

**REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICATION
FOR REVIEW OF [REDACTED] WITH RESPECT TO
INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM
SASKATCHEWAN SOCIAL SERVICES**

[REDACTED] is a former employee of [REDACTED]. He applied to the Department for social assistance, which was refused. He then filed an application under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the "Act") for access to a letter allegedly sent to the Department by his former employer, apparently in the belief that denial of social assistance was due to incorrect or inaccurate statements about him contain in such letter.

The Department, by letter dated February 25, 1998, denied access. Their letter states in part:

"It is my understanding that in conversation with the department staff you have indicated that the only document you wish access to is a letter from [REDACTED]. This document affects the interest of an/or relates to a third party. Therefore, under section 34 of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, we have requested the third party's permission to release the letter to you.

The third party has now responded and objects to releasing the letter. We have reviewed the third party concerns and are

satisfied the letter contains labour relations information and was obtained in confidence from [REDACTED]. As such we must decline access pursuant to the mandatory exemption in clause 19(1)(b) of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."

I have obtained a copy of the letter in question which was written by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to the Department which is dated March 31, 1997, and with which was enclosed a copy of [REDACTED] letter of resignation. The letter is an account of the employment record experienced by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and nothing else.

The provision of the Act relied upon by the Department for refusing disclosure is:

"19(1) Subject to Part V and this section, a head shall refuse to give access to a record that contains:

- (b) financial, commercial, scientific, technical or labour relations information that is supplied in confidence, implicitly or explicitly, to a government institution by a third party;"

The term "labour relations information" is broad and general in nature, and I am satisfied that it would encompass an account of the employer/employee relationship between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], which is what this letter is all about.

I am also satisfied that the letter was supplied to the Department in confidence by [REDACTED], and consequently I have concluded that the Department was correct, and indeed is required by the Act not to disclose the document.

Dated at Regina, Saskatchewan this day of July, 1998.

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