

February 22, 2022

Shelly D Hipson
RR3
Shelburne, B0T 1W0

Dear Shelly D Hipson:

Re: You are not entitled to the information you requested – 2022-00107-HEA

The Department of Health and Wellness received your application for access to information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act) on January 27, 2022.

In your application, you requested a copy of the following records:

In this article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-gospel-light-baptist-church-covid-outbreak-1.6250957> it states:

“Three people have died in the past week of COVID-19 — one at a group home in Amherst and two at a long-term care home in Pugwash, N.S. — and the province has said those cases trace back to the Gospel Light event.”

1. I would like to request all records, reports, information, evidence, documentation, and proof - that supports this statement is true – that “three people died of COVID-19 and that “those cases (deaths) trace back to the Gospel Light event.” Please note – I do not want any identifying information. I am just seeking the body of evidence that support this statement by the province.

2. I would like to receive all reports and records that explain (a) the process taken to determine “community spread” (b) and the accuracy of “community spread”(c) the process taken to determine “contract tracing” (d) and the accuracy of contact tracing (in general and pertaining to this event).

3. Any record, briefing notes, e-mails, correspondence, report that was forwarded from Dr. Shelley Deeks, Nova Scotia's deputy chief medical officer and Dr. Robert Strang's Public Health office to the Office of the Premier and vice versa concerning this event.

The gathering took place from October 25 to 29 in Amherst. (Date Range for Record Search: From 10/24/2021 To 1/19/2022)

You are not entitled to the records requested. We have withheld the information in this request according to subsection 5(2) of the *Act*. The severed information is exempt from disclosure under the *Act* for the following reason(s):

- 4A(1) Conflict with Other Enactments
 - The Personal Health Information Act prevails over FOIPOP

This applies to the entirety of part 1 of your request, as well as the “pertaining to this event” portion of part 2.

For the remainder of part 2, contact tracing and community spread are based on publicly available national and international guidance as well as published literature.

For part 3 of the request, Dr Strang and Dr Deeks had no written correspondence with the Office of the Premier concerning the event.

You have the right to ask for a review of this decision by the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner (formerly the Review Officer). You have 60 days from the date of this letter to exercise this right. If you wish to ask for a review, you may do so on Form 7, a copy of which is attached. Send the completed form to the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner, P.O. Box 181, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4.

Please be advised that a de-identified copy of this disclosure letter and the attached response to your FOIPOP application will be made public after 14 days. The package will be posted online at <https://openinformation.novascotia.ca>. The letter will not include your name, address or any other personal information that you have supplied while making your application under FOIPOP.

Please contact Tim Gregory at 902-424-3773 or by e-mail at timothy.gregory@novascotia.ca, if you need further assistance in regards to this application.

Sincerely,



Craig Beaton
Associate Deputy Minister

Attachment