Dear [Name],

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: MA/17/2017]

On February 22, 2017, the Department of Municipal Affairs received your request for access to the following records/information:

"I wish to obtain the 2015 Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador speech given by the minister at the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador convention. As well as the 2015 Council of Federation Speech given by Premier Davis at COF."

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the department to provide access to the requested information. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

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, 2015. 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 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 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 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 me by telephone at 729-6528 or by e-mail at scottwinters@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Scott Winters
Manager of Accountability / ATIPP Coordinator
Premier Paul Davis
MNL Convention Banquet
Gander Airport – International Side
Saturday, November 7 @ 5:30 p.m.

Good evening,

It is my pleasure to be here with you all this evening and it is wonderful to see so many municipal leaders.

I want to begin by thanking all of you in this room for your significant efforts and devotion to communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. Your dedication, commitment and efforts do not go unrecognized by this government. I also want to personally thank Churence, for his commitment and dedication over the years and I wish him well in his future endeavors.
I am extremely pleased to say that together, the Provincial Government and municipalities, we have made some significant achievements in the past number of years.

I want to impress upon you this evening, the partnership that has been created between this government, municipalities and Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador.

To take you back, in 2008, our government recognized the need to make infrastructure more affordable for communities. That is why our government introduced new cost-shared ratios in 2008 for municipal infrastructure projects, which are continuing to help make infrastructure investments more affordable for our communities. We maintained these cost sharing ratios in Budget 2015, and also provided for a provincial investment of approximately $119 million in municipal infrastructure to complete new and ongoing projects under existing municipal infrastructure programs.
Let's just talk about municipal infrastructure for a moment. As I travel across this vast province, I see the significant infrastructure investments that our government has delivered in partnership with communities. I see the recreational facilities, the improved roads, new municipal buildings. But it is not about the bricks and mortar; it is about the people of our province having reliable, affordable quality services. It is about building and strengthening communities that we are proud to live in and proud to call home.

In fact, between 2008 and 2015, we have approved in excess of $800 million in provincial funding for municipal infrastructure projects, resulting in new and improved infrastructure in communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. With federal and municipal contributions factored in the total investment in municipal infrastructure since 2008 is in excess of $1.3 billion.
In addition, in recognition of the need for continued investment in municipal infrastructure, and building on the three-year $200 million municipal infrastructure programs announced in 2014, as announced in this year’s budget, our government committed to a $175 million investment in new projects for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. This is in addition to provincial funding that will be provided over the coming years to leverage federal funding under the new Building Canada Fund.

These significant investments and levels of funding are enabling our communities to secure, develop and improve infrastructure to support long-term growth and sustainability into the future.
While taking a measured approach to budgeting this year, having to deal with the fiscal realities facing our province, our government didn’t jeopardize the efforts that were invested by community leaders and officials working on the community sustainability partnership.

We made the choice to further invest in our municipalities.

Building on the strong supports and significant investments our government made in communities throughout our province over the last decade, Budget 2015 investments provided further support for a strong and sustainable future for our communities.

The new community sustainability partnership that was delivered through Budget 2015, was more than fiscal in nature – there are new revenues, but there are other supports for our communities which are equally important.
Through the initiatives provided under this new community sustainability partnership, an additional $46 million will be invested in communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador over the next three years and $25 million thereafter. These new investments are in addition to the existing revenues government currently provides to the municipal sector.

A rebate will be provided to municipalities and local service districts of 25 per cent of the provincial portion of the harmonized sales tax beginning in January 2016 and will increase to 57.14 per cent in January 2017. This will provide approximately $1.9 million in new revenue for the 2015-16 year, approximately $10 million in 2016-17 and over $17 million annually thereafter.

Municipalities will receive a portion of our provincial revenue from gasoline tax beginning in Budget 2015, starting at 0.5 cent per litre in 2015-2016 and increasing to one cent per litre in 2017-18.
Through the new municipal operating grant formula announced in 2013, and the increased annual investment of $6 million provided for in 2014, over 80% of the eligible municipalities received an increase in operating grants and none saw a decrease. Responding to the need for predictability in this funding so that communities can plan ahead, Budget 2015 provided a three year commitment to municipal operating grants, at the $22 million annual investment level.

We also know from our extensive review that revenue alone will not address all the challenges faced by our municipalities, especially our smaller ones whose challenges are very different from that of larger towns and cities.
Our government has recognized that smaller municipalities in particular need operating assistance with their drinking water systems and help understanding what they need to do regarding the new federal wastewater regulations.

I am pleased to tell you that the three regional service boards are implementing regional water and wastewater operator services from October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2019 targeting a pilot group of communities.

This initiative provides for trained water operators to offer much-needed support to small communities that are experiencing challenges in the operations of their water systems. Many of these communities are also challenged in dealing with their obligations associated with assessing and monitoring their sewer outfalls as per the new federal wastewater regulations. Through this investment of approximately $1
million over the 3.5 year pilot, these operators will provide assistance and advice to help build capacity in these communities.

To further assist our communities in the area of clean and safe drinking water, we engaged a consultant to focus exclusively on solutions to reduce the number of boil water advisories. While boil water advisories are necessary to reduce the risk of water contamination and protect our residents, many can be eliminated through proper operation and maintenance of water disinfection systems already owned by those communities. This initiative will provide needed guidance to help communities identify what steps are required so that their boil water advisory could be lifted.

