

August 3, 2017

Mr. Colin Craig


Via Requestor Portal

Dear Mr. Craig:

Re: Processing Fee Estimate - 2017-04090-FTB

This letter is a follow-up to your application received on June 19, 2017. You requested:

Please provide documentation on any reports or analysis on demographic shifts (aging population) in Nova Scotia occurring in the future and how that relates to future revenues, expenditures and debt levels. I'm looking for analysis that is similar to the federal government's Fiscal Sustainability Reports that forecast long-term revenues, expenses and fiscal gaps.

The time frame for this request is June 1, 2015 to June 15, 2017.

Please note: Your electronic form would not allow me to enter my city - I live in Calgary.

Subsection 11(2) of the *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 record(s)	\$ 750.00
Copying the record(s)	\$ 0.00
Mailing the record(s)	\$ 0.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
Total Estimate	\$ 750.00

Where an applicant is required to pay fees for services, subsection 11(5) of the *FOIPOP 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 pay a deposit of \$375.00, either through your online account or by forwarding a cheque payable to the Minister of Finance, in the amount of \$375.00, to my attention at the following address:

IAP Services
5161 George Street, 12th floor, Suite 1201
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y7

The remainder of the payment (\$375.00) would then be due when our response is completed.

OR

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

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

If you choose (b) above, kindly explain upon what grounds you are requesting us to waive the fee. Subsection 11(7) the 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, would dissemination of the information in the records reasonably 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 remains on hold and will be reactivated and will be reactivated when you respond as requested in either (a) or (b) above.

As indicated in correspondence sent to you on July 20th, you may be interested in reviewing the November 2014 report written by Laurel Broten which is publicly available. The Broten Report studied the subject of tax and regulatory reform within the province and considered, among other things, the impact of an aging population on tax models, and speaks to the impact of the future demographic. The report is available on the Department's website at http://www.novascotia.ca/finance/docs/tr/Tax_and_Regulatory_Review_Nov_2014.pdf.

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 we do not hear from you within 60 days of the date of this letter, we will consider your application to be abandoned and close the file.

If you have any questions, please contact me James.McLean@novascotia.ca or 902-424-3773.

Yours truly,



James McLean
IAP Administrator