Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: AES/032/2012]

On December 5, 2012, the Department of Advanced Education and Skills received your request for access to the following records:

I am requesting under the Access to Information Act:
The new Poverty Reduction Strategy/Action Plan as well as the Progress Report on Poverty Reduction
In providing these documents, kindly provide the source demonstrating Newfoundland and Labrador’s rank as the jurisdiction with the third lowest rate of poverty in Canada

Please be advised the new Poverty Strategy/Action Plan as well as the Progress Report on Poverty Reduction is currently under review, therefore access to this information is exempted from disclosure in accordance with Section 20 (1) (a) (b) (c) of the Act.

20. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

(a) advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

(b) the contents of a formal research report or audit report that in the opinion of the head of the public body is incomplete unless no progress has been made on it for more than 3 years;

(c) consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of a public body, a minister or the staff of a minister;

The records pertaining to the source demonstrating Newfoundland and Labrador’s rank as the jurisdiction with the third lowest rate of poverty in Canada are available publically; please see the News Release from 2009 at the following link for the information requested. http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/hrle/1214n02.htm

The Poverty Reduction Strategy/Action Plan, as well as the Progress Report on Poverty is currently in draft and not finalized, and therefore incomplete. It would therefore meet the criteria of the sections listed above.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal 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
34 Pippy Place
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 Supreme Court, 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.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the ATIPP Coordinator at 729-5152.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Darrin Pike
Deputy Minister