

November 25, 2021

Shelly D Hipson
RR3 Shelburne, B0T 1W0

Dear Shelly D Hipson:

Re: Processing Fee Estimate – 2021-01821-HEA

This letter is a follow-up to your application received on October 4, 2021. You requested:

I would like copies of all records that are forwarded from Nova Scotia to the Public Health Agency of Canada's Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System (CAEFISS) and Health Canada's Canada Vigilance program that were used to create the following breakdown of information (see attached) (Date Range for Record Search: From 12/19/2020 To 9/30/2021)

Amended November 19, 2021 to a breakdown of the reported adverse events in aggregate format rather than the full AEFI reports.

Subsection 11(2) of Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act allows us to charge fees for the cost of the services provided under the Act. We may charge fees for locating, retrieving, producing, preparing and providing a copy of the record. We may also charge for shipping and handling fees. We can now provide you with a fee estimate for processing the request.

Producing the record	\$ 540.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
Total Estimate	\$ 540.00

We note that in your original application you requested a fee waiver. This is a fee estimate for producing the record. It will take about 20 hours (-2 free hours). The hourly rate for processing requests is set in the regulations at \$30 / hour.

Where an applicant is required to pay fees for services, subsection 11(5) of the *FOI/POP Act* requires that a public body provide the applicant with an estimate of the total fee before providing the services, which we are doing through this letter.

If you still wish us to proceed with the processing of your application, please do one of the following:

- (a) Please optional text: forward a cheque payable to the Minister of Finance, in the amount of \$270.00, to my attention at the address above or pay the invoice through your IAP Request account for \$270.00, to my attention at the mailing address listed above. The remainder of the payment \$270.00 would then be due when our response is completed.

OR

- (b) Please confirm that you do not accept the fee estimate and that you wish to ask us to waive the fees, at which time we would consider your request.

OR

- (c) You can also choose to revise the scope of the request and we would re-evaluate if the fees are still required.

If the amount of work is less or more than estimated, the total fee will be revised accordingly, and we will advise you.

If you choose (b), above, kindly explain upon what grounds you are requesting us to waive the fee. Subsection 11(7) of the *FOIPOP Act* allows us to excuse an applicant from paying all or part of a fee on the following grounds:

- (a) the applicant cannot afford the payment or for any other reason it is fair to excuse payment; or
- (b) the record relates to a matter of public interest, including the environment or public health or safety

In arriving at fee-waiver decisions, public bodies are asked to consider the nature of the requested records, the types of benefit that reasonably can be expected from disclosure, and the significance of the benefit that may result from disclosure. For example, if you are claiming that the records relate to a matter of public interest, a public body would consider whether dissemination of the information in the records reasonably could be expected to yield a public benefit by:

- (a) disclosing an environmental concern or a public health or safety concern; or
- (b) contributing meaningfully to the development of a public understanding of, or debate on, an important issue, policy, law, or service?

These considerations are the first of a two-part test that helps public bodies decide waiver requests when the public interest is claimed. If, after considering the arguments for a fee waiver, a public body determines that the records requested do indeed relate to a matter of public interest, the second decision is whether an applicant should be excused from paying all or part of the estimated fee.

[for further information, please see:

<http://www.canlii.ca/en/ns/nsfoipop/doc/1997/1997canlii2206/1997canlii2206.html>]

With the provision of this fee estimate, your application has been placed on hold effective November 25, 2021 and will be reactivated once you decide on the options provided above.

You may request a review of our decision to charge fees. To do so, please complete the enclosed Form 7 and forward it to the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner (formerly the Review Officer), P.O. Box 181, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2M4.

If I do not hear back from you by **January 25, 2021**, we will consider this file abandoned and closed.

If you have any questions, please contact me 902-424-6920 or melinda.frelick@novascotia.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melinda Frelick", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Melinda Frelick
IAP Administrator