

# FOI Request Templates

**To: Memorial University of Newfoundland (IAP Office)**

**Date:** July 8, 2025

**Subject:** Access to Information Request (ATIPPA, 2015)

Pursuant to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* (NL), and in light of Memorial's stated commitment to "openness, accountability and transparency" <sup>1</sup>, I request copies of the following records (electronic preferred) dated January 1, 2015 to present (or earliest available). (If this request is too broad, please contact me to clarify or narrow the scope.) Please include all relevant offices/persons (e.g. President's Office, Board of Regents, research units, finance) in your search.

- **Internal Communications:** All emails, memos, letters, meeting minutes or notes regarding Memorial's funding sources (grants, donations, sponsorships), and all communications about relationships or agreements with the oil, gas or resource industries. Include any records concerning the handling of whistleblower complaints or tips, and any surveillance or monitoring of students, faculty or staff (including campus protests or dissent).
- **Budget and Capital Projects:** All budget proposals, justifications, approvals, and financial analyses for major Memorial capital projects or expenditures (e.g. building projects, renovations, or large purchases) and for the university's annual operating budget. Include internal requests or memos that detail the justification for such spending.
- **Research Chairs and Sponsored Appointments:** Copies of all agreements, contracts, term sheets or correspondence for research chairs or similar sponsored research positions at Memorial (both public and private sectors, including corporate- or government-funded chairs). Provide the identity of any sponsoring organization and the terms of the appointment or funding.
- **References to "David Husk Jr.":** Any and all records (emails, proposals, memoranda, notes) that reference the name "David Husk Jr.", including proposals submitted under that name, risk assessments or conflict analyses mentioning him, or any internal discussion of his activities.

If portions of any record are withheld (e.g. for personal privacy or privilege), please sever only those parts and release the remainder. If fees apply, I am willing to pay up to \$100 (please contact me if fees will exceed this). I prefer electronic copies (PDF) emailed to [david.husk@example.com]; if that is not possible, please mail paper copies to my postal address below. I note that under ATIPPA, Memorial must respond within 20 business days <sup>2</sup>. Thank you for your assistance.

**Signature:** David Husk Jr.

**Contact:** david.husk@example.com / (709) 555-1234

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**To: Department of Education, Government of NL (ATIPP Coordinator)**

**Date:** July 8, 2025

**Subject:** Access to Information Request (ATIPPA, 2015)

Pursuant to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015*, I request copies of the following records from the Department of Education (policy/finance branches) for January 1, 2015 to present:

- **Internal Communications:** All internal emails, memos, minutes or briefings regarding the Department's funding sources and budgets (including grants to schools or programs), and any discussions of relationships or collaborations with the oil/natural resources industry. Also include any records about whistleblowers or tips (e.g. staff complaints) and any surveillance or monitoring activities undertaken by the department or its affiliates.
- **Budget and Projects:** All budget proposals, justifications, or approvals (including briefing notes) for major projects or capital expenditures (such as school construction, renovations, or capital funds), and for the Department's annual budgets.
- **Research Initiatives:** Any agreements, grants, or correspondence pertaining to research chairs, sponsored projects, or government-funded education research (if any), including terms of reference.
- **References to "David Husk Jr.":** Any records mentioning "David Husk Jr." by name, including proposals or assessments linked to him.

Please provide records in electronic format if possible. If any fees are required, please advise before proceeding. Thank you.

**Signature:** David Husk Jr.

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**To:** Nalcor Energy and Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro (Access & Privacy Officers)

**Date:** July 8, 2025

**Subject:** Access to Information Request (ATIPPA, 2015)

Under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015*, I request the following records from Nalcor Energy and NL Hydro (2015–present):

- **Internal Communications:** All emails, memos, reports or notes concerning the corporations' funding sources, budget justifications, and relationships with the oil and gas industry. Include any records about whistleblower complaints or tips within Nalcor/Hydro, and any internal discussions or policies related to surveillance, protest monitoring, or security activities.
- **Budgets and Projects:** All budget proposals, approvals, business cases and justifications for major capital projects (e.g. Muskrat Falls, Labrador-Island Link, Holyrood upgrades, new generation projects), including any correspondence with government or contractors.
- **Research and Innovation Agreements:** Any agreements or correspondence with research institutions (e.g. universities) regarding research chairs, innovation chairs, or sponsored research (especially related to energy, oil, or the marine sector), including terms and funding amounts.
- **References to "David Husk Jr.":** Any documents (proposals, emails, risk assessments, etc.) that mention "David Husk Jr." or any variant of that name.

