

Biggs, Jackie CITZ:EX

From: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX
Sent: October 29, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX; Ritchie, CJ CITZ:EX
Subject: DN revision

Hi Kerry

Can you please prepare a new note to submit to TB s.13
s.13

Thanks
Kass

Sent from my iPhone

Biggs, Jackie CITZ:EX

From: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX
Sent: October 27, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Beare, Lisa CITZ:EX
Subject: FOR APPROVAL -- FW: MIN DBN - Application Fee
Attachments: s.13

Importance: High

Hi Minister

To update fee recommendation, DN attached requiring your approval.

Cheers
Kass

Kassandra Lawal
Office 778-974-6009 | Cell 778-678-3776
kassandra.lawal@gov.bc.ca

Page 03 of 40 to/à Page 23 of 40

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Biggs, Jackie CITZ:EX

From: Leppard, Brianna CITZ:EX
Sent: November 2, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX
Subject: RE: Concerns re: Bill 22 - FOI changes

Hi Sam,

As requested, I have reached out to s.22 and will let you know once the phone call has been confirmed.

Thank you!
Brianna

From: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 2, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Leppard, Brianna CITZ:EX <Brianna.Leppard@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Concerns re: Bill 22 - FOI changes

Hi Brianna,

Please reach out to s.22 and let her know the Minister Heyman's constituency office sent over a meeting request regarding bill 22 and MLB would be happy to meet with them to discuss their concerns.

Please say this meeting will be a 15 min one-on-one call. Please ask s.22 to provide their number and MLB will call them at the scheduled time.

Cheers,

Samantha Scott | Ministerial Advisor to the Honourable Minister Beare
Ministry of Citizens' Services
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Gov, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2 | 778-679-4889

From: Williams, Chelsea <Chelsea.Williams@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: October 28, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Concerns re: Bill 22 - FOI changes

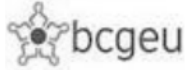
[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Sam, here is the request from George's constituent to meet regarding the bill. The constituent is also a s.22 but it is not a media request for an interview. Let me know what the plan is.

Thanks,

Chelsea Williams (she/her) | Research & Communications Officer | BC NDP Caucus
250-953-4992 | c: 778-678-1024 | chelsea.williams@leg.bc.ca

Located on the unceded territory of the lək'wəŋən (Songhees & Esquimalt) A, LENEĆ (W̱SÁNEĆ) and Coast Salish peoples.



From: s.22

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:27 PM

To: Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Concerns re: Bill 22 - FOI changes

Hi there,

I'm a s.22 . I want to express my concern about the proposed application fee for FOI requests.

News organizations already have had to sacrifice much of their investigative journalism because of costs, this will only deepen those cuts and further limit that work. Freelance journalists attempting to pursue stories will be forced to take on this cost themselves. Advocates in the community rely on FOI to better inform their work in supporting marginalized communities. Any nominal fee is only nominal to those that can take the financial hit. Not to mention that when a request often needs to be made to multiple bodies to be thorough, those nominal fees stack on top of each other.

I would appreciate it if you would consider meeting with members of the community that will be impacted by this, including local journalists and journalism students, to truly understand the realities of interacting with the FOI system, the way introducing mandatory application fees in such a blanket way will be harmful, and what other options may be less harmful to explore to address any concerns that your government might have that prompted this proposed change.

Thank you,

s.22

Biggs, Jackie CITZ:EX

From: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX
Sent: October 29, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX
Cc: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX; Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: DN revision - fee/fine issue paper

MLB approved s.13 - please apply esig.

Kass

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 29, 2021, at 3:21 PM, Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>
> Hi Kass,
>
> Attached is the updated Fee Issue Paper for Minister's approval as requested.
>
> Thank you.
> JC
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Brown, Taylor J CITZ:EX <Taylor.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
> Sent: October 29, 2021 3:16 PM
> To: Ritchie, CJ CITZ:EX <CJ.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Pridmore, Kerry
> CITZ:EX <Kerry.Pridmore@gov.bc.ca>
> Cc: Owen, Tim CITZ:EX <Tim.Owen@gov.bc.ca>; Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX
> <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
> Subject: RE: DN revision - fee/fine issue paper
>
> Signed doc attached. I also updated the date signed from Oct 27th to the 29th.

