



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

October 20th, 2022

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West, 20th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 1L1

minister@cic.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0657

Dear Minister Fraser:

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 information about each of the 3 streams of Express Entry immigration (Canadian Experience Class, Federal Skilled Workers and Federal Skilled Trades).

For Québec, please provide information on any formulas that determine the amount that the federal government provides Québec in lieu of Québec participating in 3 federal Express Entry streams. Please also provide any internal projections about the amounts of funding that Québec will receive for each year until the end of 2026-27 (or 2027 calendar year).

For the rest of Canada, please provide the information requested below for each of the 3 Express Entry streams for 2018 to 2021 (or 2017-18 to 2021-22 FY), disaggregated by the following categories of family sizes:

Principal Applicant (PA) alone
PA and spouse
PA, spouse and 1 child
PA, spouse and 2 children
PA, spouse and 3 children

PA, spouse and 4 children
 PA, spouse and 5+ children
 PA, spouse and other dependents (including children or non-children)
 PA (no spouse) and 1 child
 PA (no spouse) and 2 children
 PA (no spouse) and 3 children
 PA (no spouse) and 4 children
 PA (no spouse) and 5+ children
 PA (no spouse) and other dependents (including children or non-children)

If this disaggregated would not be possible without data suppression, please put categories that involve 3, 4 and 5+ children together (ie. PA, spouse and 3+ children; PA (no spouse) and 3+ children) and indicate the average number of children in those families. If this would still lead to suppression, please put all families with children together (ie. PA, spouse and 1+ child(ren); PA (no spouse) and 1+ child(ren)) and indicate the average number of children in those families.

The following information is requested:

- cost of processing an application through the application system (from the time the complete application is received to when a decision is made)
- number of applications that are processed through the system and where the final decision is to deny permanent residency
- processing times (time it takes to process 80% of applications) for those invited to apply
- number of applications processed (please include either average annual processing times, or in smaller increments if IRCC deems this to better represent the situation)
- for the 80% of applicants whose applications are processed the most quickly, the average time it takes to process them through the system
- average number of FTEs that it takes to process an application through the system, and average salary of these FTEs
- number of FTEs working on processing applications (as well as their average salaries) and the associated processing times, in the smallest time increment available without suppressing data (monthly, quarterly, or yearly) (ie. in 2018 there were x FTEs working on processing and the processing time was y number of months)
- expected shortening of processing time for a given number of additional IRCC employees (ie. if there were x more employees, the processing time would be shortened by y months)
- additional resources (number of FTEs and their salaries and/or financial resources, or anything else available) that would be required to meet the service standard (6 months for 80% of applicants)
- number of points of contact between the applicant and IRCC employees (or number of steps in the application process) as well as the average time it takes before moving on to each subsequent point of contact (or moving on to the next step of the application process)
- average FTEs (and their average salaries) associated with dealing with the immigration draw process for people who do not get an invitation to apply (or number of additional FTEs required if the number of people in the draw doubled)
- average time between approval of permanent residency application and when a person or family arrives in Canada

- cost of providing pre-arrival services (total budgeted amount)
- cost of providing settlement services (total budgeted amount)
- average cost per person of pre-arrival service use, and number of people who use at least 1 service
- average cost per person of the use of settlement services, number of people who use at least 1 service, disaggregated by number of years after person arrived in Canada (only for those who have been in Canada 0-6 years)
- ages of people when they are accepted (or when the complete application is received) and ages of people when they are admitted to Canada – please provide ages of PA, spouses, children and others (or whatever is the most disaggregated level of data that does not require suppression)
- the detailed targets or projections for the number of immigrants expected to be taken in until the end of 2027 (or 2026-27) – include the totals and expected numbers of PAs, spouses, children and others that would be included in these totals
- processing time projections from now until end of 2027 or 2026-27 FY and the number of applications projected to be processed, by calendar year or fiscal year (or shorter time periods if that would be easier or better represent the situation)

If any of the requested information does not exist in the way that the PBO is asking for it or if there are any questions, please contact us as soon as possible. We would be happy to work with you to find an alternative solution.

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 **November 3rd, 2022**. 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.

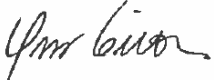
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Katarina Michalyshyn can be contacted directly at Katarina.Michalyshyn@parl.gc.ca, 613-218-5339.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by November 3rd 2022, 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

Christiane Fox, Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0657