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Subject: ATIP A-2014-00026
Date: August 20, 2014 at 8:48 AM
To: ab.director@taxpayer.com

Hi Derek:

As noted in discussions and correspondence with you in recent weeks, the Department has determined that in response to your Access to Information Act request made on March 27, 2014 (received on April 4, 2014), you were informed, mistakenly, that the Department was no longer in possession of receipts related to Mr. Jim Prentice's expenses from the period in which he was then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Following a detailed review of administrative records the Department has identified a number of relevant records (ie. receipts) from the requested time periods.

These records have been provided to all those who requested access. Pursuant to the duty to assist under the Access to Information Act, requesters who were initially provided with a 'nil' response, have been provided with copies of all relevant records through a 'release after closure.'

All travel and hospitality expenses incurred by then Minister Prentice and his exempt staff during these time periods were posted to the AANDC website, in accordance with the Government's policy on the mandatory disclosure of travel and hospitality expenses for selected government officials."

The incorrect notification to requesters that no records were available was the result of a number of administrative errors connected to the accessing and labeling of archived copies of these receipts, as well as incorrect assumptions that the department had completed its disposition of all records from 2006-07.

The Department will be taking steps to respond to the issues that emerged in the handling of these requests, including: improvements to practices for labeling, tracking and storing of electronic and physical Ministerial expense records; additional training for records management staff regarding best practices for management of physical archives; and a review of the department's implementation of its obligations under the Multi-Institutional Disposition Authorities (MIDA).

I hope this is helpful.

Kent.

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