

May 16, 2019



Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* [Our File #: FIN-34-2019]

On April 17, 2019, the Department of Finance received your access to information request for the following:

“I'd like to request a breakdown of how much it cost to prepare and produce the provincial budget presented April 16, including: -- printing costs -- total preparation costs.”

The Department of Finance is pleased to advise that your request has been granted.

The Department considered the following when preparing its response for costs associated with preparing/producing the Provincial Budget:

- The Budget process is a government-wide initiative that involves the participation of numerous employees from all core government departments, as well as Agencies, Boards and Commissions. Therefore, the response provided below includes only those expenses incurred by the Department of Finance to prepare/produce the 2019 Budget.
- The printing of the budget documents was completed in-house by the Queen's Printer at no cost to the Department of Finance.
- The preparation of the budget documents was completed by current staff at no extra cost to the Department of Finance.

- Annual salary information for employees of the Department of Finance is available on-line as follows:
https://www.gov.nl.ca/budget/2019/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/04/gov_salary_details_report.pdf
- As detailed below, the only extra costs incurred by the Department of Finance in the release of the 2019 Budget was for the purchase of food and beverages. These items were required for invited guests who participated in the Budget Lock-ups (which usually occur during the lunch hour); a small reception (held in the front lobby of the Confederation Building) that followed the presentation of the Budget Speech to the House of Assembly on Budget Day; staff working through their respective lunch breaks; and an early morning technical briefing provided to communications staff throughout government.

Department of Finance Budget 2019

Meal Description	Amount
For Locked Briefing Room Attendees	\$2,198
For Staff	\$325
For General Public (Reception in the Lobby of the East Block, Confederation Building)	\$459
For Communications Briefing	\$91
Total Expenses for Meals (excluding HST)	\$ 3,073

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 feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-2082, or by email at bethbartlett@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Bartlett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Bartlett, CIAPP-C
ATIPP Coordinator