



### F15-11-MS

#### Public body tells requester “come back in a few months”

A woman who wrote to a municipality requesting a copy of its revenue and expenses statement took umbrage when she was told to “come back in a few months,” after the municipality had completed its annual audit. She wrote again, asking the municipality to reconsider its response and send her with a copy without delay. Hearing nothing in reply, she complained to us.

A public body receiving a request for records cannot simply tell a requester to come back another time when it is better prepared to respond. Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) requires a public body to tell the applicant within 30 business days whether it is refusing access to all or part of the record and, if access is being refused, the reason for refusal, including which exception under FIPPA is being applied. In this case, the municipality’s reason for refusing access was not based on one of the exceptions listed in FIPPA.

The municipality acknowledged to our investigator that its response had not been compliant with FIPPA and agreed to revisit its decision. The result was that it disclosed the requested record in its entirety, resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the complainant.