> Thanks,

> Taylor

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ritchie, CJ CITZ:EX <CJ.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
> Sent: October 29, 2021 3:15 PM
> To: Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX <Kerry.Pridmore@gov.bc.ca>
> Cc: Brown, Taylor J CITZ:EX <Taylor.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Owen, Tim
> CITZ:EX <Tim.Owen@gov.bc.ca>; Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX
> <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
> Subject: Re: DN revision - fee/fine issue paper

> Yes- Taylor can apply esig

> Sent from my iPhone

> CJ Ritchie
> Associate Deputy Minister and Government Chief Information Officer
> Ministry of Citizens' Services
>
>> On Oct 29, 2021, at 2:54 PM, Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX <Kerry.Pridmore@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>>
>> CJ - need your signature on this please.
>> Jeannette will then send to MO for confirmation.
>> Thank you
>> Kerry
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Owen, Tim CITZ:EX <Tim.Owen@gov.bc.ca>
>> Sent: October 29, 2021 2:37 PM
>> To: Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX <Kerry.Pridmore@gov.bc.ca>
>> Cc: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
>> Subject: RE: DN revision - fee/fine issue paper
>>
>> Thank you Kerry
>>
>> Please can you approve the attached version as Program ADM and confirm to Jeannette.
>>
>> Jeannette - please note: CJ's signature needs to be added.
>>
>> Thanks
>>
>> Tim
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX <Kerry.Pridmore@gov.bc.ca>
>> Sent: October 29, 2021 1:41 PM
>> To: Owen, Tim CITZ:EX <Tim.Owen@gov.bc.ca>; Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX
>> <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
>> Cc: Ritchie, CJ CITZ:EX <CJ.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
>> Subject: RE: DN revision - fee/fine issue paper
>>
>> Tim and Jeannette:
>>
>> I have received the enclosed decision change from the Minister's Office.
>> Tim, if you can send the fee issue paper to Jeannette to obtain MLB signature.
>> I will contact legislative counsel and cabinet operations to request another regulation change is required.
>>
>> Kerry Pridmore | Assistant Deputy Minister | Corporate Information
>> and Records Management Office | Ministry of Citizen Services |
>> Cell: 250-507-1485 |
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Lawal, Kassandra CITZ:EX <Kassandra.Lawal@gov.bc.ca>
>> Sent: October 29, 2021 1:36 PM
>> To: Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX <Kerry.Pridmore@gov.bc.ca>; Ritchie, CJ
>> CITZ:EX <CJ.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>

>> Subject: DN revision

>>

>> Hi Kerry

>>

>> Can you please prepare a new note to submit to TB recommending a s.13
s.13

>>

>> Thanks

>> Kass

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>> s.13

> <

Biggs, Jackie CITZ:EX

From: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX
Sent: October 27, 2021 4:14 PM
To: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX
Cc: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX
Subject: RE: MIN DBN - Application Fee

MLB approved,s.13 – please apply esig.

Kassandra Lawal

Office 778-974-6009 | Cell 778-678-3776

kassandra.lawal@gov.bc.ca

From: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 27, 2021 3:40 PM
To: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX <Kassandra.Lawal@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: MIN DBN - Application Fee

Hi there,

Attached is the Minister's decision note for Minister's approval for the s.13

Thank you.

JC

Jeannette Cook | Director, Executive Operations
Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Citizens' Services
Ph: 250 387-8817 | **e:** jeannette.cook@gov.bc.ca

From: Beare, Lisa CITZ:EX
To: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL -- FW: CITZ Media Request: CTV News - FOIPPA amendments
Date: October 18, 2021 4:55:34 PM

Yes this is better. Approved

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From: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX <Kassandra.Lawal@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:53:30 PM
To: Beare, Lisa CITZ:EX <Lisa.Beare@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL -- FW: CITZ Media Request: CTV News - FOIPPA amendments

Hi Minister

Media response for your approval , edited:

Recommendation

On background:

- Other jurisdictions charge anywhere from \$5-\$50. A modest fee in the middle of that range is being recommended and will be determined through regulation soon.
- Adding a fee to non-personal FOI requests is in line with other jurisdictions across Canada. It isn't s.13 a barrier to information elsewhere and it won't be here in B.C.
- The fee will apply to only those making non-personal requests. Nearly 98% of requestors make fewer than five requests a year.
- Those asking for personal information will not pay a fee at all.
- Right now, B.C. receives more FOI requests annually than the other three western provinces, combined.

Kassandra Lawal

Office 778-974-6009 | Cell 778-678-3776
kassandra.lawal@gov.bc.ca

Reporter

Penny Daflos, Reporter
CTV News (BC)
penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca
604-787-1871

Deadline ASAP

Request

Can you confirm Rob Shaw's reporting that the "modest applications fee" for FOI requests will be \$25 and whether it'll apply to journalists?

