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August 10, 2007

Information and Privacy Commissioner
3rd Floor, 756 Fort St
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9A4

by fax to 250-387-1696

Dear Commissioner:

Re: Reference No. 292-30/HSE-07-089

Further to my letters to you of August 7th and August 9th, today I received a letter from Deb McGinnis dated August 8, 2007, and the "consultation request" dated June 22, 2007 (both accompany this). My receipt of those documents modifies but does not resolve my request for a review by your office.

The issue of the need to provide a complete table rather than just the list of individuals, given the Ministry of Health's position that the Ministry of Finance's table was inaccurate is not resolved. Also outstanding is the apparently incomplete response on the question of documents that discuss errors in MSP enrollment.

The response of August 8th raises a new issue that requires your review. On May 7th the Ministry of Finance referred my request to the Ministry of Health (letter enclosed). On June 15th the Ministry of Health advised me that the time limit for responding to my request would be extended to August 3rd because of the need to consult with another public body. It turns out that the other public body was the Ministry of Finance. Not only is that circular, but given the particular issue in the Ministry of Finance it explains why virtually every request is extended through this abuse of section 10(1)(c) of the Act. The person consulted was Jacquie Edwards, author of the May 7th referral, about a memo originally sent from Stephen May, Public Affairs Officer – Ministry of Health, who as a fluke of government organization is part of the Ministry of Finance where the Public Affairs Bureau is attached. In other words, every Ministry (except Finance) can invoke section 10(1)(c) if its Public Affairs Officer gets involved since those officers are part of the Ministry of Finance. That is an abuse that needs to end.

Also accompanying this letter is an article posted to my website today that elaborates on the need for your review of the handling of my request by the Ministries of Health and Finance.

Sincerely,

David D. Schreck

cc: Deb McGinnis, Director Corporate Information, Privacy and Records Branch, Ministry of Health (by fax to 250 952-3492)

