



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

30 January 2020

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

bill.morneau@canada.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0449

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 subparagraph 79.2(1)(c)(ii) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the nation's finances and economy at the request of the Standing Committee on Finance of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- Total revenues of surtaxes that were collected under the *United States Surtax Order*, for each schedule, for each fiscal year (2018-19 and 2019-20), on a gross and net basis, and on a cash and accrual basis;
- Historical data and projections of the value of remitted surtaxes as a result of the remission provided under Schedules 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the *United States Surtax Remission Order*, for each schedule, for both waived and refunded remissions, for each fiscal year (2018-19 until 2022-23), and on a cash and accrual basis;
- Historical data and projections of spending, on all measures and allocations to protect Canadian workers and businesses in the steel, aluminum, and manufacturing industries from impacts of *US Section 232 tariffs* and the *United States Surtax Order*. This data should be broken down: by measure and allocation; by fiscal year (2018-19 until the end of the measures and allocations); on a cash and accrual basis.

- Assumptions and analysis, on the rate of uptake and value of unused funds, for each measure and allocation to protect Canadian workers and businesses in the steel, aluminum, and manufacturing industries from impacts of *US Section 232 tariffs* and the *United States Surtax Order*, as well as clarification on how unused funds have been and will be allocated.
- Historical data and projections of total administrative funding associated with: collecting surtaxes under the *United States Surtax Order*; providing remissions under the *United States Surtax Remission Order*; and spending on all measures to protect workers and businesses in the Canadian steel, aluminum, and manufacturing industries from impacts of *US Section 232 tariffs* and the *United States Surtax Order*. This data should be broken down by fiscal year (2018-19 until end of measures and allocations) and presented on a cash and accrual basis.

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 **14 February 2020**. 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, Nigel Wodrich can be contacted directly at Nigel.Wodrich@parl.gc.ca 613-296-0174.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 14 February 2020, 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
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0449