



4 October 2016

Mr. Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister
Health Canada
70 Colombine Driveway
Tunney's Pasture, Room 1526B
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0K9

simon.kennedy@hc-sc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0261

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(d) 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 or committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information:

The Standing Committee on Health (HESA) has requested the Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare an analysis on the development of a National Pharmacare Program. To conduct this analysis, PBO is requesting the following information:

Departmental data, estimates, analysis and/or studies commissioned by Health Canada pertaining to:

- i) public and private expenditures of prescription drugs, including a breakdown of generic and brand-name;
- ii) utilization of prescription drugs by insured and uninsured persons;

- iii) expenditures for prescription drugs by insured and uninsured persons;
- iv) generic and brand-name prescription drug prices;
- v) any cost-saving measures related to prescription drug expenditures; and,
- vi) data that identifies or estimates the number of Canadians covered by:
 - a. publicly-funded prescription drug insurance;
 - b. privately-funded prescription drug insurance.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 17 October 2016. If we do not hear back from you by that date, we may consider your non-response a deemed refusal and, accordingly, report it to our named committees as instructed, as well as to the Standing Committee on Health.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 17 October 2016, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". Could you please attach the requested information separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Jacques can be contacted directly at Jason.Jacques@parl.gc.ca 613-853-1596.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons is the PBO's primary objective. 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,



Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Mr. Douglas Nevison, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0261