, the public, use our hard earned money to support it. This transparency ensures that corruption does not occur, it ensures that if mistakes are made that they are recognized and dealt with in an appropriate manner. Bill 29 eliminates most of this transparency and I cannot help but believe that both corruption and mistakes will occur more frequently without it. If there is such an influx of requests for information that offices are being swamped wouldn't it be appropriate to have a position created to handle these requests? Government decisions should be made in the best interest of Newfoundland, if all decisions made are, then government should be proud to make them readily available to the public.

I recognize that I am just one voice from a small town of 200-300 people, and that no matter how many e-mails I send to government officials chances are the bill will stay in place. My only option is to plea with you that this is not the right decision for the people of Newfoundland.

Sincerely an extremely concerned, and proud Newfoundland citizen.
From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/19/2012 at 10:08 AM
Received: 6/19/2012 at 10:08 AM
Subject: FW: Please read - Bill 29

Dear Ms. Dunderdale,

Help me understand. Can you explain to the people of this province why Bill 29 was necessary?

I will keep this short, but I must join the chorus of Newfoundlanders & Labradorians that are completely incensed and disgusted that our elected officials have spent (wasted!) so much time passing Bill 29 - a bill that is completely unnecessary and undermines democracy. I am furious.

I believe the repercussions of this will be evident come the next election. I for one will certainly not be voting PC. If anything, we'll be faced with an 'ABC' campaign right here in our own province! I only wish we were headed to the polls sooner.

Just wanted to voice my displeasure about this recent turn of events. I can only speak for myself, but I know of many others right here in your constituency that feel the same way. I wish to remain anonymous as I work in the public service and therefore should be 'politically neutral' - but I am still a citizen that has a right to speak out when I feel something terribly wrong has occurred.

-Concerned Citizen
Ms. Dunderdale,

I am writing to ask you a question concerning bill 29. What are you trying to hide by passing this bill. You were quoted as saying "we are getting to many request and cannot keep up with it" There were only a little over 200 request last year so that got me thinking that you are trying to hide something. We the people of Newfoundland know that there has to be something the Government is trying to hide.

This is something that we Newfoundlanders will add to a long list of bad decisions that you have made. I for one will not vote for YOU ever again.
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/19/2012 at 10:10 AM
Received: 6/19/2012 at 10:10 AM
Subject: FW: Bill - 29

From: -
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2012 4:42 PM
To: Osborne, Tom; Michael, Lorraine; Dunderdale, Kathy; Ball, Dwight
Subject: Bill - 29

I watched the debates in the House concerning Bill 29; and to each of you I have this to say this:

Mrs. Dunderdale:

Nothing happens by chance in politics and your decision to be away from the province when such a serious bill was being debated I find appalling. Please don't bother to try and convince me, or the public, that you had prior commitments; We come first, you should have been here to answer to the public. FUNNY CLOSURE WAS INVOKED WHEN YOU WERE DUE TO RETURN TO THE PROVINCE.

Mrs. Michael & Mr. Ball:

Thank you for the stand you and your colleagues took to make the people aware of the effect that this type of bill and the modifications that were put forward by the governing party would have on the information that will be available to the public through the access to information act. I feel you both should be proud.

Mr. Osborne:

I never voted for you in the last election, However I have supported you for you nomination for the pc candidate for my district and have supported you in the past in your bid for election to the house and was proud to do so. I feel I can no longer support you or your party if this is the type of leadership I will receive.

PS: I am a private citizen not a loyal supporter of any political party or candidate.
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:O=PSNL/OU=FIRST_ADMINISTRATIVE
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUnderdale]
To: Premier [EX:O=PSNL/OU=FIRST_ADMINISTRATIVE
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMier]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/19/2012 at 10:13 AM
Received: 6/19/2012 at 10:13 AM
Subject: FW: Please vote against the changes introduced in Bill 29

Resending orginal and adding the following...

From what I gather in talking to friends, family and neighbours about Bill 29, the overwhelming majority of constituents in the district (100% of who I've talked to) do not want these changes implemented (specifically the proposed change to types of documents labeled as restricted from access and the proposed fee structure change meant to deter people or groups from requesting information...especially the "contemplation" fees that can be assessed).

This is very important to me. As my representative (for Virginia Waters), I emplore you to vote against the changes to Access to Information in Bill 29.

Please let me know what else I can do to stop Bill 29 from becoming law. Please also let me know whether there are any non-political / non-industry related constituents that are contacting you with support for implementation of Bill 29.

Regards,

----- Original Message -----
I am writing to let you know that I (my family) do not support the changes being brought forward in Bill 29. As our representative for Virginia Waters district, please vote against the changes being put forward in Bill 29.

Access to Information should be made easier and include more transparency...not less. There should be no additional types of docs that are considered hidden from the public.

Regards.
Dear Premier Dunderdale,

Congratulations at ramming a regressive, anti-democratic piece of legislation down the throats of Newfoundlanders who want MORE—not less—access to information.

We pay your salaries. We pay for every action your government takes. We have a right to check up on you, and the press have a right to investigate your actions on our behalf. The notion that a cabinet minister now has the power to "dismiss" a request is absolutely obscene.

Although I am not generally a Conservative supporter, I had great hopes for you—as a woman, and as a person I thought to be both intelligent and kind-hearted, I thought you might be the perfect premier. What a disappointment you are to me and many others. This was an abuse of power and I sincerely doubt if you will ever have a majority government again. I will certainly do my best come the next election to ensure that you do not.

Also, Minister Collins’ remarks were racist, we all know that. On this topic, and on many others the attitude that you and your ministers take towards Lorraine Michaels are nothing more than bullying. In fact it is something that a great many people have a problem with issues with. She is a fine lady, trying to do her job, and the way you people speak to her is disgusting. It will cost you votes, and she will reap them.

