



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

November 24th, 2023

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street, Room 16-027
James Michael Flaherty Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5

Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0725

Dear Minister Freeland:

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)(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:

- Additional information regarding the economic and fiscal developments since Budget 2023 (Table A1.3 in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement) for direct program expenses (by operating line), categorized by the reasons for the revision as described in the Fall Economic Statement 2023.
- Projections for expected contingent liabilities, both for operating expenses and other transfer payments, until 2028-29.
- The income and expenditure shares over the period of 2023 to 2028. Please provide the breakdown of the categories as a share of GDP in accordance with the 2023 Fall

Economic Statement projection. For a list of category breakdown, please consult "Appendix B: Composition of nominal GDP" of the PBO's October 2023 Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

- Interest-bearing-debt projection from the 2023 Fall Economic Statement, by market debt and non-market debt over 2023-24 to 2028-29, and their associated public debt charges projections.
- Borrowing requirements of Enterprise Crown corporations (Table A1.7 in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement) broken down by corporation, specifically Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Export Development Canada, the Business Development Bank of Canada, and Farm Credit Canada, and their associated revenues and public debt charges.

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 **December 14th, 2023**. 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.

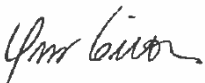
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Stanton can be contacted directly at Jason.Stanton@parl.gc.ca, 613-790-1457.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by December 14th, 2023, 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.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Chris Forbes, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0725

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