



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

November 6, 2020

The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
70 Colombine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

[hcmminister.ministresc@canada.ca](mailto:hcmminister.ministresc@canada.ca)

Information Request: IR0554

Dear Minister Hajdu:

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 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)(f) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction at the request of a member of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- A provincial/territorial breakdown (by fiscal year, starting with 2017-18 and up to 2020-21) of all amounts actually sent to provinces/territories with respect to the “Home and Community Care and Mental Health and Addictions Services Funding Agreements”. If possible, please indicate how much of these amounts were destined to initiatives relating to palliative care (for each province/territory and fiscal year);
- A breakdown by fiscal year (from 2016-17 to 2020-21) of all spending by the federal government on palliative care. This includes (but is not limited to) the costs of developing the “Framework on Palliative Care in Canada” and the “Action Plan on Palliative Care”, costs to establish the Office of Palliative Care, as well as any other funding such as the May 10, 2019 announcement by the Health Minister of \$4.5 million to help strengthen palliative care.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information to be provided to my office no later than **November 25, 2020**. 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, Govindadeva Bernier can be contacted directly at [Govindadeva.Bernier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Govindadeva.Bernier@parl.gc.ca), 613-769-4988.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by November 25, 2020, 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.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,  
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy  
Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister, Health Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0554