



December 5, 2011

Ian Shugart
Deputy Minister
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV, 13th Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

And

Karen Jackson
Sr. Associate Deputy Minister and COO for Service Canada
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV, 13th Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

Re: PBO Information Request IR0057

Dear Mr. Shugart and Ms. Jackson:

The Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) has been requested by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance to prepare a cost estimate of a private members' bill: Bill C-291: *An Act to Amend the Employment Insurance Act (waiting period and maximum special benefits)*.

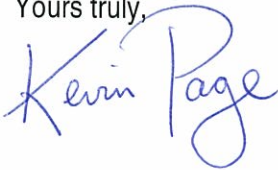
To fulfill this request, the PBO requires the following information from HRSDC:

- Any cost estimates of Bill C-291, including:
 - The analytical framework used to prepare any cost estimates of the aforementioned private members' bill;
 - Supporting data used to construct the estimate (if individual-level data is provided, confidentiality will be respected);
 - A description of the key underlying assumptions used to construct the estimate (e.g., number of newly-eligible EI recipients under the new program parameters, the distribution of unemployment over the time period in question, the anticipated level and duration of EI receipts, etc.);
 - Any additional analysis undertaken by HRSDC officials to construct the estimate that may be relevant (e.g., behavioural impacts associated with proposed changes).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please let us know if any part of this request requires clarification.

We would be grateful to meet in person with the individuals involved in the preparation of the government's estimates. PBO officials are available at your convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Page". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K" and "P".

Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Rick Stewart, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for
Macroeconomic Policy



PBO Information Request

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Request Number: | IR0057 |
| 2) PBO Contact Name: | Jeff Danforth (613-995-0421 or jeff.danforth@parl.gc.ca) or Peter Weltman (613-996-1952 or peter.weltman@parl.gc.ca) |
| 3) Type of Request: | One-time. |
| 4) PBO Objective: | To prepare a cost estimate for a parliamentary committee. |
| 5) Relation to Mandate: | Pursuant to section 79.2(d) of the <i>Parliament of Canada Act</i> , the PBO is mandated to prepare cost estimates when requested by parliamentarians. |
| 6) Information and Data Requested: | Details provided on page 1 of the letter. |
| 7) Priority: | High |
| 8) Date Request Sent: | December 5, 2011 |
| 9) Response Requested By: | December 13, 2011 |