



OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER
BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR PARLEMENTAIRE DU BUDGET

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister
Families, Children and Social Development Canada
140 Promenade du Portage
Floor 14, Mailstop 1401
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0J9

13 December 2018

jeanyves.duclos@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0400

Dear Minister Duclos:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent and non-partisan analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about matters related to the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates, certain other documents government documents and the cost of proposals. In carrying out my mandate, I often require information held by government departments and Crown corporations and I am entitled to free and timely access – subject to limited exceptions – to such information under section 79.4 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

I am currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to paragraph 79.2(1)(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports analyzing the following federal government documents: (i) a budget tabled by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance; (ii) an economic and fiscal update or statement issued by the Minister of Finance; (iii) a fiscal sustainability report issued by the Minister of Finance; (iv) the estimates of the government for a fiscal year.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information related to the Employment Insurance (EI) program:

- Data on the following variables as they pertain to work-sharing agreements and/or work-sharing temporary measures: (a) number of new claimants; (b) average claim duration; (c) average benefit rate; (d) total amount paid industry-wide in benefits; (e) number of terminated claims; (f) average duration of terminated claims; (g) share of claims that are back-to-back (or some statistic to that effect).
- The above data for each fiscal year between 2004/05 and 2017/18, for the following industries: (a) steel; (b) aluminum; (c) forestry (including separate data in 2017/18 for pre- and post-temporary work-sharing measure implementation); and (d) manufacturing.
- Methodology, analysis, and data sources used to determine the costs, and projection of those costs, of the work-sharing temporary measures for the steel and aluminum industry.
- Reports, evaluations, studies, analyses, reviews, pilot projects, or any other publication relating to the work-sharing program and temporary measures to the work-sharing program, pertaining

to: (a) participation in the program (including uptake, duration, and attrition); (b) costs of the program (on a beneficiary, industry, and aggregate level); (c) behavioural responses of beneficiaries; and (d) administration costs.

- The following publications in particular: (a) the most recent iteration of ESDC's "Usage of the Work-Sharing Program" report; (b) the most recent iteration of ESDC's "Technical Study for the Evaluation of the Work-Sharing Program"; (c) the 2015 ESDC report entitled, "Employers' Intensity of Reliance on the Work-Sharing Program: Evidence from Administrative Data"; (d) the 2013 ESDC report entitled, "Evaluation of the Work Sharing Program: Employer Key Informant Interview"; and (e) the 2010 report authored by C. Vincent entitled, "Literature Review for the Evaluation of the Work-Sharing Initiative: Final Report".

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **28 December 2018**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or your deputy minister as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Nigel Wodrich can be contacted directly at Nigel.Wodrich@parl.gc.ca 613-296-0174.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 28 December 2018, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or your deputy minister must provide a written justification for the refusal as required under section 79.41 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

The response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". As well, the requested information should be attached separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability are the PBO's primary objectives. The degree to which this is possible depends, to a large extent, on free and timely access to quality information held by government departments. In doing so, you are assisting us in better serving the Senate, the House of Commons, and their members.

Yours sincerely,



Yves Giroux
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Katharine Rechico, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Graham Flack, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0400