

AIC decision on appeal #63

CASE NUMBER AI4955 DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSING, DEVELOPMENT AND RELEASE OF A VIDEO ON ALBERTA'S CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN (Decision dated October 18, 2017)

Summary of Decision

- As part of its due diligence on appeals, the Access to Information Committee (“AIC”), through its secretariat, seeks the relevant business unit’s views on the possible disclosure of the requested information in light of the respective appeal. In this case, the relevant business unit supported disclosing the three restricted documents found in the Bank’s possession identified as responsive to the request; the three documents have since been made publicly available.
- **Public Interest.** Based on the above, consideration of the appeal asserting “public interest” was not required.

The Decision

Facts

1. On April 21, 2017, the requester submitted a request for “copies of any documents regarding the proposing, development and release of this video on Alberta’s climate change plan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1In-1EY-R8g>” (“Request”).
2. On September 12, 2017, the World Bank (“Bank”) denied public access to the information responsive to the Request based on the *Deliberative Information* exception under the *Bank Policy: Access to Information*, July 1, 2015, Catalogue No. EXC4.01-POL.01 (“AI Policy”). On the same day, the requester filed an appeal challenging the Bank’s denial; the appeal was filed on the basis that there is a “public interest” case to override the AI Policy exception that restricts public access to the information (“Appeal”). The Appeal states that “the release of this information is in the public interest and would help to provide information that would be helpful to the public debate”.

Findings and Related Decisions

3. In reviewing the Appeal in accordance with the AI Policy, the AIC sought the relevant business unit’s views on the possible disclosure of the requested information in light of the Appeal. On September 29, 2017, the relevant business unit indicated that:
 - (a) the Bank is in possession of three documents responsive to the Request; and
 - (b) it supports disclosure of the three documents, “because the benefits of disclosure outweigh the harm of keeping the information restricted”.¹
4. The three documents have since been made publicly available and can be found at:

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/521881507660369722/Courage-of-Leadership-Questions>

¹ The three documents in question are titled: (a) *Courage of Leadership Questions*; (b) *Courage of Leadership Alberta story*, April 2017; and (c) *The Courage of Leadership: Carbon Pricing in Alberta*.

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/161781507660385004/Courage-of-Leadership-Alberta-story-April-2017>

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/405161507660351827/The-Courage-of-Leadership-Carbon-Pricing-Alberta>

“Public Interest” case

5. Based on the above, consideration of the Appeal asserting a “public interest” was not required.