THE NOVA SCOTIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

A **REQUEST FOR REVIEW** of a decision of the **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES** to refuse to name the source of information provided to the Department about the Applicant.

REVIEW OFFICER: Darce Fardy

REPORT DATE: **August 24, 2004**

 ISSUE: Whether the name of the source of information provided to the Department can be denied in accordance with Section 15(1)(d) of the Act, which allows a public body to refuse to reveal the identity of a confidential source of law-enforcement information.

In a Request for Review, under the **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**, the Applicant asked that I recommend to the Department of Community Services (the Department) that it disclose the information he wants.

The Applicant has knowledge that someone has been reporting incidents when the Applicant's car has been seen in the driveway of a person he describes as his ex-wife. The Department turned down his request for the name of the person who was reporting these incidents. The Department said it was refusing the name in accordance with Section **15(1)(d)** of the FOIPOP Act.

15(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if disclosure could reasonably be expected to

(d) reveal the identity of a confidential source of law enforcement information.

Background:

The Applicant is in a dispute with the Department over social assistance. One of the issues involves whether or not the Applicant is still married.

Conclusion:

I am not at liberty to disclose all of the details of this matter. However, I am satisfied that it is reasonable to conclude that it could involve law enforcement information and that s.15(1)(d) applies.

Recommendations:

That the Department confirm its decision in writing to the Applicant with a copy to the Review Officer.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia this 24th day of August.

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Darce Fardy, Review Officer