



Office of the
Information and Privacy
Commissioner of Alberta

April 8, 2010

Adjudicator determines Calgary Police Service met its duty to assist

An Adjudicator with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has determined that the Calgary Police Service (CPS) met its duty to assist an individual seeking information about payments for legal bills made by CPS in relation to a lawsuit launched by a former police chief.

The CPS initially refused to provide any records, but it provided information to the Applicant at a late stage in the inquiry about the total amount of the legal bills it had paid. The Applicant argued that since the information was disclosable, it should have been released by the CPS earlier.

In her ruling, Adjudicator Christina Gauk determined that the CPS had not failed in its duty to assist. At the time it made its initial decision, the case law supported withholding of the information on the basis of legal privilege. Although a decision by the office had issued in the meantime that clarified that privilege did not necessarily apply to the total amounts of legal bills, the CPS had disclosed the information as soon as this decision had been brought to its attention.

For a copy of Order F2009-032, please visit our website at www.oipc.ab.ca

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