



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

August 13, 2020

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
25 Eddy Street, 12th Floor  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5

steven.guilbeault@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0531

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

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 the following information:

1. Data regarding the main parameters of the contribution agreement concluded between the federal government and WE Charity (for example, number of placements, take up rate, average number of hours worked by students, administrative fees, etc.), for the purpose of administering the Canada Student Services Grant (CSSG).
2. Any changes to the CSSG program parameters after the administration of the program was transferred to the Department of Canadian Heritage.
3. The methodology and approach used to estimate the cost of the CSSG program

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 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, Eskandar Elmarzougui can be contacted directly at [Eskandar.Elmarzougui@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Eskandar.Elmarzougui@parl.gc.ca), 613-797-5698.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by August 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  
Hélène Laurendeau, Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage

Attachment: Reply form for IR0531