

Delaney-Spindler, Chelsea CITZ:EX

From: Russell, Shannon CITZ:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Delaney-Spindler, Chelsea CITZ:EX
Subject: FW: Param Grewal Travel Vouchers FY 18
Attachments: Param Grewal TV E128505.pdf; Param Grewal TV E128507.pdf; Param Grewal TV E128508.pdf; Param Grewal TV E128509.pdf; Param Grewal TV E128523.pdf

Importance: High

Hi – when Debra responds to this, if Param has indeed been paid, could she please send me the Province of BC Paid Statement that would have gone to Param notifying him that the funds would be deposited into his account. If for some reason it didn't get paid, please advise her Param's s.22 we need to get this paid right away.

Thanks Chelsea.
Shannon

From: Russell, Shannon CITZ:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 4:49 PM
To: Grewal, Param CITZ:EX
Subject: FW: Param Grewal Travel Vouchers FY 18

As you can see from the below email, travel voucher 128507 had been signed off and was sent to Finance for processing. Chelsea has a call into them to find out why you have not been paid for this amount.

Thanks,
Shannon

From: Delaney-Spindler, Chelsea CITZ:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 4:25 PM
To: Russell, Shannon CITZ:EX
Subject: FW: Param Grewal Travel Vouchers FY 18

Hi Shannon,

The travel voucher in question was sent to Debra on April 5, 2018. I have called and left a message, and sent an email for her to let me know.

Thanks,
Chelsea

From: Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:56 PM
To: FIN FSA MIN OFF FIN:EX
Subject: Param Grewal Travel Vouchers FY 18

Hello,

Please find attached the following Travel Vouchers for Param Grewal:

-E128505
-E128507
-E128508
-E128509
-E128523

Please extend our tremendous thanks for your continued support and patience in regards to this matter.

Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX

From: Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:18 AM
To: 'Allan Bagelman'
Subject: RE: Attention. Minister Sims - Connect Coast Program
Attachments: Outgoing 108345, Allan Bagelman, April 24, 2018.pdf

Hello,

On behalf of the Ministry of Citizens' Services, please find the attached letter from Minister Jinny Sims.

Thank you

From: Allan Bagelman [<mailto:allan@totalsupport.solutions>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 2:19 PM
To: Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX
Subject: Attention. Minister Sims - Connect Coast Program

Dear Minister Sims:

I called your office today requesting funding information for First Nations as result of the delivery of the delivery of Connect Coast Program.

I represent an Information Technology company that works with First Nations throughout BC. Our understanding is upon Connected Coast's delivery of broadband cabling and connectivity to these first nations communities; a need will still exist for these communities to have the local IT infrastructures, maintenance and support and training in order to utilize and benefit from the connectivity.

That said:

- Is there funding for IT infrastructure, maintenance and support and training for First Nations communities;
- If so,
 - How much?
 - What is in/out of scope
 - How would Chief in Councils access funding?

Thank you again for your assistance and we look forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

Allan Bagelman
Director of Marketing
Dial A Geek / dba Total Support Solutions
250.999.0040

Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX

From: Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:30 AM
To: s.22
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information
Attachments: Outgoing 108347, s.22 Freedom of Information, April 24, 2018.pdf

Hello,

On behalf of the Ministry of Citizens' Services, please find the attached letter from Minister Jinny Sims.

Thank you

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 1:08 PM
To: Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information

Dear Minister Sims,

I will write again, this time with the same content, but slightly different wording, and hopefully, you'll then send me the answer!

I'm glad we have the opportunity to express our concerns about the FoI Act in BC and how it's being used to prevent the public from enjoying the transparency we deserve and expect.

Over the past 5-6 years, I've been waiting to hear from Sharon Noble more information about the smart meter program relating to the costs, safety, health and security. Unfortunately, to date, it seems that all her inquiries have been blocked by Sections 21 and 22 of the FoI and Privacy Act.

Following are examples of the topics about which she has inquired and about which the public has a right to know:

- 1) The costs for the program are the highest in North America on a per meter basis. How many quotes were requested and obtained? On what basis was the ITRON meter selected?
- 2) The smart meters are electrical equipment that normally would be certified safe by CSA but, due to a loophole in the BC Electrical Standards Act, they are not. Did an independent professional electrical engineer licensed in BC certify these meters to be safe? If so, please provide that certification.
- 3) ITRON and BC Hydro are basing financial projections of the program on a 20 year life expectancy, even though the industry acknowledges that smart meters' life expectancy is 5-7 years. What is the warranty for these ITRON meters?
- 4) How many smart meters have been replaced and what are the reasons for doing so?

5) With the signed authorization of the victim of a smart meter fire, who inspected the smart meter after it was removed from the scene before the fire inspector could complete his job?

6) Independent electrical engineers have identified many design flaws in the meter, one of which has never been included in tests done by ITRON, ANSI or BC Hydro. When told that an agency did test the component, Sharon Noble was run in a circle for the results and eventually, after many months, BC Hydro said that they could not tell her anything about the results due to Section 21 of the FOI Act.

