



24 March 2017

Mr. Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister
Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Room 16027
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G5

paul.rochon@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0283

Dear Mr. Rochon:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(b)(ii) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the nation's finances and economy at the request of the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Commons.

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information:

Update DPE forecast:

- A mapping of new measures (Tables 1.3, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1, A1.3 and A1.4) to lines within the fiscal framework (Tables A1.6 and A1.7).
- An updated lapse forecast for the next five fiscal years, as was presented in Budget 2015 (pp. 359)?
- Confirm that no savings have been booked from the newly announced spending reviews/capital asset review (p. 38)

Update revenues forecast:

- A mapping of funds existing in the fiscal framework, or sourced from departmental resources or projected revenues (Tables 1.3, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1, A1.3 and A1.4) to lines within the fiscal framework (Tables A1.6).

Update EI forecast:

- How much are the EI revenues that will offset planned new EI spending and how much of these relate to the Employment Insurance Account? What EI-related spending will be financed outside the EI Operating Account?

Update PDC forecast:

- Identify the impact on public debt interest costs of the new planned spending (p. 37)?

Update economic forecast:

- On a cash basis, the “total investments in Budget 2017” and “net fiscal impact of investments in Budget 2017” identified in Table A1.4.

Infrastructure implementation monitoring:

- An update of data underlying Budget 2016, Chart 6.2, Funding for National Defence Large-Scale Capital Projects. How has the annual accrual profile to 2044-45 changed since Budget 2016? Does this re-profile account for the entirety of the lower capital amortization profiles between Budget 2016 vs. Budget 2017.
- An updated profile of National Accounts impulse from incremental Infrastructure spending since Budget 2016. Can you share the discussion of allocation between sectors, (fixed capital: residential, non-residential, government; and current spending)?
- Is Finance Canada’s current cash profile for “infrastructure” spending the sum of A1.12 and A1.13 (pp.265 and 266)? Can you provide a revised profile for investments in federal assets (as was provided in Table A2.4 of Budget 2016)?

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 31 March 2017. If we do not hear back from you by that date, we may consider your non-response a deemed refusal and, accordingly, report it to our named committees as instructed.

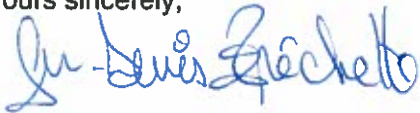
Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 31 March 2017, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked “confidential”. Could you please attach the requested information separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Trevor Shaw can be contacted directly at trevor.shaw@parl.gc.ca, 613-698-6568.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons is the PBO's primary objective. 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,



Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Katharine Rechico, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0283