



F09-13-MS Frustrated Researcher Finally Strikes Pay-dirt on Public Body Website

By narrowing requests for information to the bare essentials, individuals can often save themselves and public bodies a great deal of time and effort and obtained a desired result without frustrating delay.

A researcher asked a large public body for records describing its financial assets. The public body provided a fee estimate of several thousand dollars for the production of the requested information, in accordance with section 75 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and dismissed the researcher's contention that the fee should be waived because his research served the public interest.

During mediation, the researcher told us he would be satisfied simply to learn the methods by which the public body calculated certain financial information, without knowing the actual dollar amounts. The public body showed how to access this formula on its website, thus resolving the complaint.