We prefer digital copies emailed to david.husk@example.com. I am prepared to pay applicable fees and note the 20-day response requirement under ATIPPA. Thank you.

**Signature:** David Husk Jr.

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**To: Department of Finance, Government of NL (ATIPP Coordinator, Katie Holloway)**

**Address:** Main Floor, East Block, Confederation Building, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

**Date:** July 8, 2025

**Subject:** Access to Information Request (ATIPPA, 2015)

Pursuant to NL's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015*, I request:

- **Internal Communications:** All emails, memos, or notes within the Department's Finance and Energy divisions relating to government funding sources, oil and resource revenues, and budgets. Include any records of meetings or correspondence with oil companies or related industries. Also request any documents on how whistleblower complaints or tips were handled internally, and any files on surveillance or intelligence activities by the government.
- **Budget Documents:** All briefing notes, proposals, or analyses justifying major budget expenditures or capital projects (for example, budget briefs on energy infrastructure, tax incentives for oil projects, or capital spending approvals).
- **Research/Innovation Files:** All memoranda or agreements concerning government-sponsored research chairs, innovation funding, or university partnerships funded via Finance.
- **References to "David Husk Jr.":** Any documents (including risk assessments, correspondence, or proposals) that mention the name "David Husk Jr."

Please provide records electronically (PDF preferred) or notify me of any charges. I note the 20-business-day response limit.

**Signature:** David Husk Jr.

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## Public Impact Report (Open Letter/Petition by David Husk Jr.)

To the Auditor General of Newfoundland and Labrador; the Office of the Ethics Commissioner of NL; leading media outlets; and all concerned citizens:

I write to you as David Husk Jr., a Newfoundland native raised in public service. My father spent decades working in the provincial Department of Finance, and I myself have been engaged with Memorial University. Through these experiences I have witnessed firsthand how familial connections and financial pressures distort our public institutions. In our province the interplay of corporate dollars, government budgets, and personal ties has become so entrenched that it threatens democracy and ethical governance. I speak now out of a principled concern for the public interest and our common future.

My family's story — a public servant father and a son embedded at MUN — is not unique. It reflects a pattern of *intergenerational influence* in Newfoundland: public officials mingling with corporate sponsors at the very institutions meant to serve the public. This collision of roles has bred a culture where institutions seem more "addicted" to money than to principle. One voice warned that Memorial University appears to be "selling out" its academic ideals for the sake of the "almighty dollar" <sup>3</sup>. The evidence is everywhere: university buildings named for mining companies, corporate logos on campus tech centers, and student protests (even graffiti reading "Don't Make INCO the Heart of Our Campus") marking resistance to these deals <sup>4</sup>. In short, both Memorial and our government departments have allowed corporate wallets to pull too many strings.

This pattern is not incidental but systemic. In recent months, Memorial has been rocked by scandals showing how easily its processes can be captured by insider interests. As one reporter noted, the university “continues to anger faculty, staff and students with processes which... elude transparency and accountability” <sup>5</sup> . Just last year, an investigation revealed that the Chair of Memorial’s Board of Regents breached privacy by forwarding a student’s email to her father (a clear abuse of power) <sup>6</sup> . When students filed a FOI request to obtain those related emails, the university claimed it had “no records” <sup>7</sup> – an implausible response that suggests a cover-up, not compliance. The province’s leading ethics expert has warned that such incidents reflect “a poor local culture around conflict of interest” <sup>8</sup> . In other words, our problem spans beyond any single individual or event; it points to a governing culture in which institutions protect themselves by stonewalling public scrutiny.

