



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

August 5, 2021

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street, Room 16-027  
James Michael Flaherty Building  
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5

Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0605

Dear Minister Freeland:

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 any additional program parameters, assumptions and projected costs for the implementation of the Budget 2021 measure entitled “A Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan” that have become available since Finance Canada's response to IR0601 on June 2, 2021. The PBO is especially requesting any information regarding:

- the Indigenous-specific aspects of the program, including information about:
  - whether any of the same children are expected to be covered by both the Indigenous-specific funding and any funding from federal-provincial/federal-territorial agreements that will be reached under the program
  - the targets for child care fee levels for children under the Indigenous-specific program
  - whether there will be any differences between the Indigenous-specific services provided on-reserve and off-reserve

- any information regarding the agreements between the Federal Government and each of British Columbia, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador, including:
  - whether the funding in these agreements is meant to cover ELCC for Indigenous children

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 **August 19, 2021**. 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, Katarina Michalyshyn can be contacted directly at Katarina.Michalyshyn@parl.gc.ca, 613-218-5339.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by August 19, 2021, 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

Michael Sabia, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0605