



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

August 5, 2021

The Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of Public Services and Procurement
11 Laurier Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0S5

Anita.Anand@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0606

Dear Minister Anand:

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)(e) 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 committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

For this analysis, I am requesting a detailed breakdown of the construction costs for the three Senate requirements regarding Centre Block Rehabilitation that have been highlighted as a concern from a cost perspective in your May 31, 2021 letter to the Speakers of both Chambers and Senator Marwah. For further clarity, these three functional requirements are:

- A partial infill of the Centre Block's east courtyard for six additional offices for senators;
- Three additional committee rooms in the Visitor Welcome Centre;
- A dedicated Senate business entry on the east end of the Visitor Welcome Centre.

The letter states that removing these requirements would in aggregate reduce project costs by approximately \$100 million. It also mentions that an initial estimate indicates that each office would cost more than \$3 million to build (for the first requirement of six additional offices). Furthermore, in a CBC News article published by journalist Chris Rands on June 3, 2021 (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/anand-senate-centre-block-1.6051771>), some construction costs which were not part of your May 31st letter are presented. These costs are \$22 million for the additional offices, \$47 million for the additional committee rooms and \$12 million for the separate entrance. Therefore, I would like as much detail as possible on how these estimates were calculated and a copy of any supporting documentation prepared to arrive at these numbers.

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 27, 2021**. 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.

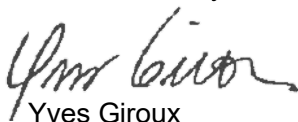
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Govindadeva Bernier can be contacted directly at Govindadeva.Bernier@parl.gc.ca, 613-769-4988.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by August 27, 2021, 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

Bill Matthews, Deputy Minister, Public Services and Procurement Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0606