The stakes are huge. Major public projects and budgets have become opaque boondoggles of borrowed money and hidden promises. Consider the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project: originally pitched as a \$7.4 billion solution, its *all-in* cost has exploded to about \$13.5 billion <sup>9</sup> (over \$6 billion over budget). Its vast infrastructure – shown here in the photo below – has saddled taxpayers and ratepayers with generations of debt and rate hikes. Yet very little transparent accounting is available. As Atlantic Business Magazine reported, even seasoned analysts had to resort to ATIPP requests to piece together the project’s finances <sup>10</sup> . The province’s own regulator filed an ATIPP just to update the public record <sup>11</sup> . Why must citizens rely on probes and leaks to understand the basic numbers behind the country’s largest infrastructure plan?

*Figure: The Muskrat Falls hydroelectric facility on Labrador’s Churchill River – a public project whose runaway cost overruns (\$13.5 B vs. \$7.4 B originally) exemplify the dire need for transparency and oversight* <sup>9</sup> .

Neither Memorial nor government entities can be entrusted to oversee themselves. Our university has proven time and again that its leadership will close ranks rather than explain decisions. The Ethics Commissioner and Auditor General are thus urgently needed to step in. For example, Memorial promised openness under ATIPP, yet ignored requests and hid records <sup>7</sup> <sup>2</sup> . We see similar opacity in the Lower Churchill and other Crown corp. dealings. Only a *comprehensive audit and investigation by independent authorities* can break this cycle.

We therefore petition the Auditor General and Ethics Commissioner to use their full authority to review any conflicts of interest and improper fund flows involving Memorial University, the Department of Education, Nalcor/Hydro, and Finance. This means:

- **Audit & Accountability:** Conduct a public, forensic audit of MUN’s budgets, research agreements (especially industry-sponsored chairs), and capital spending. Audit key Crown projects (e.g. Muskrat Falls debt and financing plans) and departmental budgets for undisclosed liabilities or gifts.
- **Independent Oversight:** Appoint an independent monitor or special committee (with community representatives) to oversee Memorial’s governance and spending. Suspend or rewrite any policies (e.g. ethics rules) that allow self-investigation by implicated officials.
- **FOI Compliance:** Require these institutions to fulfill outstanding FOI requests (including those we have submitted) and to improve their ATIP compliance. The law demands responses within 20 business days <sup>2</sup> ; any delay or unjustified exemption should trigger review by the Information & Privacy Commissioner.
- **Conflict of Interest Reforms:** Enforce stringent conflict-of-interest rules for university and government officials. (For instance, ensure senior MUN administrators recuse themselves from decisions involving people they know, as needed.) Revise oversight bodies’ membership to include independent voices.

- **Public Disclosure:** Release to the public all relevant documents obtained, including board minutes and funding agreements. The people of Newfoundland and Labrador deserve full transparency on how their money is spent and who influences those decisions.

In sum, we call for urgent, evidence-based reform: **audit, transparency and structural change**. Leaving institutions to police themselves has failed. The examples above – from Memorial's corporate deals to Muskrat Falls – show that money and influence have far outpaced ethics and public accountability <sup>3</sup> <sup>9</sup>. As citizens who care about fairness and good governance, we demand that authorities intervene to protect the public interest.

Sincerely,

David Husk Jr., on behalf of all concerned Newfoundlanders who demand good governance.

**CC:** Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (NL); Office of the Citizens' Representative (ombudsman); Media – *The Telegram*, *CBC NL*, *The Independent*.

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> How to Make an Access to Information Request | Information Access and Privacy | Memorial University of Newfoundland  
<https://www.mun.ca/iap/information-access/>

<sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> Controversy over Memorial University's new partnership with IOC – The Independent  
<https://theindependent.ca/news/controversy-over-memorial-universitys-new-partnership-with-ioc/>

<sup>5</sup> <sup>8</sup> Memorial president treading in murky waters of university's conflict of interest policy – The Independent  
<https://theindependent.ca/news/memorial-president-treading-in-murky-waters-of-universitys-conflict-of-interest-policy/>

<sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> Investigation Confirms Board Chair Violated Privacy of Alumna | The Muse  
<https://themuse.ca/investigation-confirms-board-chair-violated-privacy-of-alumna/>

<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> Muskrat Falls and the price of failure | Atlantic Business Magazine  
<https://atlanticbusinessmagazine.ca/web-exclusives/muskrat-falls-and-the-price-of-failure/>