



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

December 10th 2021

The Honourable Karina Gould
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
140 Promenade du Portage
Phase IV, 13th Floor
Gatineau QC K1A 0J9

karina.gould@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0614

Dear Minister Gould:

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)(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 requesting the agreement between Canada and Alberta that was negotiated as part of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care policy. Further, when they become available, I am requesting the agreements between Canada and each of Ontario, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. If possible, please provide all agreements in the form of searchable PDFs.

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 **January 4th, 2022**. 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, Katarina Michalyshyn can be contacted directly at Katarina.Michalyshyn@parl.gc.ca, 613-218-5339.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by January 4th, 2022, 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

Graham Flack, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

Tara Cosgrove, Senior Advisor in the Deputy Minister's Office

Attachment: Reply form for IR0614