



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

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

The Honourable David J. McGuinty  
Minister of National Defence  
National Defence  
101 Colonel By Drive  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Tower  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2  
[Dnd\\_mnd@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Dnd_mnd@forces.gc.ca)

## Information Request: IR0836

Dear Minister McGuinty:

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 a detailed description of the updated NATO military spending target of 5 percent of GDP, including the definitions and methodological guidance associated with both the 3.5 percent core military spending component and the 1.5 percent ancillary component. For each, I am requesting any documentation or guidance received from NATO regarding eligible expenditures, including whether either component modifies or builds upon NATO's existing definition of defence spending.

I am also seeking information on any current or planned Canadian federal expenditures that, in the Department's view, would fall under the additional 1.5 percent component of the new NATO target. Please provide any internal estimates or projections, if available, that quantify the spending required to meet the 3.5 percent core target and 1.5 additional spending target by 2035.

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 **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. 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.

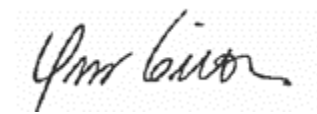
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Christopher Penney can be contacted directly at [Christopher.Penney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Christopher.Penney@parl.gc.ca), 613-294-2756.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, 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.: Mathew Sajkunovic, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy, Privy Council Office

Stefanie Beck, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0836