



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

18 December 2018

Mr. Evan Siddall, President and CEO
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
700 Montreal Road
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0P7

esiddall@cmhc.ca

Information Request: IR0405

Dear Mr. Siddall:

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)(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:

- Detailed breakdowns of historical and planned spending on assistance for housing needs including: a) distinguishing planned spending included and excluded in the National Housing Strategy; b) distinguishing loans, spending, and in-kind contributions; c) distinguishing funding by major policy announcement; d) distinguishing federal contributions from Provincial-Territorial cost matching; e) distinguishing planned spending by CMHC input-output estimator input type; f) applying consistent definitions of lower-level programs; and g) reconciling planned spending with Budgets 2016-2018, and the National Housing Strategy policy document.
- Data and analysis pertaining to the unit costs of assistance for housing need programs including: a) CMHC's assistance for the housing need input-output estimator and supporting analysis; b) project level data for recent and ongoing housing assistance programs; c) provincial reporting data; and d) CMHC's custom SPSPD/M model and internal study of Statistics Canada's Survey of Household Spending to explain socio-economic drivers of households falling below one or more housing standards.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **1 February 2019**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Ben Segel-Brown can be contacted directly at Ben.Segel-Brown@parl.gc.ca 613-407-8357.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 1 February 2019, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you 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 IR0405