



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

4 December 2018

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister
Canada Revenue Agency
555 MacKenzie Avenue
Building Connaught Building
Floor 7
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0L5

cra.minister-ministre.arc@cra-arc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0397

Dear Minister:

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.

The 2018 Fall Economic Statement proposes to amend the *Income Tax Act* to ensure that the business income of communal organizations retains its character when it is allocated to members of the communal organization for income tax purposes, effective for the 2014 and subsequent taxation years. To determine the cost of this measure, I am requesting the following information:

- Data from income tax forms (T1), more specifically data on taxable income (line 260) and the Working Income Tax Benefit (line 453) for individuals who are members of a communal organization. I would like to have this data for 2013 and subsequent years.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **10 December 2018**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or the Commissioner as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Étienne Bergeron can be contacted directly at Etienne.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca 613-292-7472.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 10 December 2018, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or the Commissioner 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
Bob Hamilton, Commissioner of Revenue and Chief Executive Officer, Canada Revenue
Agency

Attachment: Reply form for IR0397