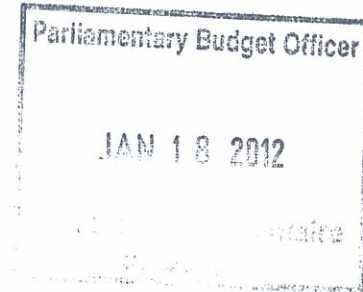




JAN 16 2012

Mr. Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6



Dear Mr. Page:

I am pleased to respond to your December 5, 2011, request to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) on any cost estimates for Private Member's Bill C-291.

Please find HRSDC's response enclosed, which includes:

1. A description of the Private Member's Bill;
2. Information on any underlying assumptions made in interpreting and costing the Bill's proposed amendments;
3. The estimated numbers of persons affected by, and the financial costs of, the proposed amendments; and
4. A description of the methodology used in estimating the impact (persons and costs) of the proposed amendments and, where possible, supporting data and information.

A preliminary cost estimate of increasing the maximum entitlement for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits from 15 to 50 weeks was first produced in the fall of 2010. When Bill C-291 was tabled on September 28, 2011, this estimate was revised to reflect more recent data on weekly EI benefit rates and to incorporate waiving the waiting period. The cost estimate for Bill C-291 was produced to provide the Government with a general sense of the financial magnitude of the proposed amendments.


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Should you require further details, please contact Ms. Mireille Laroche, Director General of Employment Insurance Policy, at 819-997-8622, and Mr. Jay Wakelin, Director of Quantitative Analysis and Program Assessment, at 819-953-8030.

I hope that this information is helpful in meeting your needs.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Shugart

Enclosure: 1

c.c. Ms. Karen Jackson
Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Skills
Development and Chief Operating Officer for Service Canada

Mr. Rick Stewart, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council
Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy