



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

27 March 2019

The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister
Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Floor 17
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G5

bill.morneau@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0417

Dear Minister Morneau:

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 requesting the information identified in Appendix A.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **9 April 2019**. 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, 613-853-1596.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by **9 April 2019**, 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*.



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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
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: IR0417 – Appendix A
Reply form for IR0417



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IR0417 - Appendix A

1. The methodology and data sets used to generate the cost estimate presented in the Budget 2019 Fiscal Framework for the following measures:
 - a. Canada Training Credit
 - b. Employment Insurance Training Support Benefit
 - c. Home buyers' Plan - Withdrawal Limit
 - d. Home buyers' Plan - Breakdown of a Marriage or Common-Law Partnership
 - e. Mutual Funds – Allocation to Redeemers Methodology
 - f. Business Investment in Zero Emission Vehicles
 - g. Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program
 - h. Journalism – Qualified Donee Status
 - i. Journalism – Refundable Labour Tax Credit
 - j. Journalism – Tax Credit for Digital Subscriptions
 - k. First-time Home Buyer Incentive
 - l. Improving the Economic Security of Low Income Seniors
 - m. Expanding the Rental Construction Financing Initiative
 - n. Limiting the Benefit of the Employee Stock Option Deduction

In addition to the afore-mentioned, I am requesting:

2. The full spending profile (i.e. going beyond 2023-24) and all associated analysis and documentation supporting the expected results for:
 - a. The First-Time Home Buyer Incentive
 - b. The Home Buyer's Plan
 - c. Expanding the Rental Construction Financing Initiative
 - d. Housing Supply Challenge
 - e. The Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability
3. For the cost of Expanding the Rental Construction Financing Initiative:
 - a. A breakdown of the cost elements involved: credit risk, interest rate differential, operating costs, etc; and
 - b. Details on the projected program uptake and any relevant historical data and information used to generate this projection.
4. For the Making Canada Student Loans Program More Affordable measure, what assumptions and methodology were used to determine the reduction in the non-refundable tax credit for interest paid on Canada Student Loans.