



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

28 November 2018

The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister  
Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Floor 17  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0G5

bill.morneau@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0395

Dear Minister Morneau:

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 documents 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:

I'd like to receive information explaining the data and methodology on the cost estimates published in the Fall Economic Statement 2018 by Finance Canada for the following measures:

- Introducing Immediate Expensing for Machinery and Equipment in Manufacturing - Forgone Revenues
  - Supporting All Sectors Through the Accelerated Investment Incentive - Forgone Revenues
- Supporting Early Stage Mineral Exploration
- Support for Canadian Journalism
  - Access to Charitable Tax Incentives for Eligible New Organizations
  - A New Refundable Tax Credit to Support News Organizations
  - A New Non-Refundable Tax Credit for Subscriptions to Canadian Digital News Media
- Steel and Aluminum Tariffs
  - Steel and Aluminum Tariffs (Customs & Import duty revenues)
  - Steel and Aluminum (Remission of surtaxes)
  - Steel and Aluminum (EI revenues)

- Earlier Implementation of EI Parental Sharing Benefit
  - Less projected EI Revenues
- Supporting Workers in Seasonal Industries
  - Less funds previously provisioned in the fiscal framework
- Taxation of Communal Organizations
- Response to Consultation Panel on Political Activities by Charities
- Renewal of Operation REASSURANCE
  - Less funds sourced from existing departmental resources
- Working while on claim
  - Less projected Revenues

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **5 December 2018**. 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, Carleigh Malanik can be contacted directly at [Carleigh.Malanik@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Carleigh.Malanik@parl.gc.ca), 613-853-8763.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 5 December 2018, 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.: Katharine Rechico, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,  
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy  
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0395