



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

August 10, 2023

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Environment and Climate Change Canada
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0705

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

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)(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 related to the biodiversity policy and partnership program (BGT04) and, when applicable, other relevant programs and services:

- administrative data on the costs associated with administering the permit scheme under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA) for the fiscal years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.
 - o These data should be presented according to a cost breakdown structure. The department may choose the one it currently utilises to structure and store its data internally.
 - o Should some licensing scheme costs not be easily separated from other activities related to administering the WAPPRIITA, the relevant data should still be provided with a disclaimer.

- estimates or administrative data on the start up costs of implementing a new program
 - o If possible, these data should be presented using a similar cost breakdown structure.
 - o Administrative data on the start up costs of the biodiversity policy and partnership program or any other comparable program can be provided by the department.
- any supporting documentation or description of the requested data that help identify personnel, information, professional and special services, utilities, materials and supplies (and more) costs.

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 **August 31st, 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.

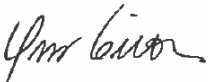
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Régine Cléophat can be contacted directly at Regine.Cleophat@parl.gc.ca, 613-296-0116.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by August 31st, 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, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0705