April 27, 2017

Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Our File #: EDU/030/2017)

On March 28, 2017 the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

"I would like to request for last 5 years or so copies of all written communications (e.g. emails, memos, reports, etc) that discuss the rationale behind cancelling the plans for a new school for the Mobile School system in favour of the proposed extension to Mobile Central High building including financial reports."

A decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide access to some of the requested information and the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

Access to the remaining records, and/or 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):

Section 40: Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

(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 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed 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.

You may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of 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. 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.

P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 4J6 t 709.729.1828 f 709.729.3462
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 the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-7425 or by e-mail at AmandaGarland@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Amanda Garland
Manager of Information Services
ATIPP Coordinator

Enclosure
Minister Kirby:

I reference the attached letter from you responding to a request by me for an update on a new school for the Bay Bulls to Baullne Region and your indication that the planning was ongoing with a consultant hired to suggest possible sites with no time line identified. Yet In your Budget 2016 there is a cancellation of project with a reference for a consultant to assess an extension to Mobile Central High. I am wondering if you could give an explanation of the change in direction and the rationale to change the decision to build a new school which is much needed for the region. I know a consultants report completed in 2015 assessed options of new build and Extension to Mobile central high and landed on new middle school. I am available to discuss at your convenience with you and or officials.

Regards
Keith
Mr. Keith Hutchings, MHA
District of Ferryland
5th Floor, West Block
Confederation Building

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

Thank you for your letter dated January 12, 2016 requesting an update regarding the new school planned for the Witless Bay/Mobile area.

At this time the project is still in the early planning stages. Planning and programming, as well as an assessment of potential sites in the area, is currently being undertaken by the consultant, Architecture 49 Inc. in consultation with the NL English School District and Departments of Transportation and Works, and Education and Early Childhood Development.

Please note that a detailed schedule for this project is not yet available.

Sincerely,

DALE KIRBY, MHA
District of Mount Scio
Minister

cc: Hon. Al Hawkins
Hi Janet

Can you have Minister or Chair of English School District clarify was the approved school cancelled because of cost or have you determined that the extension to Mobile School will be solely a cheaper option and or will meet the over capacity needs as St Bernard's in Witless Bay and if so how?, in light of previous consultants report which recommended a new middle school to deal with over capacity.

Thanks
Keith

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Please see below Minister Dale Kirby’s response to your e-mail dated April 21, 2016.

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

Thank you for your e-mail on April 21, 2016 regarding cancellation of the Mobile/Witless Bay Middle School in Budget 2016.

As part of the 2016-17 budget process, Government needed to reduce provincial expenditures while at the same time reduce borrowing. Among other measures announced in Budget 2016, a number of capital projects have been cancelled or deferred across various departments. While it is recognized that additional school capacity is required for the Mobile Central High school system, a more cost effective solution is required given the province’s fiscal capacity. As such, in 2016-17 Government approved an extension to Mobile Central High.

Sincerely,

DALE KIRBY, MHA
District of Mount Scio
Minister

EXC/16/4/707

Janet Cormey
Please see below Minister Dale Kirby’s response to your e-mail dated May 27, 2016.

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

Thank you for your e-mail of May 27, 2016 seeking clarification regarding the cancellation of the new Mobile/Witless Bay Middle School in Budget 2016.

The consultant’s report considered several options and, although a new middle school was recommended and announced, unfortunately the cost of a new school is more than double the cost of two extensions and more than triple the cost of one. The Province had to make a fiscally responsible decision which also addressed the immediate classroom requirements for the school system.

As part of the 2016-17 budget process, Government needed to reduce provincial expenditures while at the same time reduce borrowing. Among other measures announced in Budget 2016, a number of capital projects have been cancelled or deferred across various departments. While it is recognized that additional school capacity is required for the Mobile Central High school system (i.e. St. Bernard’s Elementary and Mobile Central High), a more cost effective solution is required given the province’s fiscal situation. As such, in 2016-17 Government approved an extension to Mobile Central High. The extension to Mobile Central High is expected to address the immediate capacity needs of this school system, including St. Bernard’s Elementary. Given the fiscal situation facing the province, school infrastructure costs needed to be reduced while also meeting the infrastructure objectives which, in this case, are to address school capacity requirements in the Witless Bay/Mobile area.

This project is a priority for Government and, as such, planning and design will proceed as soon as possible. Government will work with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District throughout this process to ensure the needs of this school system are met.

Sincerely,

DALE KIRBY, MHA
District of Mount Scio
Minister

EXC/16/5/1144

Janet Cormey
Secretary to Minister
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
P. O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709-729-5040
Fax: 709-729-0414
February 16, 2017

Minister Dale Kirby
Department of Education
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL Canada
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Kirby:

Re: New School for Mobile/Witless Bay School System

On February 11, 2016 you wrote advising that: “At this time the project is still in the early planning stages. Planning and programming, as well as an assessment of potential sites in the area, currently being undertaken by the consultant, Architecture 49 Inc. in consultation with the NL English School District, Departments of Transportation &Works, and Education & Early Childhood Development.”

