



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

14 December 2018

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister  
Employment and Social Development Canada  
140 Promenade du Portage  
Floor 14, Mailstop 1401  
Gatineau, QC  
K1A 0J9

jeanyves.duclos@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0404

Dear Minister Duclos:

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)(f) 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 of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information with respect to Employment Insurance, for 2012 to 2017:

- For regular EI benefits and sickness EI benefits, the average insurable hours worked during the qualifying period, per provinces and age group.
- Further details for the subset of individuals who claimed and received the maximum 15 weeks of EI sickness benefits, as per the attached Annex.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **4 January 2019**. 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, Nora Nahornick can be contacted directly at [Nora.Nahornick@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Nora.Nahornick@parl.gc.ca) 613-294-1763.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 4 January 2019, 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  
Graham Flack, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0404