



18 December 2017

Mr. Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, President and Chief Executive
VIA Rail Canada Inc.
3 Ville-Marie Place
Suite 500
Montréal, QC
H3B 2C9

Yves_Desjardins-Siciliano@viarail.ca

Information Request: IR0343

Dear Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano:

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 asking/requesting the following information:

- In certain cases this information is related to a previous information request made by my office on the federal infrastructure initiative funded via the Budget 2016 Infrastructure Spending.

Review and update the attached spreadsheet of projects/programs funded by your department.

Review and update the attached spreadsheet for organizations/agencies under your authority.

Please complete the attached spreadsheet(s) with this information.

Based on the nature of this request and the analysis I am undertaking, I believe a reasonable deadline would be 12 January 2018. A response must be provided if access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date.

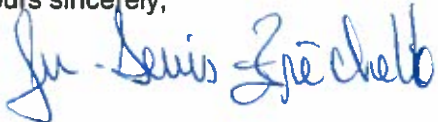
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Negash Haile can be contacted directly at negash.haile@parl.gc.ca 613-996-0787.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 12 January 2018, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you must provide a written justification for the refusal as required under section 79.41 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

Your 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.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons for the purposes of raising the quality of parliamentary debate and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability is the PBO's primary objective. 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,



Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Katharine Rechico, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0343