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December 1, 2021

Ombudsman Manitoba
750-500 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3X1

Dear Ombudsman,

Please find enclosed a completed complaint form and supporting documents in regards to a FIPPA request submitted to the **Manitoba Education**, their file # **2021-E113**

Nature of Complaint:

On October 4, Manitoba Education released records responsive to my FIPPA request, but I have the following complaints:

1. **There are large redactions throughout** for a variety of agenda items such as stakeholders, other business, new business etc., but no section of the code is cited for any redaction. Their cover letter lists **17 (1), 17 (3) (i) and 23 (a) and 23 (b)** as general reasons but does not apply them to any particular redaction. Is Manitoba Education saying that each and every redaction meets all these exemptions?
2. **Regarding the “generally” cited exemptions:**
 - **17 (3) (i):** “the disclosure would be inconsistent with the purpose for which the personal information was obtained.”

I’m not sure how this applies to my request. Does Manitoba Education know the reason for which I have requested these records?

- **23 (a):** advice, opinions, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for the public body or a minister; and **23 (b):** consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of the public body or a minister

There are some very large redactions, up to a page or more long, claiming exemption under 23 (a) or (b). It’s hard to imagine that the entire deleted record is pertaining to this exemption. Names of, and content of studies, cited in whole or part, factual reports or other documents or factual information are not exempted, and anything that does

not constitute “advice, opinions, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options” or “consultations or deliberations” must be disclosed in all of these redactions.

3. **Names of Response Team Committee (RTC) participants** are provided for meetings up to and including November 4, 2020, but from November 18, participant names are withheld and no explanation is given. What criteria changed to justify exempting the names at a certain point? There is no exemption that they have claimed under the Act to justify the withholding of names. If they no longer kept a record of attendance for each meeting at some point (hard to imagine, in itself), they need to at least provide the **members of the RTC at the time**, as my original request asked for the names of all persons who sat on these committees, both current and past members.

I have included a digitized copy of the records I received from the Manitoba Education, as well as their cover letter.

Thank you for looking into this matter.