

August 20, 2009

Janice Charette
Deputy Minister
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
(HRSDC)
Fax: 819- 953-5603

- and -

Linda Lizotte-MacPherson
Sr. Associate Deputy Minister and COO for Service Canada
HRSDC
Fax: 819-934-5770

Re: PBO Information Request 12

Dear Ms. Charette and Ms. Lizotte-MacPherson:

The Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) has been requested by Mike Savage, MP (see attached) to "provide an independent assessment of the Government's estimate of the cost of the Liberal Party of Canada's proposed change to the Employment Insurance program". Deadline: August 28, 2009.

In order to fulfill this request, the PBO requires the following information from HRSDC:

- A detailed description of the specific policy change analyzed;
- The analytical framework used to construct the Government's estimate;
- Supporting data used to construct the estimate (if individual-level data is provided, confidentiality will be respected);
- A description of the key underlying assumptions used to construct the estimate (e.g., number of newly-eligible EI recipients under the new program parameters, the distribution of unemployment over the time period in question, the anticipated level and duration of EI receipts, etc.);
- Any additional analysis undertaken by HRSDC officials to construct the estimate that may be relevant (e.g., behavioural impacts associated with EI reforms).

As this is the PBO's first information request to your department, we would kindly ask you to refer to our *Information Protocol* available on our webpage at: <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/PBO-DPB/documents/Information%20Protocol.pdf>). This protocol describes the process by which the PBO can obtain free and timely access to information from government departments, as provisioned in the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please let us know if any part of this request requires clarification. Given the short-timeline for our work, we would be grateful to meet in person with the individuals involved in the preparation of the government's estimates. If possible, PBO officials are available as early as Friday, August 21, 2009.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Email: PageK@parl.gc.ca

Encls.

c.c.: Mike Savage, Member of Parliament
Timothy Sargent, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy



PBO Information Request

1) Request Number:	12
2) PBO Contact Name:	Kevin Page (613-992-8026 or 613-286-2687 and pagek@parl.gc.ca)
3) Type of Request:	A response to an MP request
4) PBO Objective:	To provide an independent assessment of the Government's estimate of the cost of the Liberal Party of Canada's proposed change to the Employment Insurance program.
5) Relation to Mandate:	Sections 79.2(a) and 79.2(d) of the <i>Parliament of Canada Act</i> covering independent analysis of the government's estimates and, by Parliamentary request, to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction.
6) Information and Data Requested:	Details provided on page 1 of the letter
7) Priority:	Urgent
8) Date Request Sent:	August 20, 2009
9) Response Requested By:	As soon as possible