



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

November 5, 2018

Ref: 110628

Mike Larsen, President
Sara Neuert, Executive Director
BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
103 – 1093 W. Broadway
Vancouver BC V6H 1E2

Dear Mike Larsen and Sara Neuert:

I am writing in response to your September 24, 2018, letter regarding Right to Know Week. In your letter, you set out the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association's (BC FIPA) position on the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) and the need for legislative reform.

Our government is committed to openness and transparency with regard to government records. As you know, the mandate letter I received upon my appointment as Minister of Citizens' Services set out the Premier's expectations that my ministry:

- improve access to information rules to provide greater public accountability; and
- improve response and processing times for freedom of information requests.

I take this commitment very seriously, as it is essential to restoring public confidence in the province's access to information system.

From November 2017 through to April 2018, I personally held roundtable consultations with stakeholders internal and external to government. Additionally, Government Communications and Public Engagement consulted a range of freedom of information requestors and administrators on behalf of the Information Access Operations Office. To this end, the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) staff are currently examining the processes, policies, regulation and legislation related to access to information, including input collected by the last government. Collectively, this feedback will inform our recommendations in the coming months.

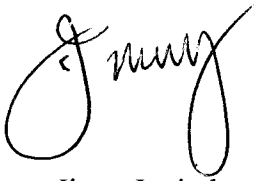
FOIPPA is a critically important piece of legislation for over 2,900 public bodies and it impacts every British Columbian. Making meaningful improvements to the way government handles and shares records is not something we can rush as this work is complex, and it must be done thoughtfully and with due care to ensure improvements are both effective and sustainable.

...2

While we work on updating policies, regulation and legislation, and as part of an ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, we are also improving the existing system to provide the public with faster access to records. CITZ staff are actively working with ministries on ways to make more records available to the public without a freedom of information request.

I want to thank you for taking the time to provide your organization's feedback. BC FIPA's commitment to educating the public on their access to information rights is commendable, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jinny', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jinny Jogindera Sims
Minister

pc: Jill Kot, Deputy Minister