Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: HCS/032/2015]

On May 8, 2015, the Department of Health and Community Services (the Department) received your request for access to the following records:

“All emails & correspondence between Western Health and the Department of Health with respect to the proposed Corner Brook Hospital and the Western Regional Hospital Action Committee between 2014 and 2015”.

On May 20, 2015, the request was refined to the following:

“Western Regional Hospital Action Committee (WRHAC) is a group of concerned citizens and community leaders advocating for the construction of a new regional hospital to replace Western Memorial Regional Hospital. To ensure the committee’s advocacy messages are being heard within the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) and Western Health (WH), we request the following records/information:

- Emails and/or correspondence from September 2014 and February 2015 between Western Health and the Department of Health and Community Services regarding the issues/concerns and/or messages provided by Western Hospital Regional Hospital Action Committee regarding the construction of the new Corner Brook Hospital.”

Please be advised that our records indicate that the Department has no records responsive to your request.

The Department acknowledges the concerns brought forward from the Western Regional Hospital Action Committee and Government is committed to ensuring that Newfoundland and Labrador residents have timely access to quality health care services that are delivered in the most appropriate and efficient means possible. Government announced on July 10, 2014, that the new hospital in Corner Brook will have space to accommodate a PET scanner. As indicated in the Western Memorial Regional Hospital – Functional Plan, a shelled-in space is allocated to accommodate a PET scanner in the future.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Cancer Centre Western (CCW) Functional Program dated September 30, 2014 which provides additional information on the radiation therapy services within the new Western Memorial Regional Hospital. You should note that this report is currently under review and may be subject to change before they are finalized.
Section 43 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request or you may 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.

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
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.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it 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 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 ATIPP Coordinator, Kim Anstey-Stockwood at 709-729-7776 or by email at kimanstey@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

BRUCE COOPER
Deputy Minister

/kas
/Encl.

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