February 27, 2019

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (LAS 002 2019)

On February 13, 2019, The Labrador Affairs Secretariat received your request for access to the following records:

"Any messaging or draft messaging prepared for the Department or Minister since January 1st, 2019. In addition, any benchmarks/status updates/lists outlining levels of completion of "The Way Forward" initiatives."

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

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed. Your request for any "The Way Forward" initiatives from Labrador Affairs Secretariat covers one such example. This initiative is public and as such can be viewed in its entirety https://www.gov.nl.ca/thewayforward/focus_area/better-outcomes/ under "Improve Snowmobile Safety in Labrador".

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 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 contact me by telephone at (709) 896-1780 or by email at chrisgmyrden@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Myrden
ATIPP Coordinator
KEY MESSAGES

Labrador Affairs Secretariat
Northern Development Ministers Forum
Jan. 18, 2019

Summary:
The Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF) is scheduled to be held Jan 23-24, 2019 in Yellowknife, NT. This year’s theme is *Inclusive Partnerships in the North.*

The Federal Government is hosting the Forum and discussions will be chaired by the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, federal Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade.

The NDMF was established in 2001 to advance the diverse and common interests of the people living in Canada’s North, while raising awareness among decision-makers and the public about the accomplishments, contributions and potential of the North.

Member jurisdictions include representatives from the governments of Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Anticipated Questions:
- Why does Newfoundland and Labrador take part in NDMF meetings and discussions with its Northern neighbours across Canada?

Key Messages:
- Newfoundland and Labrador shares many challenges with other regions in Canada and is actively engaged in discussions with federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions to advance the diverse and common interests of people living in Canada’s North.
- Ministers of jurisdictions, including Newfoundland and Labrador, establish priority projects to address distinct opportunities and issues. The collaborative work on such priority projects helps the Provincial Government advance northern issues, exchange information and learn from other jurisdictions.
- Further discussions are planned at this year’s Northern Development Forum on potential priority projects and Newfoundland and Labrador looks forward to providing input on key topics that could form the basis for future collaborations by jurisdictions.

Secondary Messages:
- Newfoundland and Labrador is interested in entertaining discussions with representatives of Quebec on progress that is being made on a Cooperative Agreement that was signed with this jurisdiction last April on exploring opportunities that support greater economic and community development along the shared border of the two provinces.
The two provinces share a common interest in the development of the Labrador Trough in Labrador West, where several mining projects are located along the border, and in improving road infrastructure to further develop an economic corridor that links the province to Quebec.

The Labrador Affairs Secretariat has consulted with Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat on the NL-QC Cooperative Agreement and IIAS has provided an information note and speaking points for Parliamentary Assistant Randy Edmunds.

Newfoundland and Labrador is actively engaged with the Federal Government on the development of an Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and looks forward to ongoing consultations on a plan that is designed to enhance social and economic opportunities for people living in Canada’s North.

Labrador has much in common with its Northern neighbours, which includes sharing many of the same challenges, particularly in the areas of housing, transportation, nutrition/food security and infrastructure.

**Backgrounder:**

In 2017, the Government of Canada officially announced the development of the Arctic Policy Framework. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada leads the file for the Federal Government and has since added ‘Northern’ to the framework’s title.

The framework will provide overarching direction to the Federal Government’s priorities, activities, and investments in the Arctic until 2030.

The Labrador Affairs Secretariat represents the province on the federal-provincial-territorial working group and has formed an Arctic Policy Working Group for Provincial Government departments to co-ordinate and share information about Arctic and northern opportunities relevant to the province.

The Labrador Affairs Secretariat is meeting with CIRNA during its visit to Labrador during the week of Jan. 21 to discuss requirements of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework.

**Prepared by:** Labrador Affairs Secretariat Communications

**Approved by:** Labrador Affairs Secretariat Executive
At a time when our province is poised to lead the nation in GDP growth, we are here to talk about a special place…

It’s the source of almost half of our nation’s iron ore shipments. It’s home to some of the most breathtaking views and pristine wilderness on Earth.

It’s more than 400,000 square kilometers in size, and it is filled with extraordinary potential, so make no wonder we call it “The Big Land!”

I want to thank the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce for displaying the best of the Big Land here in St. John’s, and for providing me with an opportunity to speak to at Northern Exposure 2019.

This is a first-class event that helps educate the business community about the opportunities and benefits of doing business in Labrador.

