February 8, 2019

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-08-2019)

On January 28, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

All information regarding hiring of new communications director with department, excluding personal information such as resumes. Time period would be from September 2018 to present.

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed by the Deputy Minister, to provide access to the requested records. The records are attached.

Please note as I explained in my emails of February 1 and 4, 2019 the Department of Natural Resources is not responsible for the hiring of the Director of Communications. All hiring for communications directors within government is done by “Communications and Public Engagement Branch” of Executive Council. You may wish to direct your inquiry there if the records attached do not satisfy your access 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 8700, St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 4J6 t 709.729-1466
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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or rhynes@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Rod Hynes

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator
Hi Kathryn,

Sure thanks. Just confirming that Heather’s title is director of communications. Also, what day did she start? Is this an interim or permanent appointment? Which leads me to the question on [no email address provided] – any details there are welcome.

If Heather can give a brief statement on why she chose to leave journalism for government communications that’s also great.

Thanks,

Alex Bill
Chief Reporter
allnewfoundlandlabrador.com
709-722-1127

Hi Alex,

Sorry for missing your phone call earlier, it has been a busy day here. Heather has been in orientation today and therefore has not been able to return your call.

If you had further questions for the department please feel free to send them along via email.

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers
Media Relations Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
From: Alex Bill [mailto:alex@allnewfoundlandlabrador.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 4:21 PM  
To: Summers, Kathryn  
Subject: Re: questions

Oh yeah, can we get a picture of Heather!

Alex

From: Summers, Kathryn  
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 4:09 PM  
To: 'Alex Bill'  
Subject: questions

Hi Alex,

Sorry for missing your phone call earlier, it has been a busy day here. Heather has been in orientation today and therefore has not been able to return your call.
If you had further questions for the department please feel free to send them along via email.

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers  
Media Relations Manager  
Department of Natural Resources  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
709.729.0425 | 709.730.2522

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
I don’t think we even have to say that much – I think we can simply confirm that she is the Director of Communications.

That’s my thoughts.

SB

Hi all,

As Heather has informed you, we have received this request from Alex Bill today. While we don’t intend to provide comment or a statement we are just trying to figure out the best approach for a quick response. Something along the lines of: “Heather is currently the Director of Communications with the Department of Natural Resources. She is looking forward to this new opportunity.” – What are your thoughts, anything further we should add here?

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers
Media Relations Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709.729.0425 | 709.730.2522
Hi Kathryn,

Sure thanks. Just confirming that Heather’s title is director of communications. Also, what day did she start? Is this an interim or permanent appointment? Which leads me to the question on [redacted]—any details there are welcome.

If Heather can give a brief statement on why she chose to leave journalism for government communications that’s also great.

Thanks,

Alex Bill
Chief Reporter
allnewfoundlandlabrador.com
709-722-1127

Hi Alex,

Sorry for missing your phone call earlier, it has been a busy day here. Heather has been in orientation today and therefore has not been able to return your call. If you had further questions for the department please feel free to send them along via email.

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers
Media Relations Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709.729.0425 | 709.730.2522

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
HI Kathryn:

Just want to run the below by Renee/Cindy for a HR lens before responding. I think it would be fine to say:

“Heather has been appointed as the Director of Communications for the Department of Natural Resources as of January 21 and she looks forward to her new role.”

We wouldn’t offer any comment on [redacted] Cindy/Renee...ok with you?

Thanks

Hi all,

As Heather has informed you, we have received this request from Alex Bill today. While we don’t intend to provide comment or a statement we are just trying to figure out the best approach for a quick response. Something along the lines of: “Heather is currently the Director of Communications with the Department of Natural Resources. She is looking forward to this new opportunity.” – What are your thoughts, anything further we should add here?

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers
Media Relations Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Hi Kathryn,

Sure thanks. Just confirming that Heather’s title is director of communications. Also, what day did she start? Is this an interim or permanent appointment? Which leads me to the question on [redacted] – any details there are welcome.

If Heather can give a brief statement on why she chose to leave journalism for government communications that’s also great.

Thanks,

Alex Bill
Chief Reporter
allnewfoundlandlabrador.com
709-722-1127

Hi Alex,

Sorry for missing your phone call earlier, it has been a busy day here. Heather has been in orientation today and therefore has not been able to return your call.
If you had further questions for the department please feel free to send them along via email.

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers
Media Relations Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709.729.0425 | 709.730.2522
“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
From: Barfoot, Scott  
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 8:39 AM  
To: Summers, Kathryn; Joyce, Luke; Bruce, Glenn  
Subject: RE: questions

Hey,
Articles can’t be copied or forwarded. I’ll try and take a picture and send it to you. You should explore getting a subscription – it is not expensive and it seems like there are multiple articles everyday on your department, Nalcor or oil and gas.

SB

From: Summers, Kathryn  
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 8:37 AM  
To: Barfoot, Scott; Joyce, Luke; Bruce, Glenn  
Subject: RE: questions

Well, I guess he wasted no time on that! He only sent the questions end of day yesterday. Sorry about that guys! Any chance we could get a copy of the article – we don’t have an account over here.

Thanks,
Kathryn

From: Barfoot, Scott  
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 8:32 AM  
To: Summers, Kathryn; Joyce, Luke; Bruce, Glenn  
Subject: RE: questions

Hey,
The article is already published.

SB

From: Summers, Kathryn  
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 8:32 AM  
To: Joyce, Luke; Bruce, Glenn  
Cc: Barfoot, Scott  
Subject: RE: questions

Thanks for the help on this. Will send it off this morning.

Kathryn
HI Kathryn:

The below has been approved to send to the reporter.

“Heather has been appointed as the Director of Communications for the Department of Natural Resources on a temporary basis as of January 21.”

Thanks,
- Luke

Hi all,

As Heather has informed you, we have received this request from Alex Bill today. While we don’t intend to provide comment or a statement we are just trying to figure out the best approach for a quick response. Something along the lines of: “Heather is currently the Director of Communications with the Department of Natural Resources. She is looking forward to this new opportunity.” – What are your thoughts, anything further we should add here?

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers
Media Relations Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709.729.0425 | 709.730.2522
Hi Kathryn,

Sure thanks. Just confirming that Heather’s title is director of communications. Also, what day did she start? Is this an interim or permanent appointment? Which leads me to the question on [redacted]—any details there are welcome.

If Heather can give a brief statement on why she chose to leave journalism for government communications that’s also great.

Thanks,

Alex Bill
Chief Reporter
allnewfoundlandlabrador.com
709-722-1127

From: Summers, Kathryn
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 4:09 PM
To: 'Alex Bill'
Subject: questions

Hi Alex,

Sorry for missing your phone call earlier, it has been a busy day here. Heather has been in orientation today and therefore has not been able to return your call.
If you had further questions for the department please feel free to send them along via email.

Thanks so much,
Kathryn

Kathryn Summers
Media Relations Manager
Department of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709.729.0425 | 709.730.2522

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”