February 7, 2013

Dear [Name]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File # PRE-04-2013]

On January 31, 2013, the Premier’s Office received your request for access to the following records:

I am asking for a copy of the letter that the City of Corner Brook sent to the Premier's Office regarding the Corner Brook Hospital in the Fall of 2012 as well as a copy of government’s response(s) to it.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted.

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at (709) 729-3945.

Sincerely,

Denise Payne
Director of Policy

Enclosure
November 22, 2012

The Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Premier
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL  A1B 4J6

RE: Hospital - Project Update

Dear Premier Dunderdale:

This letter is a follow-up to your meeting with the City of Corner Brook on June 23, 2012, in which you provided a status report on the new regional hospital project. Several months have since passed and City Council recently agreed to send a letter to you seeking a further update on this project. Unfortunately, a lack of activity at the construction site has been interpreted by some as a lack of commitment from your government in the project. Given the hospital’s significance to the City and its impact on our infrastructure, it is important, from a municipal planning perspective, that we are aware of the project's milestones and timelines. Specifically, council is interested in knowing when it can expect further development of the hospital and projected timelines for milestone completion. This is important so that we can plan necessary improvements and upgrades of our infrastructure to meet the needs of this and other related developments.

As you are aware, the City recently completed an extensive process to decrease major cost-overruns in our water treatment project. As such, we can certainly appreciate the challenge your government faces in designing and funding a project of this size. Given the need for a new regional hospital, council is frequently questioned regarding its status. We want to ensure that we are providing factual information to our residents.

In closing, please be assured that the Corner Brook City Council is cognizant and appreciative of your government’s commitment to this project and partnering with us on so many needed capital projects in the City of Corner Brook.

At your earliest convenience, we would appreciate hearing from you on the status of this project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you require any clarification. I can be reached by email (ngreeley@cornerbrook.com) or phone (709) 637-1537.

Yours very truly,

Neville Greeley
Mayor

Cc: The Honourable Tom Marshall
The Honourable Susan Sullivan
Corner Brook City Council
Mr. Neville Greeley  
Mayor, City of Corner Brook  
P.O. Box 1080  
Corner Brook, NL  
A2H 6E1

Dear Mr. Greeley:

I am responding on behalf of Premier Dunderdale to your correspondence dated November 22, 2012, in which you requested an update on the status of the Corner Brook hospital redevelopment project.

To date, approximately $20 million has been spent on a new hospital for the Corner Brook region. As you are aware, Budget 2012 included an additional $2 million for the continuation of the programming and planning. Tenders for site clearing and preparation have been awarded and this work is substantially complete: water and sewer services have been extended to the site; the land has been shaped; and the paving of Corporal Pinksen Memorial Drive, which provides access to the hospital, has been completed.

During the Fall 2012, a contract was awarded to Stantec, a leading engineering and project management company. The Provincial Government and Western Health are currently working with the consultant to review and refine the master program to reflect best practices and to allow for the finalization of the design of the facility. We anticipate the results from this review early in 2013.

Planning a hospital is a highly complex, technical exercise. I would like to assure you that the Provincial Government is committed to ensuring that the new facility will meet the needs of the western region. In the meantime, I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of the residents of the Corner Brook, and I thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

SUSAN SULLIVAN  
Minister

cc: Office of the Premier