Over the course of this conference, participants will be engaged in a range of interesting and thought-provoking discussions on:

- Labrador’s natural resources,
- its tourism attractions,
- the importance of Indigenous engagement as we pursue new opportunities, and
- recent infrastructure enhancements that are making the region an ideal place to invest, work, live, and raise a family.

I congratulate the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce for its efforts to showcase the tremendous economic potential of the Big Land.

I especially want to commend the work of CEO Brian Fowlow, President Sterling Peyton, their staff, and of course the board of directors for creating a positive climate for business and investment.

Whether it’s:

- Northern Lights, which is a business and cultural showcase hosted jointly every second year in Ottawa with the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce, or
- Expo Labrador, held annually in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, or
- this event in St. John’s…

the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce brings together like-minded individuals and businesses for information exchange, networking, and of course, the incredible Labrador hospitality.
Before I get to the formal remarks of my address this afternoon, I would like to take a moment and talk about a group of people who are working hard every single day to advance Labrador’s interests.

They are my friends and colleagues in caucus who represent the four districts in Labrador.

I can't say enough about this incredible group of people.

We have been working extremely hard on several files and it is through this cooperation and diligence that we have achieved great success and we are making headway on many other fronts as well.

As Minister for Labrador Affairs, I am proud to stand with:
• Lisa Dempster, who is the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development;
• Graham Letto, who is the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment;
• Perry Trimper, who is the Speaker of the House of Assembly; and
• Randy Edmunds, who is my Parliamentary Assistant and is Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Affairs.

We are also extremely fortunate at this time to have such great provincial representation within the Federal Government.

Many of the advances we have been able to make are the direct result of collaboration with our colleagues in Ottawa.

They understand and appreciate what we are trying to achieve with The Way Forward, our vision for sustainability and growth in this province.

Through partnership, we are leveraging all available federal funding to:
• support investments that will achieve greater efficiency,
• strengthen the province’s economic foundation,
• enhance services, and
• improve outcomes.

These are the four pillars of The Way Forward – the plan we have been rolling out since 2016 to enhance the lives of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

The positive work we are doing with Ottawa starts with the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and extends to the province’s representative in the federal cabinet, Seamus O’Regan, who just recently accepted new responsibilities as the Minister of Indigenous Services.

Congratulations to Seamus as he takes on an important portfolio, and we continue working towards addressing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

I also want to acknowledge the tremendous work of Labrador MP Yvonne Jones, who is also the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade.
Much of the credit for the gains we have made in advancing infrastructure and services in Labrador can be attributed to the work of my friend and colleague, and I appreciate having her support in Ottawa.

With such great partnership, we are able to advance the priorities of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Our priorities include Atlantic accord discussions that ensure our province is the primary beneficiary of our offshore resources, which is important given we expect exploration off Labrador’s coastline in the coming years.

It also includes key infrastructure projects, like completing the Trans Labrador highway.

I would like to focus my comments today on what my Government is doing to pursue new and positive developments, and talk a bit about how we are maximizing the benefits.

**Slide: Mining Industry**

2018 was an incredible year for the mining industry in Labrador.

We announced with Vale that the underground mine at Voisey’s Bay was ready to proceed.

This initiative extends the operating life of the mine by 15 years or more, and solidifies continued operations at the Long Harbour processing plant.

The official opening of the Moss Pit by the Iron Ore Company of Canada was especially significant. This will extend the life the current mine and maintain production of high quality iron ore concentrate and pellets.

The reopening of the Scully Mine in Wabush, which we announced in November with Tacora Resources, is generating capital expenditures of $210 million.

When operations hit full speed, you will see approximately 260 positions directly associated with site operations, producing some six million tonnes of concentrate annually.

There are also positive prospects for the mining of rare earth elements in Southeast Labrador.

Search Minerals is proceeding through provincial and federal environmental assessments, and we eagerly await the submission of an environmental impact statement.

These developments are supported by a new mining strategy through The Way Forward, which we proudly announced in November.

Mining the Future 2030 is a plan to grow the Newfoundland and Labrador mining industry and create jobs.

Great potential exists to expand the mining industry in parts of Labrador, and that work is supported by the historic agreement we signed with the Government of Quebec last April.

