June 26, 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 #: SNL-025-2015]

On June 15, 2015, Service NL received your request for access to the following records/information:

I am looking for documents that will provide a picture of the foreign land ownership situation in NL. As such, I am seeking copies of all briefing notes, reports and databases that provide: statistics on the amount of property in the province that is owned by a non-Canadian individual, company or government; the general location of the property if possible; information about the types of individuals/companies buying the land; purchasing trends for the date range specified and - most importantly - any document that debate the pros, cons, impact and policy implications of this reality. I am seeking copies of any applicable records created between Jan 1 2010 and June 10 2015. Please don’t hesitate to e-mail with any additional questions.

Please be advised that Service NL has reviewed this request and after searching for responsive information could not locate any records responsive to your request. The Registry of Deeds in Service NL does not track or monitor where property holders are from, including whether they are from within Canada or a foreign country. Service NL also has no documents analyzing the policy implications of foreign land ownership. As such, Service NL has no records responsive to your request. We also inquired at the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs, which is the department with responsibility for the Crown Lands Administration Division and the Registry of Crown Titles. In response to your request for information they compiled a listing of Grants issued to individuals outside of Canada, which is included with this letter. However, the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs does not normally track or monitor foreign land ownership and they have no records analyzing the policy implications of same for grants of Crown land. In addition, we also provided your request to the Departments of Finance (responsible for the NL Statistics Agency), Advanced Education and Skills, and Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development. The departments advised they did not have any records responsive to your request.

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

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 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 contact me by telephone at 709-729-7437 or by email ellenhaskell@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

ELLEN HASKELL
ATIPP Coordinator
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**Total** 3.73241