

REPORT RE: TWO APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW  
BY ██████████ FOR INFORMATION  
REQUESTED FROM SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

92/002  
92/003

On or about June 17, 1992, ██████████ made two Requests for Records from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food as follows:

- "1. I request records (all records produced since November 1, 1991) dealing with the economic impact (for 1992 and 1993 and later years if applicable) of the cancellation of the Feedgap Program and interest free cash advances for feedlot operators on: 1) the number of cattle fed for slaughter in Sask., 2) employment in the meat-packing and livestock production industry, and 3) total employment in Sask.; and
2. I request records that will explain the Department's rationale for cancelling the Feedgap Program and interest free cash advances for feedlot operators. All such records produced since November 1, 1991, are requested."

By letters both dated June 19, 1992, in identical terms, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food advised ██████████ that:

"This information cannot be released because of budgetary decisions. Information of this nature is exempt from access according to Section 17(1)(g) of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."

Because both requests relate to the same matters, and indeed it would be difficult to distinguish the records which relate to these requests one from another, I have dealt with both requests in a single review and propose to cover them in this report. The issues involved are the same with respect to both requests.

I have reviewed the documents produced to me by officials of the Department, and they now concede that the pertinent records in their possession are not exempt by virtue of Section 17(1)(g). At the time that the requests were received by the Department, and at the time when the Department advised the Applicant that the information would be refused, the records in question would not have resulted in the disclosure of pending policy or budgetary decision since, with respect to these matters, those policies and decisions had already been made public.

It does appear, however, that certain of these records are exempt under the provisions of Section 16(1)(a) and 17(1)(a) being documents created to present advice and proposals to the Executive Council and other documents which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to disclose advice, proposals, and recommendations developed by the Department, or for a member of the Executive Council, namely the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and these exemptions are now claimed by the Department.

There were, however, several documents which did not qualify for exemption under either of the said Sections, and the Department has indicated its willingness to disclose these documents namely:

Economic Impact of Beef and Hog Sector to Saskatchewan Economy, Department of Agriculture Economics April 1991, Section 2.3 (pp. 19 and 20)

Statistics Canada, Industry Division, Information and Classification Services Section, Manufacturing Industries of Canada, National and Provincial Areas 1988 ( 3 pp.)  
Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association, Feeding Industry Economic Impact, May 1992 (7 pp.)

Accordingly, it is my recommendation that the Applicant be given access to these documents, but that the remaining documents which are exempt under Sections 16(a) and 17(a) need not be disclosed.

DATED at the City of Regina, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 2 day of *September*, 1992.

---

Derril G. McLeod, Q.C.  
Commissioner of Information and  
Privacy for Saskatchewan