Together, we are partnering on the development of the Labrador Trough and improving road infrastructure that will bring economic benefits to both provinces.
Of course, pursuing new industrial development in Labrador should involve engagement with Indigenous communities, and I am especially proud of the work we have done to establish respectful, meaningful relationships with Indigenous Governments and Organizations.

Our first Indigenous Leaders Roundtable in 2017 was an important step in following through on our commitment to the Indigenous communities in Labrador, and the Island.

We created the roundtable as a means for all Indigenous Governments and Organizations to come together on matters of shared importance.

Through the roundtable, we have advanced important issues that include the successful repatriation of Beothuk remains from Scotland.

Our work continued at the second annual roundtable in Corner Brook last year, and there was strong representation from all groups.

You should note that this year’s Indigenous Leaders Roundtable will be held in Labrador, and I am very much looking forward to that event.

Transportation is one sector in particular where you can truly see benefits for all residents and businesses in Labrador.

Let’s start with the work that is being done to complete the Trans Labrador Highway.

In 2018, we paved 122 km, which contributed to a total of 220 km paved over the last three construction seasons.

Just today, Minister Crocker announced the updated details of our multi-year Provincial Roads Plan, which includes another $40 million investment in the highway.

This is further evidence of our commitment to finishing the Trans Labrador Highway.

I can tell you with a great deal of confidence that the improvements are already having a significant effect on the economy of southeastern Labrador and the Labrador Straits.

Paving a road network like the Trans Labrador Highway, with connections through Quebec and the link to the Island through the Strait of Belle Isle ferry, can generate growth in a number of ways, including a tourism industry that has an incredible amount of untapped potential.

Keeping with the transportation theme, you cannot help but be excited about the positive changes in store for marine services in Labrador.
Last fall we announced our plan to enhance marine services by awarding a contract to Labrador Marine Inc.

Two new vessels will improve the way passengers, freight and vehicles are transported throughout Labrador and across the Strait of Belle Isle.

The new vessel for the Straits service, the Qajaq W. (pronounced Kayak) recently arrived in St. John’s and completed its first crossing over the weekend. I can tell you the reaction from passengers and travelers was very positive.

This ship has a sister vessel, yet to be named, that will begin providing a weekly freight and passenger service to the North Coast of Labrador beginning in June.

For the first time in the province’s history, the North Coast will have a roll-on / roll-off service, which means residents can take a vehicle to Happy Valley-Goose Bay and travel wherever they choose.

We are especially pleased that Labrador Marine has partnered with Nunatsiavut Marine Inc. to provide marine services to the North Coast.

It is worth noting that both vessels are highly maneuverable, can dock and unload bow or stern first, they are 1A ice class certified, and are capable of operating to standard in heavy sea ice conditions.

**Slide: Tourism in Labrador**

I am pleased to tell you that my Government is also making significant improvements to the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy program.

This is a program that provides a vital transportation link from isolated communities in Labrador to the nearest service centre.

In Budget 2018, my Government announced the expansion of the winter trail system to include trail marking between the communities of Nain, Natuashish and Hopedale.

This expenditure involves the construction of five emergency shelters and the placement of reflective markers over a distance of 185 km.

My colleague and friend, Randy Edmunds, is quick to point out that in the absence of a road network on the North Coast, this program supports the ‘Highway of the North’ for snowmobiles and enhances an essential service to his constituents and others living in southeastern Labrador.

I can provide an example where strategic investments from Government are generating substantial returns for the province and opening the eyes of the world to what Newfoundland and Labrador can offer.

The growth of the tourism industry is truly a success story. We are working closely with tourism operators in the province to reach our shared goal of doubling resident and visitor spending by 2020.
The beauty of the Big Land is featured prominently in our tourism marketing campaigns. Where else can you go and capture such spectacular scenery, adventure, historical landmarks, cultural experiences, and an unspoiled environment?

In fact, Air Borealis has partnered with Parks Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government to make it easier than ever to experience the beautiful Torngat Mountains.

Through this partnership, thrill seeking adventurers can now take four or seven day return trips to the mountains on one of Air Borealis’ Dash 8 or Twin Otter planes, opening a whole new door of adventure for those seeking a once in a lifetime experience!

From the Torngat Mountains, to the restored community of Battle Harbour, to Mealy Mountains National Park, to the welcoming communities of the Labrador Straits and southeast Labrador, to the soon to be opened cultural centre in Nain, and Labrador West through events like Cain’s Quest – there is just so much to see.

