



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

March 4, 2020

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister  
Innovation, Science and Economic Development  
235 Queen Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0H5

ised.minister-ministre.isde@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0453

Dear Minister Bains:

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 section 79.2(b)(i) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the nation's finances and economy at the request of the Standing Committee on National Finance of the Senate.

This information request is related to the Superclusters initiative. Under this initiative, the Government of Canada is planning to invest \$950 million in 5 different superclusters. These investments are expected to be matched by the private sector and lead to an increase in GDP of \$50 billion as well as an increase in employment of 50,000.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

For each of the 5 entities representing a Supercluster, I am requesting for the fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22:

- Actual and expected amounts invested by the Government of Canada, by year;
- Actual and expected amounts invested by the private sector, by year;
- Number of projects underway, by year;
- Data reports on key performance indicators provided to ISED semi-annually by the entity.

Regarding the stated objective in GDP and employment impacts, I am requesting:

- models, briefing notes and memos used by ISED to estimate the effect of investment in Superclusters on GDP and employment growth;
- Each entities' assessment of the projected economic growth, industrial benefits and business outcomes of their proposal, which was part of their full application.

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 **March 24, 2020**. 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, Étienne Bergeron can be contacted directly at [Etienne.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Etienne.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca), 613-292-7472.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by March 24, 2020, 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,



For / Yves Giroux  
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,  
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy  
Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Attachment: Reply form for IR0453