

August 27, 2014

The ATIPPA Review Committee  
Suite C, 83 Thorburn Road  
St. John's, NL A1B 3M2

Members of the Committee:

As the Committee sifts through the various submissions it has received and ponders the testimony that it has witnessed, I would like to make a small contribution.

My first suggestion is that the powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner be restored to their original extent as a first step and enhanced if possible. In this regard, I suggest that the Committee include in its report a thorough review of the tradition of Cabinet secrecy, setting out both the rational basis for the tradition and also its limits in today's world. Such a review might also serve as the basis for a common understanding of the matter, an understanding that seems presently to be lacking.

I make the same suggestion with regard to the conventions of solicitor-client privilege.

The Committee is now undertaking a considerable task, one that will have considerable impact on the future of the Province. I wish it clarity of thought.

Richard H. Ellis

Section 30

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