



Department of Finance
Canada

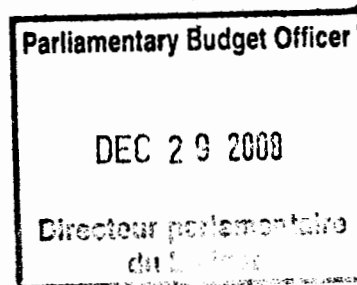
Ministère des Finances
Canada

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0G5

24 DEC. 2008



Mr. Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Library of Parliament
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Page:

I am writing in response to your formal information requests of December 1, and December 3, 2008.

On December 1, 2008, you requested the detailed National Accounts economic and fiscal projections underlying the 2008 Economic and Fiscal Statement.

Please find attached the results of the private sector economic survey used for the Statement projections. We are consulting with the Privy Council Office on whether additional details of the Department's internal forecast and its underlying assumptions represent a Confidence of Cabinet, or whether we can provide it to you. Under the Parliament of Canada Act which governs your access to data, we are not authorized to release Cabinet Confidences to you.

I note that your Office surveyed the same private sector forecasters as the Department of Finance over a similar timeframe, generating fiscal projections that were slightly more optimistic than the Government's. Simulating shocks to your own baseline using your own models should produce information very similar to that produced by the Department. My officials would be happy to discuss these issues with you.

On December 3, 2008, you requested details on the measures presented in the 2006 Economic and Fiscal Update and Budget 2008 regarding the Strategic Review exercise, along with a list of any subsequent amendments.

We are pleased to attach details on the results of the 2006 Spending Restraint Exercise and first round of strategic reviews as presented in Budget 2008.

With respect to subsequent changes, detailed information on specific announcements on Government spending decisions is readily available through departmental websites, the Estimates and other public sources of information.

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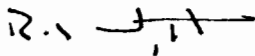
On December 3, 2008, you also asked for a list of the Government's non-financial assets used to substantiate the divestiture revenue target in 2009-10, including their respective book values as of March 31, 2008.

Details of the Government's asset holdings can be found in the 2007-08 Public Accounts, which were tabled in Parliament on December 1, 2008. For example, Table 10.2, Volume 1 of the Public Accounts of Canada 2008 presents detailed totals of tangible capital assets by Ministry.

I would note that the review of Corporate Assets is ongoing, as is the 2008 round of strategic reviews. The figures contained in the Economic and Fiscal Statement represent an estimate of expected savings. Once completed, more detailed results will be made available as was done for the first round of strategic reviews in Budget 2008.

In addition to the two requests published on your web-site, we have received numerous other requests from your office in recent months, to which we have responded where possible. I would ask that all future requests from your office come to my office directly, in keeping with the proposed protocol posted on your web-site. This is consistent with the terms of the legislation governing your access to data and would help us to ensure that your requests receive appropriate attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Wright', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Wright

Enclosures