

APR 27 2017



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Association of Canadian Archivists
Suite 911, 75 Albert Street
Ottawa ON K1P 5E7

Lara Wilson, Chair
Canadian Council of Archives
130 Albert Street, Suite 1201
Ottawa ON K1P 5G4

Dear Ms. Duranti and Ms. Wilson:

I am writing in response to your letter to Honourable Michael de Jong, Q.C., dated March 6, 2017, regarding the public engagement process for British Columbia's information schedules.

Thank you for your expression of support for the information management specialists working in the Government Records Service/Corporate Information and Records Management Office and recognizing, as do I, the high level of expertise and professionalism that they bring to the work that they do on behalf of the citizens of this Province.

The Province is committed to managing its records appropriately. Accountability for the decision to approve an information schedule remains with the Chief Records Officer (CRO), in accordance with the *Information Management Act* (IMA).

Consulting the public prior to the approval of information schedules is an important part of government's pledge to make British Columbia the most open and transparent jurisdiction in Canada. Information schedules are developed by professional archivists and records managers in consultation with relevant program areas to ensure that they meet business needs and that records are managed and retained according to their corporate and public values. When the drafts are ready, the public can review them and provide input through the citizen engagement website, <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/>.

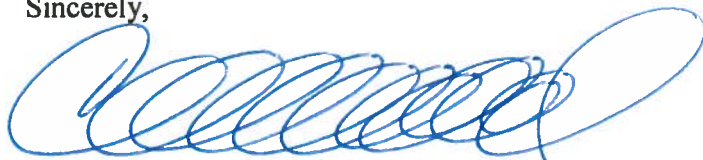
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Public consultation demonstrates the importance of government records to the public interest. Prior to consideration for approval by the CRO, draft schedules and public input are reviewed by the Information Management Advisory Committee (IMAC). IMAC is comprised of senior level public servants who have expertise in archival, financial, legal and other requirements for the retention and disposal of information. Prior to the passing of the IMA, retention schedules were approved by the Legislative Assembly's Public Documents Committee (PDC). The PDC brought transparency and diverse perspectives to the approval process, which is consistent with the new process of public consultation and IMAC review.

Government continues to address the recommendations made in December 2015 by former information and privacy commissioner David Loukidelis. You may have heard recently about the adoption of the Information Management (Documenting Government Decisions) Amendment Act, 2017, which legislates a duty to document key government decisions.

Thank you for your input into this important issue.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland
Associate Deputy Minister and Chief Records Officer

cc: David Curtis
ADM, Corporate Information & Records Management