



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

April 18th, 2024

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street, Room 16-027
James Michael Flaherty Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5

Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0770

Dear Minister Freeland:

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)(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.

I am carrying out an updated costing analysis of the Government of Canada's Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) announced in Budget 2024. To this end, I request a detailed description of the program's design as well as the parameter values used in determining the cost of the CDB program as found in Budget 2024. Furthermore, please provide any changes, if any, to the program's design since the completion of the costing in the Budget.

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 **May 2nd, 2024**. 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, Louis Perrault can be contacted directly at Louis.Perrault@parl.gc.ca, 613-292-7426.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by May 2nd, 2024, 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

Chris Forbes, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0770