Sincerely, and sadly,
Access to information legislation, you should be ashamed Kathy Dunderdale! The most regressive act ever! I feel shamed to be associated with a province where my so called representative government is ignoring the public outrage to this act.
From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/19/2012 at 5:36 PM
Received: 6/19/2012 at 5:36 PM
Subject: FW: Bill 29

Sent from my BlackBerry® PlayBook™
www.blackberry.com

From: [REDACTED] 30.(1)
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 5:39 PM
To: Dunderdale, Kathy
Subject: Re: Bill 29

Sent from my BlackBerry® PlayBook™
www.blackberry.com

Dear Mr. Parsons:
I live and vote in your district and I have voted Progressive Conservative provincially since I have been eligible to vote (I'm now 60 years old). I am disappointed with the governments attempt to envoke a veil of secrecy by enacting a very regressive law (Bill 29). I fear that your government's attempt to restrict information, that the public has a right to have access to, will have disastrous implications come the next election. I urge you to vote against it and For the public's right to know what our government is doing on our behalf.

Sent from my BlackBerry® PlayBook™
www.blackberry.com
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/14/2012 at 2:23 PM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 2:23 PM
Subject: FW: Bill 29

-----Original Message-----
From: 30.(1)
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Dunderdale, Kathy
Cc: Forsey, Clayton
Subject: Bill 29

I never thought that I would ever hear myself say that I was ashamed to be a Provincial Tory. That day has arrived and I guess for a good many more. I always have defended the Party through thick and thin but not on this one. I have been a Conservative since I was fourteen years old. That is close on 40 years ago. Answer me this question, "Can all the expert be wrong in saying what they are". In my opinion definitely not. Why else did we have have the spending scandal along with others is because of Government secrecy in the past. This Government has taken a turn for the worst according to public perception. I hear peoples flax all the time about the government because i am so involved. That is only when needed election time. I will tell you if you continue on this path it is a recipe for disaster. Anyway you go ahead and do what you are going to do anyway , but don't be surprised at the results.

ttyl

30.(1)
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST_ADMINISTRATIVE
      GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST_ADMINISTRATIVE
      GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/14/2012 at 10:36 AM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 10:36 AM
Subject: FW: re 29

-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 9:52 AM  
To: Dunderdale, Kathy  
Subject: re 29

ms dunderdale,

I believe the worst mistake a politician can make is to insult the intelligence of the electorate. This is what you have done with bill 29.

This not better for us or the province - you insult us by saying so.

It is a mechanism for this government to coverup the true costs and agendas of the muskrat fiasco.

Sadly, you have committed political suicide with this bill.
Hi,

Your my MHA. Here are some of my concerns and some hard facts on why access to information is important:

None of the following could have come out under the proposed changes to our provincial act
- The details about the F35 fighters;
- The details about the purchases at the G-8-20 summits;
- The details of the Gazebo Gate;
- The details of the robocalls came about through federal access to information requests;
- The constituency scandal went on for years and years because there was no open access for the auditor general to look at the books at the house of assembly;
- The privacy investigator/privacy commissioner only had over 500 requests for information for the entire province so I cannot see why this is an issue. I answer about 10-20 emails a day ranging that are of varying technical difficulty. Why can't the privacy investigator/privacy commissioner deal with that?;

- Why hide anything? You were voted by the people for the people, so why hide information from the people?;
- My vote will be lost if this this bill is passed and so will many others; and,
- It disgraces me that NL is moving in this direction.
E-mail Message

From: Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
To: 30.(1)
Cc: 30.(1)
Sent: 6/14/2012 at 9:33 AM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 9:33 AM
Subject: Bill 29

Why bar access to information? Take for instance the details about the F35 fighters, details about the purchases at the G-8-20 summits, details of the Gazebo Gate, even details of the robocalls came about through federal access to information requests. None of those could have come out under the proposed changes to our provincial act. Really what is our Government trying to hide?

My vote will be lost if this this bill is passed and so will many others. It disgraces me that NL is moving in this direction.
Hello Madam Premier,

I am writing as a lifetime provincial PC voter, and concerned citizen of the great province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I have several questions I need to ask you.

Why is the government so insistent to pass Bill 29, which will lower the accountability level of the provincial government? I saw on Here and Now tonight that the changes will make the government less accountable than the governments of Ethiopia, Uganda, and other third world countries. Is this really the direction you wish to take the province in?

I have always supported the Conservatives in NL, but this bill has put doubt in my head. What does the PC government have to hide? We pay the government to govern, and be as accountable and transparent as possible in the process; this flies in the face of all of that, and strikes me as undemocratic in its very nature. How does cutting the lines of information benefit anyone outside of Confederation Building?

With a filibuster occurring as I write this letter, we are unable to focus on urgent matters, as the opposition rightfully attempts to fight bill 29. There is obviously a reason so many people are concerned about it, why not go back to the drawing board and find a compromise? There are obviously problems with the bill which need to be addressed.

This is one of the first times I have attempted to contact a politician directly, I hope this finds you well, and that you understand how greatly concerned I am about this.

Thank you for your time.

St. John's, NL
-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 6:54 PM
To: Dunderdale, Kathy
Subject: Bill 29

I am disappointed with this recent Bill your party is putting forwards. Please don't make me regret voting for you in the last election. It's not too late to admit your mistake and stop moving forward with this giant step backward.

(Virginia Waters)
Hi,

As our MHA, I want to express my displeasure in Bill 29. And I have a question for you, why does the Provincial Government need to hide information?

The provincial government has given its employees the ability to block the release of anything and it makes me feel our Government is going backwards. We have a right to access information and they plan on taking that away.

This just leaves the doors wide open...or should I say shut to prevent the the public from scrutinizing or recalling those who abuse the system and hide information.

