



3 May 2018

The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister
Canadian Heritage
15 Eddy Street
12th Floor
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0M5

Hon.Melanie.Joly@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0361

Dear Minister Joly:

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 asking/requesting the following information:

- Please complete the attached MS excel Infrastructure Reporting Template with the list of projects/programs being funded by your department from funding obtained from the federal infrastructure initiative via Budget 2016 Infrastructure Spending.
- Please return the completed MS Excel Infrastructure Reporting Template to the office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer in electronic format.

Based on the nature of this request and the analysis I am undertaking, I believe a reasonable deadline would be **25 May 2018**. If access to the request information cannot be granted by that date,

a response must be provided by you, by the appropriate deputy minister or designate, or by the person occupying a similar position.

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.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 25 May 2018, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, the appropriate deputy minister or the person occupying a similar position 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.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons for the purposes of raising the quality of parliamentary debate and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability 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.: Katharine Rechico, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Graham Flack, Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage
Kelly Gillis, Deputy Minister, Infrastructure Canada

Attachments: Infrastructure Reporting Template
Reply form for IR0361