March 19, 2015

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: FIN-7-2015]

On March 9, 2015, the Department of Finance received your request for access to the following records/information:

“Any polling data which has been provided to or is expected to be provided to the Department of Finance which may be used to inform the 2015 budget process. For the sake of expediency and minimized cost, I would like to request all future correspondence be conducted by email and all responsive documents be provided in electronic form.”

I am pleased to inform you that the records you have requested will be made publicly available by March 20, 2015 via the Department of Finance’s website. These records will include the following:

- Summary of responses received during a telephone survey that was conducted by the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency between February 17, 2015 and March 3, 2015
- Summary of responses received to questions asked to participants attending the pre-budget consultation sessions

The date for release of the above referenced records was chosen to allow for the conclusion of the pre-budget consultation sessions as well as the time required to prepare the material for on-line publication. The decision to wait to release the polling information until after the conclusion of the pre-budget consultations was to ensure that this information did not influence the discussions had during these sessions.
On the date these records are made publicly available, you will be provided via email a link to the website address.

Subsequently, pursuant to section 14(1)(b) of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Department of Finance will not be providing you a copy of the requested information. If however the information is not published or released within 30 business days after receipt of your request (March 9, 2015), the Department of Finance will reconsider your request as if it were a new request received on the last day of that period, and access will not be refused under section 14(1)(b).

Section 43 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision; or you may also appeal 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.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it is sent electronically to you. It is the goal to have the letter posted to the Office of Public Engagement’s 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