Bill 29 must be repealed!

J
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:O=PSNL/OU-FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier, [EX:O=PSNL/OU-FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/14/2012 at 8:46 AM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 8:46 AM
Subject: FW: Opposing Bill 29

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 2:58 PM
To: Dunderdale, Kathy
Subject: Fwd: Opposing Bill 29

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: [redacted]
Date: Wed, Jun 13, 2012 at 2:43 PM
Subject: Opposing Bill 29
To: dancrummell@gov.nl.ca

I would like to express my extreme dissatisfaction with the tabling of Bill 29. I am opposed to the Bill that will amend the provincial Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act which will limit the public's ability to access information and the Auditor General's ability to request the necessary information to protect the taxpayers of this Province.

A fundamental right of taxpayers is to know the decisions its government is making and that it is in the best interest of the people of this province. Passage of this Bill will allow ministerial briefings to be kept secret, ignore requests for information based on cabinet ministers opinions and stop the auditor general from access to certain records. I take great exception to a bill that will allow ministers of government to make decisions on the secrecy of a document(s). This new scope of authority for MHAs was not what they were elected to do and hinders the democratic right to challenge decisions based on facts. We have a democratic system of government that has established an official opposition party. Bill 29 diminishes the accountability and transparency of a democratic governance to ensure that a government serves and acts in the best interest of the people of this Province. Government scandals of the past were suppose to be lessons for those in power to move to a more open and transparent governance. Yet now we have legislation being implemented by a government who currently have the power of majority to pass a Bill that infringes on the publics democratic right to access information relating to government activities and decisions.

Not only is this regressive legislation but leaves the public wondering why this current government wished to pursue this so aggressively when public opinion clearly shows this is bad legislation.

St. John's NL
Bill 29 is unacceptable and will cost the PC Party my vote, and, I am certain, the vote of many others.
E-mail Message

From: Premier. [EX:O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
To: 
Cc: 
Sent: 6/13/2012 at 10:38 PM
Received: 6/13/2012 at 11:08 PM
Subject: access to information bill

Premier Dunderdale, I'm completely outraged over the proposed changes to the access to information rights of the people in our province. I am a  at . You probably know that the Grade 8 Social Studies program deals with the history of Newfoundland and Labrador. One of the lessons deals with the St. John's riot of 1932 when the people were so upset with the Richard Squire's government's suspected misuse of public funds. One of the discussion questions for this section is whether the students think a politician could possibly get away with such behaviour today. The students almost always say that it couldn't happen today. This usually leads to the discussion of the misuse of funds by MHAs several years ago. The students are always outraged when they hear about this but are happy and relieved to hear that at least those crimes resulted in more openness and accountability in government affairs here in our province. I can only imagine their reactions when they hear about Bill 29. To quote the popular insurance ad on TV: "Even children know when something is wrong." Premier Dunderdale, we need more openness here in Newfoundland and Labrador, not less. You and your government were elected by the people to serve the people. While your majority gives you the power to pass a bill like this it does not give you the right. Please rethink your position. In my fifty-seven years I have not always agreed with everything said and done by the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador. However, I have never felt so strongly about an issue as I do now. As a matter of fact, this is the only time I have ever contacted a government member.
Dear Premier Dunderdale:

I am appalled and disappointed in your government due to the content of Bill 29, currently being debated in the House of assembly. I voted for you in the last election but you have lost my vote and my husband's and many more, I'm sure, due to the Draconian nature of this bill. According to an expert on access to information laws, NL will rate lower than many Third World countries (i.e. Uganda, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Bulgaria and Ethiopia) when this Bill is implemented.

Shame on you!

--

St. John's NL
E-mail Message

From: Premier ([EX/O=PSNL/O=FIRST_ADMINISTRATIVE
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER])
To: Premier
Cc: Premier
Sent: 6/14/2012 at 10:23 AM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 10:24 AM
Subject: bill 29

premier,
i've always respected your decisions, but bill 29 will end your career in politics.

sincerely,
Dear Premier,
I believe that you are sincerely trying to do your best for our Province in all your decisions. Congratulations on the many times that you have made policy changes and budgetary plans that greatly improved the lives and well being of our people especially on the Poverty Reduction Strategy (there are many others). As for this present issue around the Act governing access to information I truly believe that it deserves much more consideration and debate. Regardless of your intentions on this issue, any possibility of future abuse would be sufficient reason to withdraw from passing the bill at this time. I sense that you are writing a page of our history and your history as a Premier that will not be a "bright" one for our common future. I have studied and reflected on this bill since it was introduced in the House. I continue to pray that true wisdom will guide your leadership today and always.
Dear Premier Dunderrdale,

I am very disappointed that your government has decided to cloak itself in secrecy. What happened to your promises of transparency???

The only thing transparent here is how you are trying to enact a bill that will make getting information about what your government is doing next to impossible. Is this what happens to governments when they get power. If you have nothing to hide and are doing what is best for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador then why do you need these draconian measures???

Please Premier, be forward looking. When you enact measures like this it really makes one think.......what are they hiding, what do they want to hide, why do they need to hide anything????

For shame!!! And thank goodness that we have some opposition members that are thinking about the voting public and what is best for us.

A very disappointed Newfoundlander and Labradorian,
Dear Premier,

I am writing to inform you of facts you already know.

1) The government was asked why Bill 29 had to go through and why the additional restrictions on freedom of information was needed
2) The response by government was that too may requests were being made and to make gov efficient
3) This claim was publicly shown to be false by calling out the actual numbers on requests
4) Thus, the government is now seen as wanting to hide information for some reason and it makes you all look bad
5) The result is that unless peoples memory are short, and if the opposition forgets to mention it (yeah right) you are done as the government

You and your government are the elected representatives of the people. If the people do not wish the government to be able to bottle up secrets and restrict the information we can see, your government should see to it that the bill is killed and the information flows as a transparent government should allow it to. To do otherwise is to present yourselves in a light that is clouded in suspicion.

