December 9, 2016

Re:  Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: FIN-77-2016]

On November 16, 2016, the Department of Finance received your request for access to the following records/information:

“All correspondence sent to and from the Minister relating to the dismissals of communications staff on October 31st, 2016.”

The Department of Finance is pleased to advise that your request has been granted and is provided in the attached.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act).

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. The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500
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.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it 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 letter posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests 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 by telephone at 709-729-2082, or by email at bethbartlett@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Beth Bartlett
ATIPP Coordinator
Government Streamlines Communications Positions

The Provincial Government announced today that it has eliminated 13 communications positions. This decision corresponds with the previous elimination of senior executive positions at the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister level.

Executive Council and seven government departments are impacted by this communications restructuring which has resulted in the elimination of six public relations specialist positions, four media relations manager positions and three communications director positions. Ten of the 13 positions have been vacant and were eliminated in June 2016, while the remaining three positions coincide with the departmental reorganization which occurred on August 17, 2016.

The cost associated with the elimination of these positions is $132,000 for pay in lieu of notice. The changes announced today were identified through a close review of the structure of government departments. These changes will result in a leaner government structure with more efficient planning, better management framework and sound governance.

Through these eliminations government has achieved a 31 per cent reduction in communications positions; this is in addition to the 20 per cent reduction in assistant deputy minister positions announced last week, and the 19 per cent reduction in deputy minister positions announced in August. Government recognizes and appreciates the dedication of all public service employees and appreciates their commitment to the work of government.

QUICK FACTS
- The Provincial Government has eliminated 13 communications positions impacting seven departments and Executive Council.
- The cost associated with the elimination of these positions is $132,000 for pay in lieu of notice.
- These changes will result in a leaner government structure with more efficient planning, better management framework and sound governance.
Tansy Mundon  
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2016 10 31  

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