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Minister of Health Ministaat Aanniaqtailinirmut Ministre de la Santé

November 30, 2021

Graham Steele Information and Privacy Commissioner PO Box 1000, Station 270 Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0 Email: <u>admin@atipp-nu.ca</u>

Dear Commissioner,

Re: Request for Fee Review Your File: 21-171

This letter is in response to your review report 21-208-RR containing your findings and recommendations with respect to Health's ATIPP request file: 1029-20-DH2197.

The Department of Health welcomes the report and accepts your recommendation to waive the full fee for this request. We will also refund fees already paid. Health agrees that media plays an important role in society and depends on ATIPP as one of its most needed tools.

The Department would like to reiterate that this refund and waiver is being made in good faith on this request specifically. Moving forward we will provide fee estimates earlier on in the process, which we think will help prompt earlier conversations with applicants that will benefit their interests. Health always makes itself available to assist applicants with their requests and has tried to implement this in a respectful fashion.

ATIPP is a tool for all members of the public but is especially useful to the media. To complete this request, it required a branch wide search into communications and was a search for a topic rather than an identifiable record. Use of ATIPP under these parameters is labour intensive resulting in long processing times and high fees. Health does not want to deter or prevent individuals and media from exercising their ATIPP rights. Rather, this response is an open invitation to all future applicants to work with our ATIPP Office throughout their request to achieve the best results. ATIPP coordinators make decisions based of the knowledge available and within reasonable expectations.

The Department will discuss the various issues with fees and the points you raised at the with all the public bodies within the Government of Nunavut to improve the quality of ATIPP. There is a need to revaluate the fees and their implementation. Health strongly believes that its experience and feedback will lend itself to meaningful and positive change.

Should you have any further questions or concerns please contact Murugesh Narayanan, ATIPP Coordinator by e-mail at <u>mnarayanan@gov.nu.ca</u> or by phone at (867) 975 - 5729.

Matna,

Hon. John Main Minister of Health

cc: Colleen Stockley, Deputy Minister of Health Murugesh Narayanan, ATIPP Coordinator, Department of Health