October 25, 2018

Dear [Name]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: MAE/114/2018]

On October 24, 2018, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment received your request for access to the following records/information:

“Letter of complaint to Western Director MA reference Howley Volunteer Fire Department and the funds from the 2013 Howley Come Home Year Committee”

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister to provide access to the requested information.

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

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 days of receiving the request. As this request has been completed prior to day 10, this letter also serves as our Advisory Response.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access 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

P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1B 4J6 709 729 5677 709 729 0943 www.gov.nl.ca
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 the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response 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 responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests 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 me by telephone at 709-729-5846 or by e-mail at aliskary@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

ALI ASKARY
Manager, Information Services / ATIPP Coordinator
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosures
Hi Ruth:

Please Trim this document ASAP for me.

Thanks so much!

Holly

Good day all,

I guess this one is an issue for municipal support.

Thanks

Derek Simmons
Director of Fire Services/Fire Commissioner
Fire Services Division
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Phone (709) 729-1608
Fax (709) 729-2524

“Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people.”
— Socrates

Mr. Simmons,

As per our conversation regarding Howley Volunteer Fire Department, here are our concerns.

On July 30, 2018, the sum of $3293.10 was deposited into the Eagle River Credit Union, Limited at 1 Church Street, Deer Lake, NL in an account in the name of Howley Fire Department Pumper Fund. This was money was from the Come Home Year Committee of 2013. On September 20, 2018, at a regular monthly council meeting, this money was discussed. Fire Chief Derek Murphy stated he and treasurer, Ken Power, deposited the cheque. While trying to obtain information on this money, I was ruled out of order by Mayor Wayne Bennett, who is also a Volunteer Fireman; therefore we, the council, couldn't get any answers concerning the money and what would be done with it. I did inform Fire Chief Murphy the money could not be moved without a motion and that motion being passed. On September 21, 2018, the day after our council meeting, the sum of $3293.10 was withdrawn from this credit union account, without the knowledge of the town council or the firemen. To our knowledge, there was no motion made or passed to withdraw this money. We, the finance committee of the Howley Town Council, would like you to investigate
this matter.

If we can answer any questions or be of any help in this matter, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Betty Stead, Chair of Finance Committee,
Donna Hann, Member Finance Committee,
Peg Stroud-Mountain, Member Finance Committee,
Dear Mayor and Councillors:

Re: Municipal Inspection

I write in response to a complaint received by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment (MAE) relating to the handling of monies withdrawn from the 2013 Howley Come Home Year Committee bank account and the deposit and subsequently the withdrawal of these same funds from the Town of Howley Volunteer Fire Department Pumper Fund.

Based on information received to date, MAE will commence an investigation into the issue that the Department is currently aware of as well as any issues which may come to our attention during the course of the investigation.

Officials from the Western/ Labrador Regional Office have been assigned to lead the investigation and will be in contact with the Town Office in the near future to make the appropriate arrangements.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

DAN MICHELS
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball, MHA
cc: Mr. Sandy Hounsell, Director of Municipal Support
cc: Ms. Holly Scott – Walsh, Regional Manager (A), Western/Labrador Office
cc: Ms. Lori Lynn White, Analyst, Western/Labrador Regional