We are also seeing interest in the utilization of the provisions in the Lands Act regarding the creation of reserves to assist municipalities in acquiring Crown lands at market value in a phased approach for development.
The conditions of the Crown lands reserves allow a municipality to purchase parcels of Crown lands at market value within the reserve area in phases over a five year period as demand and finances warrant. This will further enhance a municipality's ability to avail of economic and social development opportunities to grow their communities.

Crown lands is something that I have prioritized as Premier. I aligned the Lands Branch with the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs and requested Minister Hutchings strike a review committee to review the Crown lands legislation and associated business processes.

Our government completed consultations last Spring and just last week Minister Hutchings announced the outcomes of the Lands Act review.
The report is available on the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs website and I encourage you to view it. There are numerous positive outcomes that we will begin implementing immediately.

Areas where immediate changes will be made include:

- Simplifying the application process;
- Introducing a way for the public to report unauthorized occupation;
- Reducing the response time for referral agencies to review applications resulting in quicker approval times; and
- Making more Crown lands information available online through the Land Use Atlas and the department’s website.
The main themes of the report are improving efficiency and timelines, modernizing the legislation and providing more assessable information on Crown lands policies and procedures. The changes include:

- Reinstating squatters’ rights for any 20 year continuous period within a municipality and a 30 year continuous period outside a municipality from 1957 to 2007 to provide a fair and balanced approach for all residents;
- A 15 metre shoreline reservation to protect public access of shorelines; and
- The Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs will undertake a public compliance initiative – individuals can come forward and where appropriate obtain titles.

Speaking back to the community sustainability partnership, recognizing each order of government has an important role to play in sustaining
our communities, new accountability measures are also being implemented.

We also know that infrastructure planning for our municipal sector is important. Accordingly, the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs is beginning development of a provincial municipal asset management framework that will provide further details on the current state of municipal infrastructure in the province. The department will consult with the existing Joint Infrastructure Committee, which has representation from MNL and other stakeholders, as it works to develop this framework.

As announced through the community sustainability partnership, we said we would conduct consultations regarding the potential expansion of the authority for municipalities to allow for blending of business and realty taxes. I am pleased to say that those consultations have now concluded.
Even with the new revenues and capacity supports we are providing through this review, to ensure we have a sustainable future for our communities, there are other opportunities that it is incumbent on us to explore – one of which is a potential regional governance structure.

During our review, stakeholders stated that they felt the status quo is not sustainable.

We have put an advisory committee in place with representation from Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, the Professional Municipal Administrators, the departments of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development and Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs, my Youth Advisory Committee, as well as the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire services.
This advisory committee will examine whether a regional governance model exists that would further improve sustainability, and enhance, not detract from current local governments. Such a model would need to support our local governments, facilitate regional services and drive regional economic development, as well as build capacity to make our existing local governments stronger and more sustainable.

Informed by the work of this committee, the Provincial Government will conduct consultations with the public, the municipal sector, communities and other stakeholders beginning in early 2016.

By working together with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador and all of you here in this room, we have created a new partnership that will benefit communities throughout our province and the people who call these communities home.
In addition to the new community sustainability partnership, we have been making progress in addressing infrastructure needs through our municipal capital works program, with key priority areas including improving drinking water and waste water systems as well as recreational infrastructure projects.

Our government is at the table and willing to invest and work with municipal leaders to ensure residents in our communities are provided with quality services and improved infrastructure.

Through these new initiatives and supports and the significant investments provided in recent years, our government will continue supporting all regions of the province, especially rural communities, as they develop initiatives and focus their efforts to support, maintain and grow their communities.

Thank you.
Gala Dinner – Delta Hotel
Honourable Paul Davis, Premier
Thursday, July 16, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Good evening,

Welcome to Newfoundland and Labrador and to the 2015 Summer Meeting of Canada’s Premiers.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to host you in our province.

I’m sure that many of you have now experienced the hospitality of our people, the richness of our culture and heritage, and have seen, or perhaps even explored, the vast landscape and beauty of our smiling land.

For those of you who have not visited our province before, I hope you leave with a warm and lasting impression.
Newfoundland and Labrador has become known for being an energy warehouse. From oil and gas exploration taking place off our shores, to the mining and production of mineral commodities throughout the province, and to the construction of Muskrat Falls, we are developing our natural resources for the benefit of our people.

The Muskrat Falls Project, now in its third year of construction, will meet Newfoundland and Labrador’s energy needs into the future and deliver significant long-term value to the people of the province. In 2014, 3,274 residents of Newfoundland and Labrador worked on the project at peak, representing 81 per cent of the project’s workforce. The project has also resulted in tremendous economic benefits in Newfoundland and Labrador, with $394 million invested in over 500 businesses in 2014.
The revenues from the province’s natural resources have enabled us to provide unprecedented investments in projects such as new and renovated schools, new health care facilities, upgraded road infrastructure and new and enhanced municipal infrastructure. In fact, investments in infrastructure alone has generated nearly $3.7 billion in GDP, $2.7 billion in labour compensation and over 47,000 person years of employment in the province over the past 11 years.

In addition to other matters of economic and social importance, the issues we discussed today will be discussed in further detail tomorrow. I am confident that by working collaboratively we can benefit from our shared experiences and continue to foster and grow our interprovincial relations.

I look forward to continuing our productive dialogue and to the successful conclusion of our meetings tomorrow. But tonight, I invite
you to experience and enjoy the wonderful talent and entertainment of some of Newfoundland and Labrador’s finest sons and daughters.

Thank you.