To have one of the strongest majorities in history diminish into defeat in such a short time would be nothing short of terrible. PC was my vote last time around, however the track record of late has not been good, and if any reasonable alternatives present themselves next time around I will have to reconsider.

Consider the people you represent.......

Best regards,
Dear Premier Dunderdale and Minister Collins:

I am growing more and more alarmed about proposed changes to access to information legislation, and I regret I did not contact you earlier to express my strong opposition to the changes you are trying to rush through the House.

I think we must become a more open society, not more closed. Citizens have the right to know what is happening regarding decisions that profoundly affect their lives. They also have the right to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

You, as our elected representatives, do not have the right to keep information from us. This is a paternalistic and disrespectful attitude that has no place in the 21st century.

Minister Collins, I am not at all reassured by your recent outburst in the house. You must listen to truth, not try to deflect it with bluster and trumped-up anger.

I ask you to stop these amendments now! I would appreciate a response to my concerns. Thank you.

--

St. John's, NL
E-mail Message

From: Premier. [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PENDING] 30.(1)
To: Premier. [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PENDING] 30.(1)
Cc:
Sent: 6/14/2012 at 2:07 PM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 2:07 PM
Subject: Stop Bill 29

Good day,

Please stop Bill 29. Taking away our Access to Information is wrong and only makes the actions of the government less transparent. Doing this will only make Newfoundlanders and Labradorians lose faith in you and your party.

Thank you,

St. John's, NL
E-mail Message

From: Inquiries, Justice General [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JUSTICE], Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER], OIPC, Commissioner [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=OIPC], info@nl.ndp.ca [SMTP: info@nl.ndp.ca], Rogers, Gerry [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=GERRYROGERS]

To: 

Cc: 

Sent: 6/14/2012 at 4:40 PM

Received: 6/14/2012 at 4:40 PM

Subject: Bill 29

Good Day,

I'm writing today with shame and sadness in my heart. I moved to St. John's NL in January of 1982, became a citizen three years later and consider myself a proud Newfoundlander....until now!

For the first time in my life I can honestly say that i am ashamed of my government and it's representation of the people. I'm at a loss to explain why the PC party want to send the province backwards? What is it exactly you're trying to hide? Ministerial expenses? Muskrat Falls? Danny Williams Southlands property development? I firmly believe that the only reason for this type of bill is to cover up wrong doing. Whatever happened to transparency? Were this a business that tried to hide documentation, said business would not be a business for long. I thought our government was better than this, i've always defended the PC's and the individual but no more...NDP will have my vote in future.
What are you doing? You are putting the Conservative Party at risk of losing the next election. Why is this bill so important? The majority of people are upset about this legislation but yet your party continues to push it through. One can only conclude that this government has things that it does not want the public to know about. Open and transparent government is taking a blow today but not as big as the PC party will take in the next election!!!!!!!
Kathy,
I am one of the many Newfoundlanders appalled by this legislation!
If you won't listen to the people now.... maybe you will listen come
next election!
E-mail Message

From: Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER], Kennedy, Jerome [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JEROMEKENNEDY], Collins, Felix [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FELICHCOLLINS], Michael, Lorraine [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LORRAINEMichael], Jones, Yvonne [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=YVONNEJONES]

To: 30.(1)

Cc: 30.(1)

Sent: 6/14/2012 at 8:27 PM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 8:27 PM
Subject: Stop Bill 29

Dear Honourable Members of the House of Assembly:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing about the proposed Bill 29.

Access to information is a fundamental right of citizens and media in any democratic country. The limits to Cabinet Secrecy must be clearly, and narrowly, defined if we are to prevent and/or uncover misuse of public funds or abuse of authority within government institutions. To suggest that ATI requests are too time consuming or vexatious is as inappropriate and irrelevant as it would be to make the same suggestions about provincial elections.

I respectfully ask that Bill 29 be withdrawn. It runs contrary to the spirit of the ATIPPA. It reduces the transparency your government had until now worked hard to achieve. And, it is an insult to voters, and to anyone who takes an interest in the administration of government. Please, do not introduce this blot onto your record.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Non-responsive
Dear Kathy Dunderdale:

I want the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to withdraw Bill 29 urgently and permanently with no foot dragging.

Sincerely,
Hello Premier Dunderdale and my MHA for Virginia Waters

As an auditor [redacted] here in St. Johns, I think the disclosure of information is important to ensure accountability. What your government is doing is basically sending a wave of distrust across the province. The logic presented does not make any sense to want to proceed with this bill. I personally want to see accountability and not another fiasco like the recent spending scandal.

At least the auditor general should be allowed access to anything he/she needs.

If it does pass in the House, I will not be voting PC in the next election.

Regards
Dear Brian Tobin

Your disgusting changes to this legislation will not be forgotten in the next election. Can't believe I voted for your guy. Glad he never got elected.
E-mail Message

From: [REDACTED]
To: Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/13/2012 at 12:44 PM
Received: 6/13/2012 at 12:46 PM
Subject: Bill 29

Lenin, Stalin and Hitler would be very proud of your government. Bill 29 is a dirty shot to democracy as we know it. As a longtime PC supporter, shame on you and your government.
Premier Dunderdale,
As a resident of Newfoundland, I am writing to you to express my concern about Bill 29. I am an ordinary citizen and don't usually get much involved with political issues, but I have serious concerns about the possible repercussions Bill 29. I strongly urge you to reconsider this bill.
E-mail Message

From: Premier/[EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
To: Premier Dunderdale
Cc: 6/14/2012 at 7:28 AM
Received: 6/14/2012 at 7:58 AM
Subject: Bill 29—stop please

Premier Dunderdale
Government of NL

June 14, 2012

Dear Premier Dunderdale,

I absolutely oppose Bill29 which obfuscates freedom of information. I am appalled that this kind of bill is being proposed after all the talk of the public's right to know, clarity, honesty, etc. Bill 29 appears to be making a mockery of all that your party and government promised.

