

December 29, 2021

Shelly D Hipson
RR3
Shelburne, B0T 1W0

Sent via email: shellyhipson@gmail.com

Dear Shelly D Hipson:

Re: Processing Fee Estimate – 2021-02260-SLTC

This letter is a follow-up to your application received on December 6, 2021. You requested:

- 1.) All records submitted from the 133 long term care homes and facilities from throughout the province to Barbara Adams, the Minister of the Department and/or any other person appointed to receive such records on the topic of (a) vaccination rates, (b) the pandemic, (c) staffing and (d) facility concerns.*
- 2. Report and or records on the "contingency plans for long term care homes" as mentioned in the media. (Date Range for Record Search: From 09/30/2021 To 12/05/2021)*

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.

Processing the records	\$ 1626.00
Total Estimate	\$ 1626.00

We note that in your original application you requested a fee waiver. This is a fee estimate for processing the records (approximately 3400 pages). It will take about 56 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 forward a cheque payable to the Minister of Finance, in the amount of \$813.00, to my attention at the address above or pay the invoice through your IAP Request account for \$813.00. The remainder of the payment [\$813.00] 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 December 29, 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 **February 28, 2022**, we will consider this file abandoned and closed.

If you have any questions, please contact me 902-424-3843 or neil.frelick@novascotia.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Neil Frelick', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Neil Frelick
IAP Administrator