



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

25 March 2019

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister
Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
10 Wellington Street
Room 120
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H4

carolyn.bennett@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0415

Dear Minister Bennett:

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 documents 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:

1. All documentation regarding the methodology used to determine the contingent liability associated with specific claims without a facts-specific best-known value.
2. Any documentation regarding the methodology used to determine best-known values for specific claims.
3. Any validation of those methodologies and the estimates they produce.
4. Any documentation regarding systemic changes in best-known values, particularly those arising from legal developments.
5. Various summary statistics and scenario-based estimates calculated using CIRNAC's specific claims database, as provided under separate cover.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **25 April 2019**. 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, Ben Segel-Brown can be contacted directly at Ben.Segel-Brown@parl.gc.ca 613-407-8357.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 25 April 2019, 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.: Katharine Rechico, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Daniel Watson, Deputy Minister, Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Attachment: Reply form for IR0415