With key investments in roads and marine services, we are improving access to everything the Big Land has to offer.

So far I have spoken about actions that have been rolled out or realized, but I also want to look to the future, so I will close with a quick summary of exciting developments on the horizon.

As I noted at the outset of my speech, Labrador has great potential to attract interest from global oil and gas players in the future, given the six basins identified off its shores – Chidley, Holton, Henley, Hopedale, Sagleak, and Hawke. Together, they stretch the entire length of the Labrador coast. Our government is continuing seismic work is ongoing in these areas to encourage future exploration.

This year we will see construction commence on the new Labrador Wellness Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, which will revolutionize the level of service enjoyed by people in the region.

As part of our education action plan, four schools located in Labrador are included in the Phase One Implementation of a new “Student Support Services Model.” These four Labrador Schools are:

- Northern Lights Academy in Rigolet,
- Bayside Academy in Port Hope Simpson,
- Lake Melville School in North West River, and
- A.P. Low Primary in Labrador City.

We look forward to seeing the results of this work, and to building on those efforts to improve education for the students who need supports.

In addition, the construction of a new child care centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay is creating 123 child care spaces for toddler, pre-school and after school children.

We look forward to the opening this spring.

We also want better supports for those facing serious mental health and addictions issues. That is why we launched “Towards Recovery: an Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions.”

People are already seeing the difference this plan is making on the ground in Labrador.
For example, progress has been made providing services in Labrador including Single-Session Walk-in Clinics (called “Door Ways”), which has expanded to 17 communities throughout the province, including Hopedale, Nain, Labrador City and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

In terms of communications infrastructure, the installation of a new broadband network for Southeast Labrador is nearing completion.

With our partners at Bell Canada, the NunatuKavut Community Council and the Nunacor Development Corporation, we are establishing cellular service in Red Bay, Mary’s Harbour, St. Lewis, Port Hope Simpson, Charlottetown and Cartwright.

The Labrador Winter Games is fast approaching. Preparations are being made for several sporting events and athletes and officials from all areas of Labrador are getting ready for March. This is an incredible event that celebrates the rich, diverse culture of Labrador, while promoting the benefits of competitive sport and healthy active living.

**Slide: The Way Forward**

With all these initiatives, we are making Labrador an ideal place to invest, do business, live, work, and raise a family.

Working region by region, sector by sector, we are making the most of opportunities in mining, in oil and gas, in tourism, in aquaculture, agriculture, technology, and our forestry…. And it is having an impact.

NL has experienced six consecutive months of employment gains between July 2018 and December 2018.

Employment gains of the last six months have occurred in:
- Mining and Oil and Gas,
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services,
- Information, Culture and Recreation and
- Federal Public Administration

In 2010, which was considered a “high point for economic activity in the province,” employment was at 222,800 people.

In 2018, it’s higher, at 225,300… and we continue to build on this success with The Way Forward – our plan for the future!

We are having this success because we engage the people who are on the ground and in tune with matters of importance.

We listen and we work with our partners and the result is new developments that are making the province and indeed Labrador a better place in which to live and work.
That’s the essence of The Way Forward.

We are delivering on commitments in The Way Forward to strengthen the province’s economic foundation, operate a more efficient public sector, deliver better services, and achieve better outcomes for residents.

We established a clear plan, and we are seeing it through while our opposition offers nothing in ideas or accountability.

Thank you again to the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce for facilitating these important discussions and bringing together the people and businesses who are working with governments and partners to advance progress.

Have a great conference!
January 2019

Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, I welcome delegates and guests to the 47th Annual General Meeting of the Combined Councils of Labrador.

I commend municipal leaders in Labrador for continuing to advocate on the issues and concerns that matter most to communities in Labrador and Labradors. Your work in bringing forward these issues to the attention of the Provincial and Federal Governments, along with the associated agencies and the private sector, helps inform the decision makers and policy makers and results in advancing the social and economic development of a vast and diverse region of our province.

The topics and speakers on your agenda speak to the significant developments that have been taking place in the mining sector, marine transportation services, tourism, connectivity, health care, emergency services and education. Our Government is proud of what has been accomplished to date and I am pleased to see that many of these discussions are part of The Way Forward, which is a vision for sustainability and growth, and specifically, the four pillars of that plan: A More Efficient Public Sector, a Stronger Economic Foundation, Better Services and Better Outcomes. Working with the Combined Councils of Labrador and other key stakeholders in the region and province, we are making tremendous gains in achieving a strong, diversified province with a high standard of living.

