



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

December 11, 2020

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
90 Elgin Street, 17th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0573

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)(b) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports on matters of particular significance relating to the nation's finances or economy that are listed in an annual work plan.

For this analysis, I am requesting detailed data on the sales of marketable securities in the Exchange Fund Account in 2019-20, including the reason for each sale, so we can reconstruct the \$702 million net gain on the sale of marketable securities recorded in Public Accounts 2020, Volume 1, page 275. We would like to discuss the operational application of the principles of the Exchange Fund Account Management Framework so we can improve our modeling of net foreign exchange gains and net gain on the sale of marketable securities in our fiscal forecast.

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 31, 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.

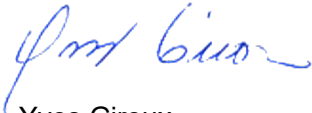
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Mark Creighton can be contacted directly at Mark.Creighton@parl.gc.ca, 613-795-1651.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by December 31, 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
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0573