



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

June 7th, 2022

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Canadian Heritage
25 Eddy Street
12th Floor, Mail Stop: 25-12-0
Gatineau QC K1A 0M5

pablo.rodriguez@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0650

Dear Minister Rodriguez:

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 direct and indirect expenses pertaining to Bill C-18 (An Act respecting online communications platforms that make news content available to persons in Canada), and related tax expenditures. Where possible please classify the costs by standard object and identify whether they are variable, fixed, or step-wise variable.

Specifically, I need any information relating to implementing the legislation, such as additional tasks (current or expected), associated full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions and associated costs. If costs are not available for any of these aspects, please include the cost of similar aspects in comparable legislation that you have developed in the past.

I would also appreciate receiving the following information with respect to Bill C-18:

- Any cost estimate related to the administration of the Bill

- The digital news intermediaries subject to the Act
- The news businesses subject to the act
- The resources needed to prepare the regulations related to the Act
- Any other information related to developing a comparable legislation

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 **June 21st, 2022**. 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.

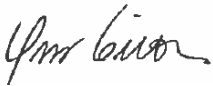
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Rolande Kpekou Tossou can be contacted directly at Rolande.KpekouTossou@parl.gc.ca or 613-617-5709.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by June 21st, 2022, 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

Isabelle Mondou, Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage

Attachment: Reply form for IR0650