

**Subject:** Re: For MO approval - media request - Sean Holman  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015 at 3:29:29 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX  
**To:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**CC:** Ingram, Geoff MTIC:EX, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Good.

Nick Facey,  
Chief of Staff  
for the Hon. Amrik Virk  
Minister of Technology, Innovation & Citizens' Services  
Government of BC

On Oct 30, 2015, at 3:19 PM, Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX <[Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Here is another media request for your approval. This one is currently with Sarf but wanted to get to you now to give some time for your review. Plz let me know? Thx much - Jo

**Date/Time:** Oct. 29/12:20pm

**Deadline @** Fri. Oct. 30 @ 5pm

**Media:** Tyee/Ass. Professor Journalism

**Reporter:** Sean Holmar<sup>s.22</sup>

**Background:** Reporter/professor would like some background information on our FOI resources and release process.

**Questions:**

In the past, the government's annual report on the administration of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act has included its FOI budget and actuals, as well as FTEs and projected FTEs. But that information doesn't appear to be in the latest report. Could you please provide that data.

The 2014/15 budget for FOI is \$7.9 million, the same as 2013/14.

The Ministry's current FTE count for staff who process FOI requests is 105.

Please see the Ministry's 2014/15 Service Plan Report (page 10/11) for additional information on costs respecting Freedom of Information Requests

[http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/Annual\\_Reports/2014\\_2015/pdf/ministry/mtics.pdf](http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/Annual_Reports/2014_2015/pdf/ministry/mtics.pdf)

One way of reducing the cost of FOI would be to simply proactively release more information, as the commissioner has previously suggested. This would be different from the government's reactive/simultaneous release system. Why has the government not yet acted on that recommendation/is it planning to do so?

B.C.'s open government initiatives have resulted in government sharing more information with its citizens than ever before.

- Tens of thousands of pages of requested documents have been posted to the Open Information website.
- Minister's and Deputy Minister's monthly travel expenses are pro-actively posted online.
- DataBC contains 2,000 high quality datasets from sources across government that are open and free for anyone to use or repurpose.
- We are now also releasing government purchasing cards and business transaction account information on a quarterly basis.

Has the government considered that, by reducing the number of exemptions and exclusions in the Act, it would require less staff to administer?

A review of FOIPPA is required by law every six years.

Any changes to the Act would be considered as part of this regular review.

An all-party Special Committee to Review the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (RSBC 1996, chapter 165)* was appointed on May 27, 2015, to undertake a comprehensive review of the Act.

What was the total and specific cost to close all requests in fiscal 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2014/15. Based on an earlier media request I sent (see below for the response I got back), this number is separate from the total FOI resources number. "Government closed approximately 8,400 requests in 2014/15 for a total cost to government of close to \$20M."

Please see page 9 of the 2014/15 Report on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/open-government/open-information/mtic-foi-annualreport-2015.pdf>

**Subject:** request - Sean Holman

**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015 at 3:22:20 PM Pacific Daylight Time

**From:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX

**To:** Mills, Shane LASS:EX, Southern, Evan PREM:EX, Ingram, Geoff MTIC:EX

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## **Cook, Jeannette MTIC:EX**

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**From:** Jacobson, John MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 10:12 AM  
**To:** Wenezenki-Yolland, Cheryl FIN:EX  
**Cc:** McEwan, Colin MTIC:EX; Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX; Hughes, Bette-Jo MTIC:EX; Cook, Jeannette MTIC:EX; Curtis, David FIN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: A Message from the Chief Records Officer - Open Government Committee

Hi Cheryl

In consultation with MTICS' Ministry Executive, we've determined that MTICS' delegate on the ADM committee is Colin McEwan, our ADM Corporate Services.

Colin is in the best position to speak for the ministry on issues that span MTICS, and of course the OCIO and Procurement Services Branch are there to support the ADM committee's efforts as required.

Thanks  
JJ

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**From:** Salling, Tammy L FIN:EX **On Behalf Of** Wenezenki-Yolland, Cheryl FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** Fyfe, Richard J JAG:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana JTST:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Main, Grant TRAN:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Jacobson, John MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Curtis, David FIN:EX  
**Subject:** A Message from the Chief Records Officer - Open Government Committee

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the establishment of a cross-ministry Assistant Deputy Ministers' 'Open Government Committee' tasked with identifying and realizing opportunities to enhance public access to government information. The work of this committee is consistent with the strategic vision that Bette-Jo Hughes and I shared with members of the Corporate Executive on February 19th, regarding the adoption of more open and transparent information management practices.

The mandate of the committee will broadly encompass all government information of public interest subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The committee's initial efforts are anticipated to focus upon the proactive release of summary contract information for existing contracts and the establishment of frameworks for the disclosure of future contracts in their entirety – with specific exceptions as appropriate. Other imminent deliverables are anticipated to include the proactive release of Ministers and Deputy Ministers' calendars and summary information on Freedom of Information requests.

It is anticipated that the committee will meet monthly.

Accordingly, I would appreciate your nomination of a representative from within your ministry at the ADM-level to advance this important corporate initiative by **Monday, March 21st**.

I would like to thank you for your continued support toward modernizing our information management practices and demonstrating our commitment to openness and transparency.

If you have questions please contact David Curtis, ADM, Corporate Information and Records Management Office, at [David.Curtis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Curtis@gov.bc.ca) or 250 387-8125.

Thank you,

Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland  
Associate Deputy Minister & Chief Records Officer  
Ministry of Finance

## Cook, Jeannette MTIC:EX

**From:** Jacobson, John MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 10:09 AM  
**To:** McEwan, Colin MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX; Hughes, Bette-Jo MTIC:EX; Cook, Jeannette MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: A Message from the Chief Records Officer - Open Government Committee

Hi Colin – I expect that Sarf has advised you already, but I want to make sure you've heard this before I respond to Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland. In discussion with Bette-Jo and Sarf, we've determined that you're the best choice for our initial delegate on this ADM committee. As the committee's work evolves, we may need to change that, but for now it's you.

Thanks  
JJ

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Associate Deputy Minister & Chief Records Officer  
Ministry of Finance



## Cook, Jeannette MTIC:EX

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**From:** Jacobson, John MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:48 AM  
**To:** Hughes, Bette-Jo MTIC:EX; Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Taylor, Diane Ruth MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** FW: A Message from the Chief Records Officer - Open Government Committee

Cheryl mentioned this to me the other day. I think the three of us should have a convo about the right delegate – ie there's an obvious choice, but I'd like to talk about some not-so-obvious choices before we go ahead.

I'll ask Diane to set up a ½ hour for us.

JJ

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