



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

April 11th, 2022

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street, Room 16-027
James Michael Flaherty Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5

Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0638

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)(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports analyzing the following federal government documents: (i) a budget tabled by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance; (ii) an economic and fiscal update or statement issued by the Minister of Finance; (iii) a fiscal sustainability report issued by the Minister of Finance; (iv) the estimates of the government for a fiscal year.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- A list of all revenue and spending measures undertaken since the Economic and Fiscal Update 2021 and up to and including Budget 2022. Please classify the data according to the categories in accordance with the presentation of Budget 2022 Tables A1.5 and A1.6 on an accrual and cash basis until 2026-27.
- Additional information regarding the economic and fiscal developments since EFU 2021 (Table A1.3) for direct program expenses (by operating line), categorized by anticipated reprofiles, reclassifications, and other spending adjustments until 2026-27.
- Capital expense projection for the same period as Table A1.6.

- Public debt charges and their sensitivities to interest rates (Table A1.11), broken out by market and non-market debt.
- Projection for Interest Bearing Debt.
- Data and assumptions regarding the additional revenues arising from the proposed excise tax on vaping products.

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 **April 25th, 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, Jason Stanton can be contacted directly at Jason.Stanton@parl.gc.ca, 613-790-1457.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 25th, 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

Michael Sabia, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0638