Subsequently Budget 2016 announced the cancellation of the new middle school for the Mobile/ Witless Bay School System. Budget 2016 also announced the building of additional classrooms to Mobile High School to deal with the issue of capacity with the Mobile/Witless Bay School System, but with no clear explanation on how this would relieve student pressure.

I have written the Chair of NLESD on January 5, 2017 on the approval process of additional classrooms for Mobile School and how this would alleviate the issues identified in Bae New Plan Report in 2014. There is significant concern from the region on how the decision will accommodate the needs of the student body.

In addition, a recent Statistics Canada Survey identifies at least one of the towns in the region as one of the fastest growing towns in the province, a clear indication of residential growth requiring regional infrastructure such as a new school.
I ask for an update on a new middle school and what proposed changes to Mobile High School are being considered and how that could meet the needs of the region.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

KEITH HUTCHINGS, M.H.A.
Ferryland District

c.c Minster Al Hawkins, Minster of Transportation
Mayor Patrick O'Driscoll, Town of Bay Bulls
Mayor Sebastian Drepres, Town of Witless Bay
Randy Devine, President, LSD Mobile
Jason Power, President, LSD Tors Cove
Madonna Doyle, LSD Bauline
Harold Mullowney, Southern Shore Joint Council-Chair
St: Bernard’s School Council
   Tom Kennedy (Chair)
   Leslie Ann Corrigan (Co-Chair)
   Greg White
   Allana Ronayne
   Melissa Paul
   Gerri-Lynn Devereaux
   Susan Stamp
   Alun Young
   Charlene Power
   Marlène Curran
This was a combined response by Education and TW late Saturday in response to a story that ran earlier in the day.

EXC/17/2/185
February 27, 2017

Mr. Keith Hutchings, M.H.A.
District of Ferryland
5th Floor, East Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2017 seeking an update on a new middle school for the Mobile/Witless Bay school system, and what proposed changes to Mobile Central High School are being considered.

As I stated in my correspondence to you on June 6, 2016, Budget 2016 communicated Government’s decision to not proceed with a new middle school for the Mobile/Witless Bay school system. Rather, Government decided to proceed with an extension to Mobile Central High School as a more cost effective solution to addressing school capacity expectations in the Mobile/Witless Bay area. The recent Statistics Canada census results confirm projected student growth in this area which was reflected in Government’s decision to proceed with the extension project.

As an update to the extension project, in November 2016 a request for proposals for planning and design services resulted in SNC Lavalin Inc. being chosen as the successful proponent, and planning is well underway. As well, initial site visits have been made by the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, the Department of Transportation and Works and the consultant. The project will be going to tender later this year with completion anticipated in the fall of 2018.

Sincerely,

DALE KIRBY, MHA
District of Mount Scio
Minister

cc: Hon. Al Hawkins
From: Gardiner, Bob B
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:49 PM
To: Pickard, Christopher; Walsh, Ed; Smith, Paul C
Subject: RE: Mobile and Witless Bay schools ..

Good with me.

Bob Gardiner
Deputy Minister
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P. O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B4J6

Phone: (709) 729 5086
Fax: (709) 729 0414

From: Pickard, Christopher
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Walsh, Ed; Gardiner, Bob B; Smith, Paul C
Subject: Fw: Mobile and Witless Bay schools ..

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Pickard, Christopher <ChristopherPickard@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Foote, Carla; Joyce, Luke; Barfoot, Scott; Cannizzaro, Michelle
Subject: Fw: Mobile and Witless Bay schools ..

See request below from CBC. EECD will send a response:

Draft response for consideration in response to the below request from CBC for either an interview or a statement:

In Newfoundland and Labrador, our K-12 public education system consists of 258 schools with more than 66,000 students. Predicted population increase for a region is a key factor in making decisions to allocate resources for school infrastructure.

Analysis has determined that the planned extension to Mobile Central High School is the best available way to balance the needs of students and educators with current economic realities our greater education system is facing. The time and cost to complete a whole new school building would be significantly more than the cost of the planned extension.
All infrastructure funding requests from both the English and French school districts are carefully evaluated based on a number of key factors, including the state of any aging infrastructure, changing demographics and balancing the needs of the rest of the provincial K-12 school system.

We are continuing to work with the English School District to ensure students' needs are being met with the best available infrastructure we can provide based on population needs and other factors.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

---

From: AMY JOY <xxxx@cbc.ca>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:01 PM  
To: Marnell, Debbie; Pickard, Christopher  
Subject: Re: Mobile and Witless Bay schools ..

