



August 24, 2009

Dr. Munir Sheikh
Chief Statistician of Canada
Statistics Canada
100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway
Ottawa ON K1A 0T6

Re: PBO Information Request 13[b]

Dear Dr. Sheikh:

The Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) has been requested by Mike Savage, MP to "provide an independent assessment of the Government's estimate of the cost of the Liberal Party of Canada's proposed change to the Employment Insurance program". This request has an urgent deadline of Friday, August 28, 2009.

In order to fulfill this request, the PBO requires the following information from Statistics Canada:

1) Employment Insurance Coverage Survey (EICS) aggregate timeseries data:

These data cover 1997 to 2008, using the most recent survey results published in the Statistics Canada Daily on July 23, 2009. The following series are needed:

- Number of Unemployed,
- Number of EI contributors,
- Number of EI non-contributors,
- Number of unemployed who were potentially eligible to receive EI (i.e. were unemployed, contributed to the EI program and had a valid job separation)
- Number of unemployed who were potentially eligible to receive EI (i.e. were unemployed, contributed to the program and had a valid job separation) but did not accumulate sufficient hours
- Number of people that received or will receive EI benefits;
- Number of people who did not receive EI benefits but were eligible (i.e. contributed to EI, had a valid job separation and sufficient hours);
- Number of unemployed who were not potentially eligible to receive EI (including: number of invalid job separations, number who had no insurable employment; number that had not worked in the previous 12 months)

Note: we do not require any data pertaining to maternity and parental benefits.

2) Employment Insurance Coverage Survey administrative microdata files

This information would allow use the underlying microdata to improve our modeling of the expected number of EI recipients under proposed changes to EI program parameters.

3) Labour Force Survey administrative microdata files

We are currently using the LFS public use micro files to perform our calculations. However, individuals are listed only by province rather than employment insurance economic regions (EIER). Providing us access to the data EIER rather than province could improve the precision of our estimates.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Given the short timeline for this request, please let us know if any part of the request requires clarification, by contacting Stephen Tapp (our PBO analyst, at tapps@parl.gc.ca).

Yours truly,

[signature]

Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Email: PageK@parl.gc.ca

c.c.: Timothy Sargent, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy



PBO Information Request

1) Request Number:	13/[b]
2) PBO Contact Name:	Stephen Tapp (613-945-0570 and tapps@parl.gc.ca)
3) Type of Request:	Ad hoc, in response to MP request
4) PBO Objective:	To provide an independent assessment of the Government's estimate of the cost of the Liberal Party of Canada's proposed change to the Employment Insurance program.
5) Relation to Mandate:	Sections 79.2(a) and 79.2(d) of the <i>Parliament of Canada Act</i> covering independent analysis of the government's estimates and, by Parliamentary request, to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction.
6) Information and Data Requested:	Details provided on page 1 of the letter
7) Priority:	Urgent
8) Date Request Sent:	August 24, 2009
9) Response Requested By:	As soon as possible