You are my Member of the House of Assembly as well as the Province's Premier. As such, I would ask you to register my Strong Disapproval of Bill 29.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

St. John's
Hi,

The provincial government has given its employees the ability to block the release of anything...our Government is going backwards. We have a right to access information and they plan on taking that away.

This just leaves the doors wide open...or should I say shut to prevent the the public from scrutinizing or recalling those who abuse the system and hide information.

Bill 29 must be repealed!

J
Good Day,
What is going on? I voted for this government and for the first time I am doubting my decision. Your government is taking a very worrying step backwards in trying to limit access to information. This bill makes it too easy for cabinet ministers to keep secrets. I am suspicious of any organization that tries to tighten access to its information. Therefore, I wonder what this government is trying to hide from its electorate. I am suspicious about your motives and I will remain that way until I see you move in the opposite direction on this matter. As for my vote next time around, I will wait and see what happens from here on in.
Will the real Kathy Dunderdale please stand up.
Where is Kathy Dunderdale who was protesting with the people of Burin 20-30 years ago standing shoulder to shoulder with the salt of the earth trying to protect the jobs of the people of Burin? Is that the real Kathy Dunderdale? Or is the real Kathy Dunderdale the person who wants to saddle the children of NL with $8 000 000 debt and to bring in a bill so that we can never know how much corruption and stupid mistakes are made by government?
A word of caution to Kathy, look around at the members of government, look past the money and the suits, look at all the male ego's around you and don't let those people influence your thinking. Go back to Burin for two days and get in contact with real people again. Take 'money' and 'votes' out of your vocabulary. You might be at a point where you really think you are doing good because of all she has learned over the years. I just want Kathy to know sometimes what you learn and think you know is not always right.
Dear Kathy Dunderdale:

You and your fellow government should be ashamed with the lastest request to block access to information. Newfoundlanders may have seen a glimmer of hope in you, but not anymore.

You and your ministers should be ashamed to set foot in confederation.

Regretfully voted conservative,
Dear Premier Dunderdale:

I, like so many of my fellow Newfoundlanders, oppose Bill 29, which is currently in debate before the House. This bill is undemocratic in the extreme and represents an essential repeal of positive steps taken by previous administrations. As citizens, we have a right to know.

I am confident that many Newfoundlanders and Labradors will make their dissatisfaction known come the next election.

Sincerely,

--

Non-responsive
Dear Premier Dunderdale,

I am a tax paying citizen of NL. I do NOT support Bill 29. I do not see the explanation to convince anyone how this Bill 29 is needed or how it better serves the people of Newfoundland and Labrador better than the existing act. What I see is that this goes against all insistence towards transparency and accountability. Given recent scandals in our province related to misuse of budgets by some of our representative, across all party lines, I cannot understand how this bill even came to be proposed.

I do NOT support it and I think the people should have time to review it and know more about it. I do not think the majority of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians support this Bill. It is a step backwards.
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier, [EX:O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/13/2012 at 8:47 AM
Received: 6/13/2012 at 8:47 AM
Subject: FW: Letter to Premier from a Concerned Constituent

Dear Premier Dunderdale,

First of all, you are my MHA, but I've never met you in my district as MHA or candidate - neither during campaigns nor since. As a matter of fact, no one I know in the entire district has. So, it's possible you may not be familiar with me nor any of my neighbors in this district. Therefore, I will attempt to acquaint myself to you then.

I am a constituent, a local businessman running two businesses now, and most importantly the custodial parent of three wonderful children living on St. John's, Newfoundland NL.

Often times neighbors talk, especially in the mornings at the school bus stop as we attend to our children awaiting getting the bus to school. Today's topic of conversation was concerning the ATIPPA legislation currently before the house as table by your government. I wish I could say "our government" but the exclusion of even fellows like me (who were die-hard PCs from junior high til recent times) feel disconnected, to put it mildly.

As one of your constituents, a citizen of Newfoundland and Labrador, a taxpayer and someone very interested in the governance of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am asking you to represent me and vote against this current legislation - in your capacity as my MHA. It is firmly my belief that this legislation will further distance the government from the people of Newfoundland and Labrador at a crucial time when transparency and openness is needed. We face a critical time in our history, and considering the Muskrat Falls dilemma in front of us plus the ignoring of using our natural gas as an energy solution, I firmly believe that information must be made available to every concerned citizen who wishes to have it.

Please, do not hide your government from us, the people.

Sincerest regards,

St. John's
Newfoundland and Labrador
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX:/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc:
Sent: 6/13/2012 at 8:45 AM
Received: 6/13/2012 at 8:45 AM
Subject: FW: Bill 29

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 7:21 PM
To: Kennedy, Jerome; Dunderdale, Kathy
Subject: Bill 29

Good day Mr. Kennedy and Mrs Dunderdale

CBC news says "Bill 29 imposes a sweeping range of restrictions on people's right to know what is happening with the provincial government - and their tax dollars."

