



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

February 23rd, 2023

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
140 Promenade du Portage
Phase IV, 13th Floor
Gatineau QC K1A 0J9

Carla.Qualtrough@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0675

Dear Minister Qualtrough:

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)(f) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction at the request of a member of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting all data and information referred to in Appendix A.

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 9th, 2023**. 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.

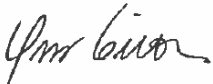
Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by March 9th, 2023, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested

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

Jean-François Tremblay, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

Attachment: Reply form for IR0675

Appendix A:

Please provide the PowerPoint presentation shown to the PBO during a meeting with ESDC/SC on Feb 21, 2023, as well as any other documents that have been presented to stakeholders that would be relevant to the costing of C-37.

Please provide the information below for 2017 to 2022 (or the equivalent fiscal years 2016-17 to 2021-22 and any 2022-23 info available if that is easier). Where possible, please provide the information disaggregated by region, at whatever level disaggregation leads to the least data suppression. If any requested information does not exist, please indicate so in the response.

- For workers who worked at Social Security Tribunal (SST) doing EI-related activities:
 - Number of full-time and part-time workers
 - Their salaries or per-diems, and any other costs (such as travel costs)
 - Training costs for new workers and ongoing training costs for workers
 - Average amount of time that workers are in their jobs (ie. whether they serve a 5-year term, leave before completing their term, are reappointed after their 5-year term ends)
- For each type of EI-related activity (R4Rs, General Division appeal hearings, Appeal Division appeal hearings), the number of cases that:
 - Were in the inventory at the beginning of the year
 - Were received during that year
 - Were concluded during that year
 - Were in the inventory at the end of the year
 - Number of days on average (or median if average is not available) between the receipt and the conclusion
 - Number (or percentage) of cases in which the service standard was met
 - The service standard
 - Cost per case
 - Number of people who were newly awarded benefits
 - Among these people, average amount and duration of benefits
- Number of FTEs, average salaries, and other associated costs that the Administrative Tribunal Support Service of Canada (ATSSC) incurs annually in supporting EI part of the SST
- Funding required for any other support (for example, Service Canada meeting room use, etc.)
- Any additional costs associated with shutting down the operations of the EI part of the SST

Please also provide any future projections/assumptions/etc. about the Board of Appeal (BOA) (up to 2027-28 or calendar year 2028, inclusive) requested below. Where possible, please provide the information disaggregated by region, at whatever level disaggregation leads to the least data suppression. If any requested information does not exist, please indicate so in the response.

- Estimated date on which the BOA will begin incurring costs
- For each category of worker at the BOA (regional coordinators, members, etc.)
 - Estimated number of full-time and part-time workers
 - Estimated salaries or per-diems, and any other costs (such as travel costs)
 - Training costs for newly appointed staff (initial training costs and ongoing training costs)
 - Expected terms of staff appointed when BOA begins operating (ie. x% will be appointed for 5 years, y% appointed for 4 years, etc.)
 - Estimated number (or percentage) of workers who will leave before their terms end (and after how long in their terms they will leave)
- For each EI-related activity, the number of cases that are expected to be:
 - Received per year

- Concluded per year
 - In the inventory at the end of the year
 - Number of days on average (or median if average is not available) between the receipt and the conclusion
 - Number (or percentage) of cases in which the service standard is met
 - The service standard
 - Cost per case
 - Number of people who would be newly awarded benefits
 - Among these people, average amount and duration of benefits
 - Please provide any assumptions about whether the percentage of people awarded benefits would differ compared to the percentage under the SST system
 - Estimated date on which cases will start being received
-
- Estimated date on which the BOA secretariat will begin incurring costs
-
- Number of FTEs, average salaries, and other associated costs that the BOA secretariat is expected to incur annually
-
- Costs that other parts of ESDC and Service Canada are expected to incur annually in supporting the BOA or BOA secretariat
-
- Any additional costs associated with starting the BOA that will not have to be incurred on an ongoing basis