



**TOWN OF TRENTON**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

March 6, 2003

Mr. Peter O'Brien  
Chair  
FOIPOP Review Committee  
c/o Nova Scotia Department of Justice  
PO Box 7, 5151 Terminal Road  
Halifax NS B3J 2L6

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

The Town of Trenton notes the "Request for Submissions" which recently appeared in The Chronicle-Herald requesting views regarding the Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act. The Council of the Town of Trenton submits the following observations and/or recommendations for the Review Committee:

- *Section 471(7) of the Act states "On request of the applicant, the responsible officer may excuse an applicant from paying all or part of a fee referred to in subsection (2) if, in the opinion of the responsible officer, the applicant cannot afford the payment or for any other reason it is fair to excuse payment."*

If a municipal unit does not excuse fees on principle, i.e., all information requests will be subject to the prescribed fee, but an individual makes the request on their application, the municipality should be granted the right to request an income statement of the individual.

- The number of information requests from an individual should be limited especially for those municipal units with a limited number of staff. For example, in the Town of Trenton, the administrative staff consists of three (3) members. When continuous FOIPOP requests are made by the same individual, the amount of time taken away from "regular" Town operations is substantial.

Sincerely,

Debbie Kampen, DPA  
Chief Administrative Officer