Comments like this really make me wonder why the provincial would want to pass such a bill. In light of past events that have been uncovered by the auditor general such as MHA overspending, pushing through a bill like this just makes it look like the Dunderdale government is trying to hide something. Not the type of government that I would want running my province.....I'll have to rethink my vote next time :-)

Regards

[REDACTED]
The Hon. Mr Felix Collins,
Minister of Justice and Attorney General,
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Mr Collins,

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to Bill 29 and the government's proposed changes to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. As I understand it, the proposed legislation significantly broadens the range of requests that government ministers and bureaucrats will be able summarily to turn down if they find it inconvenient or embarrassing to release documents or information. Any legislation that unnecessarily restricts citizens' free access to information about their government's actions, deliberations, pronouncements and intentions is unacceptable in a free, civilized and democratic society. Reports in the media have shown that, contrary to your statements, the burden of information requests on the government and government agencies is far from overwhelming, amounting to an average of only eleven per week. Moreover, again contrary to your assertions, the majority of those requests do not come from lazy reporters and opposition politicians, but from private individuals – voters – who in the overwhelming majority of cases have an absolute right to the information they are requesting.

The government's proposal to amend the Access to Information Act can only be reasonably interpreted as an attempt to curtail the public's ability to know what it's government is doing, or proposing to do. That, in turn, can be nothing more than an attempt to cloak the government's actions in more secrecy, and to allow the government to carry out its agenda without due public scrutiny. And may I repeat, although I know that you are aware of it even though you may have forgotten it, that it IS the public's government - not your government.

Yesterday, you publicly defended the proposed legislation by asking the fatuous question "Who out there cares what's in a minister's briefing book?". If that really is the best rationale you have for the proposed legislation, then clearly it is unnecessary. If nobody cared, then there would be no calls for information about it, and thus no need to devise means of refusing the requests. But, as obviously you are only too well aware, what is in the briefing book is hardly the issue here; it is the public's right to know what is in the briefing book, or any other government document, that is under attack by your government. And while I have no doubt your question was rhetorical, I think that you may soon find out how many people care about the curtailing of the government's accountability.

I urge you to reconsider the very ill-advised legislation, Bill 29, that your government is proposing.
Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

[Redacted] 30.(1)
St. John's, NL 30.(1)

cc. The Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Premier
Mr Dwight Ball, Leader of the Official Opposition
Ms Lorraine Michael, Leader of the Third Party
Mr George Murphy, MHA St. John's East.
E-mail Message

From: Premier [EX/G=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
To:  
Cc:  
Sent: 6/12/2012 at 6:51 PM
Received: 6/12/2012 at 6:52 PM
Subject: Stop Bill 29

Dear Premier,

As a citizen of Newfoundland & Labrador I would like to register my sincere displeasure and disgust at Bill 29. Access to information is absolutely essential to a functioning democracy, and your provincial government should be moving towards MORE transparency and accountability, not restricting its citizens' right to know and the auditor general's ability to investigate. Nothing is "frivolous" when it comes to government.

I have enthusiastically voted for the PCs in the past, when Williams was around. I lived in Halifax a few years ago and would happily point out to friends that Newfoundland conservatives were PROGRESSIVE conservatives, and nothing like Harper! The continuous barrage of bad decisions and despicable legislation from your government and your alliance with Harper have completely changed my mind. Over the past year I have become a card-carrying member of the NDP and will work hard for that party before and during the next provincial and federal elections.

You are losing support, and stupid senseless legislation like Bill 29 is EXACTLY why.

Sincerely,

Corner Brook, NL
Premier Dunderdale,

I have been a Progressive Conservative Party supporter for many years but I am appalled by this attempt to limit access to information to the very people who voted for more open and accountable government! With all due respect I encourage you to put a stop to this now and prove to the people of this province that your government has nothing to hide.

St. John's, NL
Canada.

Sent from my iPad
Hello,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for introducing bill 29. Never in my life have I seen so many people in Newfoundland become interested in something overnight. If it was not for this bill the PC’s very well may have had another shot at winning an election.

The secrets will still come out, Danny's numerous scams planned for completion will come to light. It is all going to come out sooner now that people are actually interested. Your government has done what no opposition ever could, get plenty of people interested in changing the government.

Regards,
E-mail Message

From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/12/2012 at 1:51 PM
Received: 6/12/2012 at 1:51 PM
Subject: FW: Bill 29

-----Original Message-----

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 11:52 AM
To: Dunderdale, Kathy; Collins, Felix
Cc: Ball, Dwight; Michael, Lorraine
Subject: Bill 29

Madam Premier, Minister Collins,

I see no way that this bill strengthens the Access to Information Act. In fact, you are weakening it. The government already has provisions dealing with exclusions to the FOI Act requesting information such as businesses doing business with government and/or "Trade Secrets" among other requests.

You are removing any right to appeal now available from the Ombudsman with the exception of the Provincial Supreme Court. Many of us general public citizens of the province can't afford to take this action. Large corporations such as media outlets would be able to afford a court challenge, especially in the media banded together to file an appeal. If such an appeal was successful, would your next bill be to remove the media and the general public from the Public Gallery???

Minister Collins, your government, in particular, your department, has regressed in the FOI with this legislation, rather than progressed. Your government is removing even the Auditor General (AG) and the Ombudsman from requesting information. The AG requires information available only to Cabinet and its members to perform his functions, i.e. looking after how our money is spent and ensuring that the Public Service is acting in the best interests of the province. Without this access, he is handcuffed in the performance of his duties.

The only decision anybody except the PC Government can reach, is that government is preparing either a Bill or has a file that they are afraid of the general public getting access to under the FOI Act. With the Department Minister having the final say, this is grossly biased. If there is something in the department that the Bureaucrats want hidden they only have to go to the Minister and let her/him know that they do not want that information made public. We all know that it's the bureaucrats who run the government. The PC's have said that they are an open government - Prove it to the general public by removing this bill and allowing a Free Vote.

