



Tabled by the Minister of
Justice and Public Safety
K. Hawley George
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Justice and Public Safety
Office of the Deputy Minister

November 16,
2023

November 21, 2022

Commissioner Michael Harvey
P.O. Box 13004, Station "A"
St. John's, NL
A1B 3V8
commissioner@oipc.nl.ca

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

I am writing regarding the *Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol Act*. This legislation, commonly known as "Clare's Law," was first introduced in the United Kingdom in 2014 and named in honour of Clare Wood, a woman who was murdered by her partner and was unaware of his violent past. Clare's father fought for an initiative that would permit the release of relevant information about prior criminal history to intimate partners who are at risk.

As you are aware, Newfoundland and Labrador's *Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol Act* was approved by the House of Assembly in December of 2019 and your office was consulted during the initial development of the legislation. The Act authorizes the creation of Regulations and a Protocol document that will outline how police agencies will release relevant information to a person at risk of experiencing intimate partner violence. Since the Act was approved, officials in the Department of Justice and Public Safety (JPS) have been working diligently to develop the Regulations and Protocol documents necessary to operationalize the legislation.

Given the implementation of this legislation has specific implications for access and privacy matters, JPS would welcome your comments and feedback. As such, we are writing to invite you to meet to discuss the legislation and JPS's proposals for operationalization.

Should you wish to meet or to engage in further discussions, please contact Ellen Haskell, Program and Policy Development Specialist, at EllenHaskell@gov.nl.ca to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you in advance for your participation as we move toward implementation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Denis Mahoney in black ink.

Denis Mahoney, K.C.
Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General