Hi there!  
Hope you're having a good day.  
Wondering if Minister Kirby wanted to respond to some concerned parents of Mobile/Witless Bay students. They say an extension still isn't going to be able to accommodate the number of students they'll have in the coming years.

If Mr. Kirby isn't available for a live chat, we'd be happy with a statement.  
Thanks very much!  
Amy

On Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 5:37 PM, AMY JOY <xxxx@cbc.ca> wrote:

Hi there!
Just an early heads-up that we have a parent from the Southern Shore on the show tomorrow morning talking about overcrowding in that area.

We will be getting in touch with you tomorrow - for some response on that (for Wednesday morning's show).

Thanks very much and chat soon,  
Amy
The last point would certainly apply provincially - not just Mobile/Witless Bay.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

---

From: Pickard, Christopher  
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:26 PM  
To: Walsh, Ed; Smith, Paul C; Gardiner, Bob B  
Cc: Drover, Rodney C  
Subject: Re: KMs Mobile

Please have a quick review of KMs for Witless Bay – had already been approved but reworded first KM and added last Secondary message.

---

**Education and Early Childhood Development**  
**Infrastructure Projects – Witless Bay-Mobile Area Intermediate School**  
*March 16, 2017*

**Summary:**
A new intermediate school was approved in Budget 2015 to address student capacity in the Witless Bay-Mobile area. As part of the 2016-17 budget process, government needed to reduce provincial expenditures while at the same time reduce borrowing and among other measures announced in Budget 2016, a number of capital projects were cancelled or deferred across various departments. Recent media coverage noted that Witless Bay was the fastest growing community in the province. Questions have been raised as to the status of the intermediate school for the Witless Bay area.

**Key Messages:**

- While it is recognized that additional school capacity is required for the Mobile Central High school system, based on analysis on projections a more practical and cost effective solution was required given the province’s fiscal capacity.

- As such, in 2016-17 Government replaced the new school project with an extension to Mobile Central High.

- In November 2016, a request for proposals for planning and design services for the extension was awarded to SNC-Lavalin Inc. Planning is well underway.

- This extension project will help address future enrolment growth at St. Bernard’s Elementary in Witless Bay and Mobile Central High in Mobile.

- The project will be going to tender later this year with completion anticipated in the fall of 2018.
Secondary Messages:

- Predicted population increases in the area were considered in making the decision for the school extension.

- Continuing to invest in education infrastructure is a mandate letter directive, and our government will continue to make strategic investments to support high quality learning environments for students and teachers throughout our province.

- In the event that it becomes clear that projection changes significantly, Government will re-assess.

Christopher Pickard
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
P. O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709-729-0048
Fax: 709-729-0414
christopherpickard@gov.nl.ca
Looks good to me.

Bob

Bob Gardiner
Deputy Minister
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P. O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B4J6

Phone: (709) 729 5086
Fax: (709) 729 0414

Please have a quick review of KMs for Witless Bay — had already been approved but reworded first KM and added last

Education and Early Childhood Development
Infrastructure Projects – Witless Bay-Mobile Area Intermediate School
March 16, 2017

Summary:
A new intermediate school was approved in Budget 2015 to address student capacity in the Witless Bay-Mobile area. As part of the 2016-17 budget process, government needed to reduce provincial expenditures while at the same time reduce borrowing and among other measures announced in Budget 2016, a number of capital projects were cancelled or deferred across various departments. Recent media coverage noted that Witless Bay was the fastest growing community in the province. Questions have been raised as to the status of the intermediate school for the Witless Bay area.

Key Messages:
• While it is recognized that additional school capacity is required for the Mobile Central High school system, based on analysis on projections a more practical and cost effective solution was required given the province’s fiscal capacity.

• As such, in 2016-17 Government replaced the new school project with an extension to Mobile Central High.

• In November 2016, a request for proposals for planning and design services for the extension was awarded to SNC-Lavalin Inc. Planning is well underway.

• This extension project will help address future enrolment growth at St. Bernard’s Elementary in Witless Bay and Mobile Central High in Mobile.

• The project will be going to tender later this year with completion anticipated in the fall of 2018.

Secondary Messages:

• Predicted population increases in the area were considered in making the decision for the school extension.

• Continuing to invest in education infrastructure is a mandate letter directive, and our government will continue to make strategic investments to support high quality learning environments for students and teachers throughout our province.

• In the event that it becomes clear that projection changes significantly, Government will re-assess.

Christopher Pickard  
Director of Communications  
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
P. O. Box 8700  
St. John’s, NL  A1B 4J6  
Phone: 709-729-0048  
Fax: 709-729-0414  
christopherpickard@gov.nl.ca