Your Annual General Meeting presents an opportunity for Mayors, AngajukKâks, Councilors, Ministers, Members of the House of Assembly, service providers and others to share updates on the good things that are happening in their respective fields of work and express their views on other areas that demand greater discussion.

Congratulations to your board, executive director and member municipalities on the collective advancements you have made over the past year, and best wishes for a successful gathering in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT BALL
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
Minister of Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs, and Minister of Labrador Affairs
Dear friends,

I wish to take this opportunity to officially welcome athletes, coaches, family and friends, volunteers and all others who are participating in the 2019 Labrador Winter Games.

The excitement has been building for this long-awaited event and now that three years have passed since the successful 2016 Games, Labradorians are preparing to embrace the competition and the camaraderie.

I look forward with great anticipation to being able to take part in the opening ceremonies. As Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Minister of Labrador Affairs and Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs, I consider it a privilege and an honour to join with special guests, my colleagues in government, and Labradorians from every part of the Big Land to set in motion the sporting events and special activities that will become the highlight of the winter season.

I would like to commend the athletes, their coaches, and their communities for the effort and support they have invested towards making the 2019 Labrador Winter Games a truly memorable event. Our Government is proud to support athletes who are striving to showcase their talents, their sport, and their home communities.

I also wish to extend sincere thanks to the organizers of the 2019 Labrador Winter Games. The ‘Friendship Games’ would not be possible without the collective efforts of a small but hard-working staff, the board of directors, officials and volunteers. They have tremendous pride in an event that places an emphasis on friendship first and competition.

Best of luck to all athletes and communities in their pursuit of hoisting the coveted Labrador Cup and laying claim to the right to call themselves the best community in 2019.

Yours in sport and friendship,

DWIGHT BALL

Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
On behalf of Premier Dwight Ball and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, I would like to thank the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada for hosting this year’s Forum in Yellowknife.

My name is Randy Edmunds and I am the Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier, Parliament Secretary for Indigenous Affairs. I represent the people of the district of Torngat Mountains in the House of Assembly and I am a proud Inuk with real-life experiences as a lifelong resident of Northern Labrador.

This represents the second time I have had the pleasure of attending the Northern Development Ministers Forum. I am happy to be part of the discussions at the table with the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Northern affairs and Internal Trade, and my esteemed colleagues from jurisdictions in Canada's North.

I would also like to introduce Ron Bowles, Deputy Minister of the Labrador Affairs Secretariat. Ron and his team bring years of experience in leading our province’s involvement with the Forum.

The North is a large and diverse region of Canada, made up of beautiful land and seascapes, resilient communities, and friendly, resourceful people who love where they live and are proud of their culture, their heritage, and their land.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador values the northern region of our province, which is Labrador, and recognizes the contributions it makes to the economic, cultural and social fabric of a unique and distinct part of the province.

Rich in natural resources, Labrador is strong contributor to the provincial economy. There are prospects for even greater growth and Government is continuing to foster opportunities to leverage investment from the private sector and the Federal Government in a wide range of projects and developments.

In order to take advantage of these opportunities and ensure these ventures are successful, Government is continuing to make investments in essential infrastructure and supports to encourage economic growth.

I would like to thank Minister LeBlanc for our discussion last evening, and in particular, the exchange of information and thoughts about how the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework can enhance social and economic opportunities for people living in Canada’s North, including the culturally diverse region of Labrador.
The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes the importance of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework to all residents of Labrador. While we share many of the challenges experienced by our Northern neighbours, we believe that by working together towards common goals, we can achieve great things for communities and people.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Manitoba for its commitment to host the next Northern Development Ministers Forum and thank the Northwest Territories for its welcome and traditional northern hospitality.

Nakummek.

Thank you.
On behalf of Premier Ball, I would like to thank Minister LeBlanc and his staff for hosting this year’s Forum. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Senior Officials Working Group that enables these meetings to occur.

It was a pleasure to come to the Northwest Territories and meet with colleagues from the north that share areas of mutual interest.

I believe our meeting last evening was quite valuable and I look forward to ongoing discussions on the Arctic Northern Policy Framework.

Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to its continued participation in the Northern Development Ministers Forum. Lastly, I would like to thank Manitoba for hosting our next gathering and wish them the best in their planning.

Thank you