



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

12 February 2019

The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister  
Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Floor 17  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0G5

bill.morneau@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0407

Dear Minister Morneau:

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:

- The fiscal impact, year-by-year and by category, of countermeasures related to steel and aluminum tariffs for 2018-19 to 2023-24, specifically:
  1. How much of these countermeasures are reflected in policy actions proposed and/or implemented since the 2018 Budget and in the Fall Economic Statement? Please classify according to the categories set out in Tables A1.5, A1.6, and A1.7 in the Fall Economic Statement.
  2. What is the annual gross and net fiscal impact of countermeasures related to steel and aluminum announced and/or implemented after the Fall Economic Statement? Please include measures up to February 28, 2019 and classify according to the above.
  3. What is the gross and net value (excluding remissions) of custom imports and duties collected from steel and aluminum tariffs from July 1, 2018 until February 28, 2019? And what is your projection for 2018-19 to 2023-24? Please include both gross and net value projections.

4. What is your assumption on when are the tariffs anticipated to be lifted (as anticipated in the Fall Economic Statement)? And what is your current working assumption?
5. Of the \$2,437 million offered in support to Canadian workers and industries affected by these measures (as detailed in the Fall Economic Statement on p.92), how much of it is reflected in direct program spending (transfer payments and operating costs)? Please provide a detailed breakdown by fiscal year.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **7 March 2019**. 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, Kristina Grinsphoon can be contacted directly at [kristina.grinsphoon@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kristina.grinsphoon@parl.gc.ca) 613-794-1635.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 7 March 2019, 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  
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0407