Minister Sims, I understand that in every instance she was told, after several months, that the information was not being provided because, under Section 21, to do so could "reasonably be expected to harm significantly the competitive position, or interfere significantly with the negotiating position, of the third party, or result in undue financial loss or gain to any person or organization. In essence, BC Hydro is protecting ITRON, at our expense. When she complained to the Commission[BCUC], they have told her that there is nothing that can be done. The Commission is limited in its reach, being able to respond only if the agency failed to respond. They have no authority to take action if the response is dishonest, disingenuous, or non-responsive. So, Minister Sims, I, Sheila Pratt, have to wonder WHAT is the purpose of the Commission?

The Act is being used by BC Hydro to refuse to grant information that is of significance to the public. These dangerous devices are on our homes exposing our lives, the lives of our loved ones and our property, to undue risk. This was not the reason for the creation of the Act, and I would hope that you will address this misuse of this significant law. If you cannot fix it, then please do away with it entirely so that everyone knows that we have no hope to expect transparency in our government. Please either fix it so that it allows the public to know the truth about the workings of the government and its agencies, or eliminate the sham altogether.

Respectfully,
s.22

On Apr 3, 2018, at 12:31 PM, Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX <CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hellos.22

On behalf of the Ministry of Citizens' Services, I would like to inform you that we are unable to duplicate a reply as the original incoming letter we receive is a piece of private correspondence. If you would like to write us a personal letter we would be more than happy to send a similar reply.

Thank you

From s.22

Sent: Saturday, March 31, 2018 1:05 PM

To: Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX

Subject: re: Freedom of Information

Dear Minister Sims,

I have just read the following letter sent to you by Sharon Noble. I could rewrite the letter in "my own words" s.22 and request an answer, but it seems a waste of time. May I ask you to send me the reply you send to Ms Noble?

Thank you,
s.22

From: Sharon Noble
Sent: March 25, 2018
To: CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Freedom of Information

[<https://www.leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/members/41st-Parliament/Sims-Jinny>]

Dear Minister Sims,

<https://www.e-know.ca/regions/east-kootenay/say-improve-freedom-information/>

I thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns about the Freedom of Information Act in British Columbia, and the way it is being used to prevent the public from enjoying the transparency we deserve and expect.

Over the last 5-6 years I have been attempting to get more information about the smart meter program relating to costs, safety, health, and security. Unfortunately, to date every inquiry has been blocked by Sections 21 and 22 of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

Examples of the topics about which I have inquired:

- 1) The costs for the program are the highest in North America on a per meter basis. How many quotes were requested and obtained? On what basis was the ITRON meter selected?
- 2) The smart meters are electrical equipment that normally would be certified safe by CSA but, due to a loophole in the BC Electrical Standards Act, they are not. Did an independent professional electrical engineer licensed in BC certify these meters to be safe? If so, please provide that certification.
- 3) ITRON and BC Hydro are basing financial projections of the program on a 20 year life expectancy, even though the industry acknowledges that smart meters' life expectancy is 5-7 years. What is the warranty for these ITRON meters?
- 4) How many smart meters have been replaced and what are the reasons for doing so?
- 5) With the signed authorization of the victim of a smart meter fire, who inspected the smart meter after it was removed from the scene before the fire inspector could complete his job?

6) Independent electrical engineers have identified many design flaws in the meter, one of which has never been included in tests done by ITRON, ANSI or BC Hydro. When told that an agency did test the component, I was run in a circle for the results and eventually, after many months, BC Hydro said that they could not tell me anything about the results due to Section 21 of the FOI Act.

Minister Sims, in every instance I was told, after several months, that the information was not being provided because, under Section 21, to do so could “reasonably be expected to harm significantly the competitive position, or interfere significantly with the negotiating position, of the third party, or result in undue financial loss or gain to any person or organization. In essence, BC Hydro is protecting ITRON, at our expense. When I’ve complained to the Commission[BCUC] , they have told me that there is nothing that can be done. The Commission is limited in its reach, being able to respond only if the agency failed to respond. They have no authority to take action if the response is dishonest, disingenuous, or non-responsive. So, Minister Sims, what is the purpose of the Commission?

The Act is being used by BC Hydro to refuse to grant information that is of significance to the public. These dangerous devices are on our homes exposing our lives, the lives of our loved ones and our property, to undue risk. This was not the reason for the creation of the Act, and I would hope that you will address this misuse of this significant law. If you cannot fix it, then please do away with it entirely so that everyone knows that we have no hope to expect transparency in our government. Please either fix it so that it allows the public to know the truth about the workings of the government and its agencies, or eliminate the sham altogether.

Respectfully,
Sharon Noble

[<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/infoaccess/>
&
<https://www.oipc.bc.ca/>]