



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

March 11, 2020

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
66 Slater Street, 14th Floor  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0P4

vac.minister-ministre.acc@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0454

Dear Minister MacAulay:

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)(f) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction at the request of a member of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- Monthly time series of the number of completed, received and pending applications for disability benefits by status for the last 5 fiscal years.
- The number of adjudicators, benefit officers and benefit assistants and their classifications for the last 5 fiscal years. (if applicable, also include all other front-line staff involved in the approval process for disability benefits.)
- 5-year forecast for new applicants and for reassessments.

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 **March 27, 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.

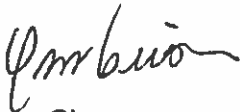
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Caroline Nicol can be contacted directly at [Caroline.Nicol@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Caroline.Nicol@parl.gc.ca), 613-295-1626.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by March 27, 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  
Walter J. Natynczyk, Deputy Minister, Veterans Affairs Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0454