



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

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honourable Anita Anand  
Minister of National Defence  
National Defence  
101 Colonel By Drive  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Tower  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

Anita.Anand@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0672

Dear Minister Anand:

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.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- The agreement signed with the United States (US) government and Lockheed Martin with Pratt & Whitney for the acquisition of F-35 fighter jets for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF);
- The estimated acquisition schedule for the F-35 fleet;
- The assumed payment schedule for F-35 fleet acquisition;
- Information regarding the planned flying hours for the new F-35 fleet;
- Data regarding projected operating expenses for the new F-35 fleet;
- Assumptions regarding retirement costs of the new fleet;
- A summary, by fiscal year, of all expenses already incurred, including during the development phase of the F-35 procurement project;
- The financial risk analysis, including the Risk Register and the estimated low, most likely, and high-end financial impacts of each identified risk;

- Historical operating and sustainment costs for the CF-18 fleet, including Aviation Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (AvPOL) costs, National Procurement (NP) costs, and betterment costs, as well as projected operation and sustainment costs through the end of the CF-18 life cycle;
- Historical and projected Flying Hours for the CF-18 fleet; and,
- Historical and projected disposal costs for the CF-18 fleet.

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 **February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. 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.

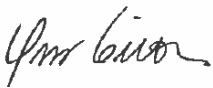
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Jacques can be contacted directly at [Jason.Jacques@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jason.Jacques@parl.gc.ca), 613-853-1596.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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

Bill Matthews, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0672