



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

16 December 2019

The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister
Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street, 17th Floor
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G5

bill.morneau@canada.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0439

Dear Mr. Morneau:

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 the following information:

- Methodology and assumptions used to estimate the financial cost of the proposed increases to the Basic Personal Amount, as released on December 9th, 2019 in "Lower Taxes for the Middle Class and People Working Hard to Join It" available on Finance Canada's web site.
- Details on any behavioural response assumptions, including the elasticity of taxable income.
- A breakdown of the fiscal cost by the basic personal amount, the spouse or common-law partner amount, and the amount for an eligible dependant, if available.
- Finally, a breakdown by static and behavioural response, if available.

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 **9 January 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, Aiden Worswick can be contacted directly at Aidan.Worswick@parl.gc.ca, 613-795-1651.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 9 January 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,



Yves Giroux
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister, Finance Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0439