August 9, 2013

Dear [redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: MPA/008/2013]

On July 11, 2013, the Department of Municipal Affairs received your request for access to the following records/information:

"The Report referenced in the attached news story. On June 12, 2012, Minister O'Brien said in the legislature 'as soon as that report is in full form, I will be glad to share it with you.'"

The requested report has not been finalized. The requested report is intended to inform the consultation process as it relates to the Northeast Avalon Regional Plan. Releasing this information at this time would adversely affect the planning process. Therefore, access to this record 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):

20(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

(a) advice, proposals, recommendations analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

As indicated by the Minister, this report will be released once finalized.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the 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 Information and Privacy 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.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Scott Winters, ATIPPA Coordinator, by telephone at 729-6528 or by email at scottwinters@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

COLLEEN JANES
Deputy Minister