Cape Broyle, NL
A0A 1P0
Dear Ms. Burke:

As a constituent and more importantly as one of your employers and taxpayer, I strongly disagree with the new amendments to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Barring the auditor general from a wider array of records will only bring further public distrust of government. The public, as the employer of all members of this government has a right to know how and where tax dollars are being spent. As a matter of fact, I am very seriously thinking I will organize a petition against these amendments as they are so undemocratic it is shameful. This government is acting more like a dictatorship than a democracy. This Progressive Conservative party has received my last vote.

Your constituent,

Barachois Brook
From: Dunderdale, Kathy [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATHYDUNDERDALE]
To: Premier [EX/O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PREMIER]
Cc: 
Sent: 6/12/2012 at 8:55 AM
Received: 6/12/2012 at 8:55 AM
Subject: FW: Bill 29? Why This, Why Now???

I am appalled at Bill 29's potential to block Freedom of Information requests

Given Stephen Harper's use of a financial budget to change over 70 laws, especially Environmental Laws, I wonder why the Provincial Conservative government is moving in this direction - Why This? and Why Now?

Perhaps it's related to the upcoming signing of the European Trade Agreement or other agreements that might affect our fishery, our resources, our fresh water, our local employment potentials.

Our government was elected to act on behalf of its citizens! If the government cannot defend its decisions, actions or signed agreements they cannot be allowed to hide behind a curtain of secrecy.

This must be stopped.
Dear Premier,

The government’s new information access legislation is puzzling and disappointing to the point of speechlessness. What does the government hope to gain? This move can only weaken the standing and dignity of the Progressive Conservatives in Newfoundland and Labrador. Please, please reconsider this move.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 5:37 PM
To: Dunderdale, Kathy
Subject: Bill 29
Dear Mr. Collins

I am writing to express my disgust at your new Bill 29. It's funny how arrogant politicians get when in a position of government for too long. I'm not even going to bother to write a long winded explanation of how what you just did erodes democracy. I'm sure you know. I wonder if you know that it won't be forgotten come the next provincial election. Or have the progressive conservatives in NL gotten so secure that they think they are unbeatable? For the record I voted for you last time.
It is obvious to me that this legislation is regressive and a move back from where the PC government clearly stated it wanted to go. Why the lack of transparency? I am totally disgusted with this piece of legislation and, while I voted PC last time, if this act is made law I will NOT be voting conservative next time, simply based on this proposed Act. And, I will not forget in the next 3.5 years!

St. John's, NL
Dear Terry,

I am completely against the changes discussed in the enclosed article.

I truly hope that you vote against the Orwellian Bill 29 and that it fails. As a non-partisan voter, I have been able to vote for you in the past but should this vote pass, I will never vote for the PC's again. The changes are draconian and a step backward in time. THIS is how all the theft took place and why Collins, et al served time. There was not enough transparency in days gone by and Bill 29 reverts to those horrible thief enabling days. To reduce the powers of the Auditor General as well...? I am aghast!

You may as well join the CPC Feds in their gross dysfunction because your party will no longer be permitted to use the term "Progressive". This is the most "Regressive" piece of legislation in NL's history! Terry, I've met you. You cannot want to be a party to this vile and deceitful power play.

Please do everything in your power to fight this travesty and advise me soonest of your intentions.

I hope that I can soon thank you for doing the right thing...


CBS, NL

Bcc's Family and friends
Premier Dunderdale,

On the day of your election, I was actually a little excited. Although I am personally non-partisan, I thought the election of our first woman premier would be beneficial for the status of women in Newfoundland politics. You've demonstrated by proposing bill 29 that any hope I had reserved for positive steps to be taken in Newfoundland politics was sorely misplaced.

After reviewing your handiwork, I'm stuck for words to describe it beyond "authoritarian." In democratic society, citizens are entitled to government information especially where their tax dollars are concerned. Denying access to this basic democratic necessity is bad enough but the restriction of content that is obtainable by the auditor general removes from the government all accountability and eliminates the purpose of the office.

Given that your government would be so low as to legitimately propose such a measure, I assume you will also be in lockstep with the federal conservatives where communications are concerned and this e-mail will be promptly ignored after having been passed through a low level staffer so I'll end on a simple note and try not to drag it out too long. If this bill passes, your political career will be ending sooner rather than later.

Warm regards...
Dear Premier,

"I guess when a government has nothing to offer, it only has everything to hide"

Well done!
Premier,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 9:43 PM
To: Premier,
Subject: Re: appropriate

Who defines appropriate? How will I know?

St.John's

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Premier
To: [Redacted] 30.(1)
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:31 PM
Subject: RE: UNBELIEVABLE

Dear [Redacted] 30.(1)

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Dunderdale. Please be assured that your comments will be given appropriate attention.

Kindest Regards,

Chantalle Hull
Office of the Premier

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 7:32 PM
To: Premier,
Cc: Collins, Felix
Subject: UNBELIEVABLE

I am appalled at the latest arrogant and backward move of the PC government to restrict freedom of information. In considering the breach of trust that occurred just a short time ago with the money spending scandal of the members of the House of Assembly, a government telling us that they are going to be more transparent, accountable and open by closing their books is both insulting, shameful and one good way to not be re-elected.

St.John's

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Premier,

From: [Redacted] 30.(1)
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2012 1:44 AM
To: Premier; Michael, Lorraine; Jones, Yvonne
Subject: RE: Bill 29

No, it won't be: the bill just passed. Don't insult me by pretending. I am extremely disappointed in this government.

On Jun 14, 2012 8:49 PM, "Premier," <premier@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
Dear [Redacted] 30.(1)

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Dunderdale. Please be assured that your comments will be given appropriate attention.

Kindest Regards,

Chantalle Hull
Office of the Premier

-----Original Message-----
From: [Redacted] 30.(1)
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 6:10 PM
To: Premier; Kennedy, Jerome; Collins, Felix; Davis, Paul A; Rogers, Gerry
Subject: Bill 29

Dear Honourable Members of the House of Assembly:

My name is [Redacted]. I live in St. John's, NL. I have graduated (twice) from Memorial University, and am [Redacted]. I am writing about the proposed Bill 29.

