



20 March 2018

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister
Employment and Social Development Canada
Families, Children and Social Development Canada
140 Promenade du Portage
Floor 124, Mailstop 1401
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0J9

jeanyves.duclos@hrsdcc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0356

Dear Minister Duclos:

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)(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 asking/requesting the following information:

Data from ESDC relating to Employment Insurance (EI) special benefits, specifically maternity and parental (including adoption):

- Total number of EI special benefits recipients, by type and gender
- Total number of EI special benefits shared recipients, by type and gender
- Total number of new mothers (excluding Quebec)
- Total number of new fathers (excluding Quebec)
- Total number (or percentage) of new mothers who are eligible for EI parental benefits
- Total number (or percentage) of new fathers who are eligible for EI parental benefits

- Total number (or percentage) of eligible new mothers who claim EI parental benefits
- Total number (or percentage) of eligible new fathers who claim EI parental benefits

Please provide this data for the past 5 years, as well as any projections which may be available.

Based on the nature of this request and the analysis I am undertaking, I believe a reasonable deadline would be **6 April 2018**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you, by the appropriate deputy minister or designate, or by the person occupying a similar position.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Stanton can be contacted directly at jason.stanton@parl.gc.ca 613-790-1457.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 6 April 2018, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, the appropriate deputy minister or the person occupying a similar position 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.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons for the purposes of raising the quality of parliamentary debate and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability 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
Louise Levonian, Deputy Minister, ESDC

Attachment: Reply form for IR0356