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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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CANADA

OFFICE OF THE LAW CLERK
AND PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL
BUREAU DU LÉGISTE ET
CONSEILLER PARLEMENTAIRE

BY EMAIL

October 21, 2024

The Honorable Greg Fergus, P.C., M.P.
Speaker of the House of Commons
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Speaker.President@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Notice pursuant to the House of Commons' order of June 10, 2024

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing further to my letters of July 17, August 21, and September 16, 2024, and pursuant to the Order of the House of Commons of June 10, 2024 (the "Order") requesting the production of documents from the government, Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) and the Auditor General of Canada. The Order states, in part, that:

> (h) the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel shall promptly thereafter notify the Speaker whether each entity produced documents as ordered, and the Speaker, in turn, shall forthwith inform the House of the notice of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel but, if the House stands adjourned, the Speaker shall lay the notice upon the table pursuant to Standing Order 32(1); and
>
> (i) the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel shall provide forthwith any documents received by him, pursuant to this order, to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP].

Government Institutions

On September 25, 2024, the Department of Finance provided its second tranche of documents and, on October 10, 2024, provided its third and last tranche of documents.

On October 3, 2024, Innovation, Science and Economic Development provided me with documents and indicated that these were the third of four tranches of documents to be submitted in response to the Order.

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On October 8, 2024, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat provided its final submission of documents in response to the Order.

All three government institutions provided documents containing redactions and/or withheld some pages purportedly relying on the *Access to Information Act*. A copy of the letters I received are reproduced in the Annex.

In accordance with the Order, I will continue to notify you of the receipt of other documents.

As stated above, paragraph (h) of the Order provides that, as Speaker, you must forthwith inform the House of this notice.

Yours sincerely,

Michel Bédard
Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel

Encl.

House of Commons, Room 7-02, 131 Queen St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-996-6063 Fax: 613-992-4317 Email: lc-bl@parl.gc.ca

ANNEX

Department of Finance Canada
Ministère des Finances Canada

Deputy Minister
Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0G5

Michel Bédard
Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel
House of Commons
131 Queen Street, Seventh Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Bédard:

Following the Department of Finance Canada's initial submission on July 10, 2024, please find enclosed a second portion of documents responsive to part (a) of the motion adopted by the House of Commons on June 10, 2024, regarding Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC).

A thorough review of the documents was undertaken so that as much information as possible was disclosed while respecting the principles of the *Access to Information Act*. When determining what information to protect from disclosure, the department was guided by the need to serve the public interest, while respecting the law.

Most of Finance Canada's records in this submission relate to annual budget and funding proposals for SDTC, or that mention SDTC in the context of the department's broader work related to the federal Budget. Because this information informed the development of the federal budget and other Cabinet decisions, it constitutes Cabinet confidences. The collective Cabinet decision-making process has traditionally been protected by the rule of confidentiality, which upholds the principle of collective responsibility and enables ministers to engage in full and frank discussions necessary for the effective functioning of a Cabinet system. For this reason, Cabinet confidences are not being disclosed as part of this submission.

Limited and specific redactions of other information have also been applied to protect the operations of government, economic interests of Canada, sensitive third-party information, security of systems or structures, solicitor-client privilege, information to be published, and personal information.

Lastly, the department is actively compiling and reviewing the remaining documents it holds that are relevant to the motion. We are committed to providing those documents to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Chris Forbes

Attachment: Documents from the Department of Finance Canada

Department of Finance Canada
Ministère des Finances Canada

Deputy Minister
Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0G5

OCT 10 2024

2024FIN032050

Michel Bédard
Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel
House of Commons
131 Queen Street, Seventh Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Bédard:

Following the submissions made on July 10, 2024, and September 20, 2024, please find enclosed the Department of Finance's third and final submission of documents responsive to part (a) of the motion adopted by the House of Commons on June 10, 2024, regarding Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC).

As noted in my September 20 letter, most of Finance Canada's submission consists of annual budget and funding proposals for SDTC, or documents mentioning SDTC in the context of the department's broader work related to the federal budget. Because this information informed the development of the federal budget and other Cabinet decisions, it constitutes Cabinet confidences. The collective Cabinet decision-making process has traditionally been protected by the rule of confidentiality to protect the effective functioning of a Cabinet system. For this reason, Cabinet confidences are not being disclosed as part of this submission.

The department undertook a comprehensive review so that as much information as possible was disclosed while respecting the principles of the *Access to Information Act*. Limited and specific redactions were applied to protect the operations of government, economic interests of Canada, sensitive third-party information, security of systems or structures, solicitor-client privilege, and personal information.

Please note that the page numbers in this submission are a continuation of the numbering in the department's earlier submissions.

Sincerely,

Chris Forbes

Attachment: Documents from the Department of Finance Canada

Canada

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
Deputy Minister

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H5

Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada
Sous-ministre

Michel Bédard
Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

michel.bedard@parl.gc.ca

Dear Michel Bédard:

Please find attached Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's (ISED) third tranche of documents in response to the House of Commons motion requesting documents pertaining to Sustainable Development Technology Canada from January 1, 2017, to June 10, 2024.

As mentioned in the July 10, 2024, letter to you from former Deputy Minister Simon Kennedy, ISED will have a fourth and final tranche to submit related to this motion, comprised of all outstanding documents that were not processed in time for tranche three.

Allow me to emphasize that ISED is committed to meeting its obligation to comply with the House of Commons motion. This motion is a priority, and the Department is preparing the documents as quickly as possible. I trust that this third tranche of documents will demonstrate the Department's good faith in moving quickly to reply to the motion.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Francis Bilodeau
Acting Deputy Minister of Innovation, Science
and Economic Development

Attachments

Canada

October 8, 2024

Mr. Michel Bédard
Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the Canadian House of Commons
Seventh Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Bédard,

On behalf of the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS), I am pleased to provide the final submission of documents in response to the motion adopted by the House of Commons, on Monday, June 10, 2024, concerning the production of **documents related to Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) created or dated since January 1, 2017**.

Our original search identified a significant number of pages, which could not be reviewed and processed by the motion's deadline of July 10, 2024

The documents were assessed to ensure that redacted information was limited to cabinet confidence and personal information.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Matthews
Secretary of the Treasury Board