Recommendation

On background:

- Other jurisdictions charge anywhere from \$5-\$50. A modest fee in the middle of that range is being recommended and will be determined through regulation soon.
- Adding a fee to non-personal FOI requests is in line with other jurisdictions across Canada. It isn't ^{s.13} a barrier to information elsewhere and it won't be here in B.C.
- The fee will apply to only those making non-personal requests. Nearly 98% of requestors make fewer than five requests a year.
- Those asking for personal information will not pay a fee at all.
- Right now, B.C. receives more FOI requests annually than the other three western provinces, combined.

From: [Beare, Lisa CITZ:EX](#)
To: [Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX](#)
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL -- FW: MIN DBN - Application Fee
Date: October 27, 2021 3:59:41 PM

Approved

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From: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX <Kassandra.Lawal@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:56:48 PM
To: Beare, Lisa CITZ:EX <Lisa.Beare@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL -- FW: MIN DBN - Application Fee

Hi Minister

To update fee recommendation, DN attached requiring your approval.

Cheers
Kass

Kassandra Lawal

Office 778-974-6009 | Cell 778-678-3776
kassandra.lawal@gov.bc.ca

DECISION NOTE

Advice to Minister Beare

Date: September 24, 2021

CLIFF#: 115782

ISSUE: Freedom of Information (FOI) Application Fee

BACKGROUND:

s.12; s.13

In FY2020/21, one FOI requester was responsible for 56% of all general FOI requests. s.13
s.13

s.13 In most cases, once a fee estimate has been provided to an applicant, the request is abandoned - suggesting the request was not genuinely required. In the past, only 15% of general requests proceeded after a fee estimate was provided.

s.12; s.13

DISCUSSION:

The fee is not intended to be a barrier to access and will be set within the range of similar fees charged by other Canadian jurisdictions (i.e., \$5 – \$25, see Appendix A). As a result, the fee will be set at an amount that is not intended to recover the full cost—or even a significant portion of the costs—of operating an access to information program.

The fee would be charged for each request for each public body. For example, if the same request is submitted 20 ministries, 20 application fees will be charged s.13 As such, the new proposed application fee is s.13

s.13

s.13

s.12; s.13

OPTIONS:

Option 1: s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

Option 2: s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

Option 3: s.12; s.13
s.12; s.13

RECOMMENDATION: s.12; s.13

(please circle)

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

OPTION _____

Lisa Beare
Minister

Date

Attachment(s): Appendix A – FOI Application Fees in Other Canadian Jurisdictions
Appendix B – Fee Amount Scenarios and Projections

Contact: Kerry Pridmore, 778 698-1591

Appendix A: FOI Application Fees in Other Canadian Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Application Fee
British Columbia (Current)	No Fee
British Columbia (Proposed)	To be determined in future regulation
Alberta	\$25 for first request / \$50 per continuing request
Saskatchewan	\$20 per requests to local governments
Manitoba	No Fee
Ontario	\$5 per request
Quebec	No Fee
Nova Scotia	\$5 per request
New Brunswick	No Fee
Prince Edward Island	\$5 per request
Newfoundland and Labrador	No Fee
Yukon	No Fee
Northwest Territories	No Fee
Nunavut	\$25 per request
Canada	\$5 per request

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

Biggs, Jackie CITZ:EX

From: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX
Sent: October 28, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX
Subject: FW: MIN DBN - Application Fee
Attachments: s.13

Hi Kerry,

Here's the signed decision note for the files. Thanks.

JC

From: Lawal, Cassandra CITZ:EX <Kassandra.Lawal@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 27, 2021 4:14 PM
To: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX <Samantha.Scott@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: MIN DBN - Application Fee

MLB approved, s.13 – please apply esig.

Kassandra Lawal
Office 778-974-6009 | Cell 778-678-3776
kassandra.lawal@gov.bc.ca

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Jeannette Cook | Director, Executive Operations
Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Citizens' Services
Ph: 250 387-8817 | **e:** jeannette.cook@gov.bc.ca

Biggs, Jackie CITZ:EX

From: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX
Sent: October 27, 2021 3:40 PM
To: Scott, Samantha CITZ:EX
Cc: Lawal, Kassandra CITZ:EX
Subject: MIN DBN - Application Fee
Attachments: s.13

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Thank you.

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Jeannette Cook | Director, Executive Operations
Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Citizens' Services
Ph: 250 387-8817 | *e:* jeannette.cook@gov.bc.ca