September 18, 2014

Dear [Redacted],

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: SNL-012-2014]

On August 18, 2014, Service NL received your request for access to the following records:

I am requesting, under the Access to Information Act, details pertaining to prepaid funerals and, specifically, the following items:

For the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013:

- The total number of funeral homes licensed to sell prepaid funerals in Newfoundland and Labrador;
- The total number of audited statements (of trust accounts) submitted by licensed sellers;
- The total number of examinations and investigations conducted of sellers’ trust accounts by staff of Service NL; and
- The number of staff employed by Service NL, dedicated to conducting examinations and investigations of the sellers of prepaid funerals (i.e. positions filled).

I am pleased to inform you that your request for information has been granted. The total number of funeral homes licensed to sell prepaid funeral services in the 2013 calendar year can be found at: http://www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/pre_paid_funeral/pre_paid_funeral_service_sellers_2013.html.

There were 29 audited statements of trust accounts submitted by licensed sellers of prepaid funeral services during the 2013 calendar year. Five examinations/investigations of sellers of prepaid funeral services were conducted during this period.

The Financial Services Regulation Division is not structured in a way whereby a staff member is dedicated to conducting examinations and investigations solely of licensed sellers of prepaid funeral contracts. Within the Division there are five positions which conduct examinations and investigations of individuals and companies operating in the securities, insurance, real estate, mortgage broker and prepaid funeral industries. During 2013, two of those positions were vacant for part of the year.
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 ATIPP Coordinator at 729-5510.

Sincerely,

LEIGH PUDDESTER
Deputy Minister