



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

May 21, 2020

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister
Innovation, Science and Industry
235 Queen Street, CD Howe Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R6

ised.minister-ministre.isde@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0491

Dear Minister Bains:

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 section 79.2(b)(i) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the nation's finances and economy at the request of the Standing Committee on National Finance of the Senate.

- 1) Since the last information request (IR0472), your department has announced additional measures related to the COVID-19 response. For this analysis, I am seeking data on the following two measures: Enhanced work opportunities for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows through the National Research Council of Canada;
 - Number of work opportunities created and the associated dollar amounts;
- 2) \$29 million for the second phase of critical upgrades to the Human Health Therapeutics facility;
 - Amounts transferred to the Human Health Therapeutics facility and additional details on the use of transferred funds.

Ideally, I would like this data to be provided on at least a monthly basis. However, if this is not feasible, please provide as frequently as possible.

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 **June 8, 2020**. 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, Jill Giswold can be contacted directly at Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca, 613-297-3856.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by June 8, 2020, 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
Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Iain Stewart, President, National Research Council

Attachment: Reply form for IR0491