



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

March 18th, 2022

Mr Raymond Théberge
Commissioner of Official Languages
Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages
30 Victoria Street, 6th Floor
Gatineau QC K1A 0T8

comm@clo-ocol.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0633

Dear Commissioner Théberge:

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)(e) 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 committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

For this analysis, I am requesting direct and indirect expenses pertaining to the administration of C-13 (*An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act and to make related amendments to other Acts*), 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, any information relating to the funding that the Commissioner of Official Languages will receive as part of the \$16 million allocated to four entities as part of the Modernization of the Official Languages Act (page 69 of the Economic and Fiscal Update 2021), including expected additional tasks, associated Full-Time Equivalent positions and associated costs. If costs are not available for any of these aspects, please include the cost of similar aspects in comparable policies that you have administered in the past. As well, please identify any anticipated capital costs associated with this programming.

With respect to the proposed Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act:

- What regions will be subject to the Act?
- What industries will be subject to the Act?
- What share of locations would have to offer services in French?
- What staffing in what occupations is required to offer services in French at a location?
- What staffing in what occupations is required to allow employees to work and be supervised in French at a location?
- What costs are incurred by businesses for translations of communications, word instruments and computer systems?

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 **April 4th, 2022**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Katarina Michalyshyn can be contacted directly at Katarina.Michalyshyn@parl.gc.ca, 613-218-5339.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 4th, 2022, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yves Giroux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Yves Giroux

Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0633