January 15, 2018

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: PRE/61/2017]

On December 14, 2017, the Premier’s Office received your request for access to the following records/information:

“For the period of Feb. 1, 2017, to Dec. 12, 2017, inclusive, copies of all email (including deleted emails) and all written communications between any provincial staff and / or provincial politician and any of the 80 licensed producers of cannabis in Canada. For clarity, the list of 80 licensed producers can be found here: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-use-marijuana/licensed-producers/authorized-licensed-producers-medical-purposes.html”

Please be advised that a decision has been made by the Chief of Staff of the Premier’s Office to provide access to the information requested, with the exception of personal information, which has been removed in accordance with Section 40(1) of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act), which states:

40. (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, information that cannot be disclosed has been severed, and you have been provided 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 ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your request, as set out in section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (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.
The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is 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 this response, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

This response will be published as outlined on the Completed Access to Information Requests website: [http://atipp-search.gov.nl.ca/](http://atipp-search.gov.nl.ca/) If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (709)729-3570 or by e-mail at joybuckle@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joy Buckle
ATIPP Coordinator

Enclosures
Access or correction complaint

42.(1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52(1) or 53(1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.
Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner’s refusal under subsection 45(2).
Hi Rhonda,

Attached is a letter from Vic Neufeld of Aphria to Premier Ball regarding the Recreational Cannabis Federal Legislation.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier, if a response is required. Please copy the Premier on the response and email it to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

------< HP TRIM Record Information >------

Record Number:  ICOR2017/1749
Title : Email from John Aird with attached letter from Vic Neufeld, Aphria, regarding the Recreational Cannabis Federal Legislation
Dear Mr. Aird,

This is an acknowledgement of your correspondence to Premier Ball dated April 21st. Please be assured that your comments have been noted and will be reviewed.

Kind regards,

Joanne Young / Information Management Specialist

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s Nl. A1B 4J6

709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

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From: John Aird [mailto]  
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 4:49 PM  
To: Premier,  
Cc: Minister, HCS; Inquiries, Justice General  
Subject: Recreational Cannabis Federal Legislation

Dear Premier:

Please find a letter from our CEO attached.

Please contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks and have a great weekend.
April 20, 2017

The Honourable Dwight Ball, MHA
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Canada

Subject: Recreational Cannabis Federal Legislation

Dear Premier Ball,

As you are aware, on April 13th the Government of Canada tabled legislation to legalize and regulate the use of cannabis.

Aphria Inc. (Aphria), located in Leamington, Ontario, is one of Canada’s lowest cost producers of medical cannabis. Aphria is truly powered by sunlight, allowing for the most natural growing conditions available. We are committed to providing pharma-grade medical cannabis and superior patient care while balancing patient economics and returns to shareholders.

We welcome the federal government’s introduction of a regulatory framework legalizing and regulating cannabis for Canadians to keep profits out of the hands of the black market, restrict access to youth, and ensure a supply of clean and safe product. Aphria has a proven track record of supplying Canadian patients with safe, clean, and high-quality medical grade cannabis. Through our strategic growth plan, we will have the capacity to supply high quality cannabis at one of the lowest costs in industry and meet the recreational demand for cannabis.

While Aphria welcomes the introduction of the legislative framework, we strongly believe strict regulations are necessary to set clear and enforceable rules to ensure that customers are protected and have access to safe and high quality cannabis. Based on our management team’s extensive pharmaceutical and agricultural experience, we believe there is a critical need to set clear and enforceable rules including the introduction of a strict product-testing regime across the sector. The significant increase in demand that will come with the introduction of the recreational market even further solidifies the need for stricter regulations to keep consumers safe.

Like the pharmaceutical industry, our position is that these costs be absorbed by industry, and not government. This eliminates any foreseeable staffing or resource problems the federal government faces and prevents the industry from not abiding by regulations. This new regime would include Health Canada visiting industry members regularly and, in addition to surveying their operations, testing their products for safety.
With the recreational market being introduced, Aphria is well positioned to match quality with price, once the federal and provincial regulations are in place. We look forward to working with you and your officials in the drafting of the provincial legislation and regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact Aphria if we can be of assistance as industry-leaders in the cannabis space.

Sincerely,

Vic Neufeld
President and Chief Executive Officer
Aphria Inc.

CC: The Honourable Andrew Parsons
Minister of Justice and Public Safety
4th Floor, East Block
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Canada

The Honourable John Haggie
Minister of Health and Community Services
1st Floor, West Block
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Canada
John B. Aird
Corporate Affairs
Phone: +1.416.725.6458
TSX: APH.V
Email: [redacted]@aphria.com
Website: www.aphria.com
Attached please find the reply of the Honourable Andrew Parsons, QC, in response to the above-noted correspondence.

Regards,

Rhonda Stewart | Administrative Assistant
Office of the Minister and Attorney General
Department of Justice and Public Safety
4th Floor, East Block, Confederation Building
P. O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

729-2869 Phone
729-0469 Fax
rhondas@gov.nl.ca

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Attached please find the reply of the Honourable Andrew Parsons, QC, Minister of Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General, Department of Justice and Public Safety, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, in reply to your CEO’s letter to Premier Ball dated April 20, 2017 regarding the recreational cannabis federal legislation.

Please note the original letter will follow by mail.

Regards,

Rhonda Stewart | Administrative Assistant
Office of the Minister and Attorney General
Department of Justice and Public Safety
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
4th Floor, East Block, Confederation Building
P. O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

729-2869 Phone
May 29, 2017

Mr. Vic Neufeld  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Aphria Inc.  
214 King Street West, Suite 412  
Toronto, ON M5H 3S6  

Dear Mr. Neufeld:

Thank you for your letter to Premier Dwight Ball dated April 20, 2017 regarding the pending legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes in Canada. As Minister responsible for Justice and Public Safety, I am responding on his behalf.

The Provincial Government recognizes that the legalization of cannabis will have social and economic implications and will regulatory responses that balance a variety of considerations. In order to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador is well-positioned to minimize health and public safety risks and maximize economic benefits associated with legalized recreational cannabis, we have formed an interdepartmental committee with representatives from all affected departments. Prior to making any critical decisions respecting provincial legislation on cannabis, the Provincial Government has committed to conduct public and stakeholder consultations. These consultations will ensure that diverse perspectives are considered and that the regulatory path chosen by Newfoundland and Labrador meets our paramount objectives of keeping cannabis out of the hands of children, keeping profits out the pockets of criminals, and protecting public health and safety. I am pleased to see from your letter that we share significant common ground.

Thank you again for writing to convey the perspective of Aphria Inc. related to this matter.

I trust this is satisfactory.

Sincerely,

ANDREW PARSONS, QC  
Minister of Justice and Public Safety  
Attorney General

cc: Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Honourable John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services  
John Aird, Aphria Inc.