Access to information is a fundamental right of citizens and media in any democratic country. The limits to Cabinet Secrecy must be clearly, and narrowly, defined if we are to prevent and/or uncover misuse of public funds or abuse of authority within government institutions. To suggest that ATI requests are too time consuming or vexatious is as inappropriate and irrelevant as it would be to make the same suggestions about provincial elections.

I respectfully ask that Bill 29 be withdrawn. It runs contrary to the spirit of the ATIPPA. It is reduces the transparency your government had until now worked hard to achieve. And, it is an insult to voters,
and to anyone who reads the news or takes an interest in the administration of government. Please, please, please do not introduce this blot onto your record.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Redacted] 30.(1)

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Ms Hull,
Thank you for your reply. Can you please explain in detail what "appropriate attention" my message will be given? I expect that my message should be read and responded to by Premier Dunderdale, as she is who I addressed in my previous message.

Regards,

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Dunderdale. Please be assured that your comments will be given appropriate attention.

Kindest Regards,

Chantalle Hull
Office of the Premier

Mrs Dunderdale,
As an elected official, you may need to be reminded that your are an ELECTED OFFICIAL who was elected to ensure that any actions on your part are in the best interests of the people of this province are your priority. Bill 29 proves you are not capable of doing that job.
Listen to the people and check out the public forums and you may actually hear/see what the people of this province expect from our government, and it is most certainly the opposite of what you propose with Bill 29. Bill 29 is not acceptable and will ensure your party's demise in this province.

Regards,
information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
Premier,

From: [Redacted] 30.1
Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2012 1:25 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Bill 29

Thank you but please let her know it wasn’t a good day for Democracy yesterday - it saddens and makes me angry at the same time, I’m not alone, everyone I know feels the same way - we are going backward and that’s scary for any society so I wonder how many more mistakes and waste of money will happen in the future, and as a taxpayer it’s really frustrating.

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Premier.
To: [Redacted] 30.1
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 7:42 PM
Subject: RE: Bill 29

Dear [Redacted]: 30.1

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Dunderdale. Please be assured that your comments will be given appropriate attention.

Kindest Regards,
Chantalle Hull
Office of the Premier

From: [Redacted] 30.1
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 6:21 PM
To: Premier,
Subject: Re: Bill 29

I am shocked at your government trying to pass Bill 29 - secrets from the Auditor General and from the people who pay your wages - it’s a great disappointment - please rethink this. The Auditor General is the best person that happened to Newfoundland - he cleaned up a huge mess a few years back, money that people have worked and sweated to find out was wasted by individuals that have no ethics. We all want to be able to know what’s going on - we should have no secrets - You are an intelligent woman, you must know that people are angry about this bill and it will effect your reputation, because you are the "head" of our govt in NL. again, please rethink this, you say you listen to the people, please listen.
Thank you
A Troubled citizen

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
You deserve a medal for the help you have given the province in the last few months. Your introduction of bill 29 has absolutely guaranteed you will not form the next government. What a wonderful issue to bring change to your sad pathetic sack of people you call a government. I look forward to all of the secrets coming out. God only knows what other treacherous things were done by his highness the turd.

Please keep up the good work at destroying the PC brand both provincially and federally.

Regards,
Premier,  

From:  
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:35 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: TRIM: RE: Bill 29  
TRIM Dataset: 05  
TRIM Record Number: OCOR2012/3205  
TRIM Record URI: 155940  

Dear [REDACTED]  

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Dunderdale. Please be assured that your comments will be given appropriate attention.  

Kindest Regards,  

Chantalle Hull  
Office of the Premier  

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 7:21 PM  
To: Kennedy, Jerome; Dunderdale, Kathy  
Subject: Bill 29  

Good day Mr. Kennedy and Mrs Dunderdale  

CBC news says "Bill 29 imposes a sweeping range of restrictions on people’s right to know what is happening with the provincial government — and their tax dollars."  

Comments like this really make me wonder why the provincial would want to pass such a bill. In light of past events that have been uncovered by the auditor general such as MHA overspending, pushing through a bill like this just makes it look like the Dunderdale government is trying to hide something. Not the type of government that I would want running my province......I'll have to rethink my vote next time :-)

Regards  

[REDACTED]  
Harbour Grace
Premier,

From: Premier, Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:29 PM
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: TRIM: RE: Bill 29

TRIM Dataset: O5
TRIM Record Number: OCOR2012/3198
TRIM Record URI: 155919

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Dunderdale. Please be assured that your comments will be given appropriate attention.

Kindest Regards,

Chantalle Hull
Office of the Premier

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 5:27 PM
To: Premier,
Subject: Bill 29

Premier Dunderdale,

On the day of your election, I was actually a little excited. Although I am personally non-partisan, I thought the election of our first woman premier would be beneficial for the status of women in Newfoundland politics. You've demonstrated by proposing bill 29 that any hope I had reserved for positive steps to be taken in Newfoundland politics was sorely misplaced.

After reviewing your handiwork, I'm stuck for words to describe it beyond "authoritarian." In democratic society, citizens are entitled to government information especially where their tax dollars are concerned. Denying access to this basic democratic necessity is bad enough but the restriction of content that is obtainable by the auditor general removes from the government all accountability and eliminates the purpose of the office.

Given that your government would be so low as to legitimately propose such a measure, I assume you will also be in lockstep with the federal conservatives where communications are concerned and this e-mail will be promptly ignored after having been passed through a low level staffer so I'll end on a simple note and try not to drag it out too long. If this bill passes, your political career will be ending sooner rather than later.

Warm regards...

[REDACTED]