



March 9, 2012

Mr. Michael Horgan
Deputy Minister
Department of Finance Canada
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Re: PBO Information Request IR0077

Dear Mr. Horgan:

Pursuant to my mandate to provide independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the state of the nation's finances, the estimates of the government, and trends in the national economy, as provided for by the Parliament of Canada Act, s 79.2(a), I would like to request the following data from your department:

- The historical (1975 to 2010) data series for potential GDP that underlies the series expressed as "a per cent of potential GDP" published in Table 46 in your department's 2011 *Fiscal Reference Tables* (see: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/frt-trf/2011/frt-trf-1108-eng.asp#tbl46>).

Unfortunately, it is not possible to precisely calculate the series for potential GDP using the corresponding series expressed "in millions of dollars" published in Table 45 in the 2011 *Fiscal Reference Tables* (see: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/frt-trf/2011/frt-trf-1108-eng.asp#tbl45>).

My office will use this data series to aid its analysis of trends in the national economy and the state of the nation's finances.

Please let us know if any part of this request requires clarification.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Page'.

Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer

Encl.

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

PBO Information Request

1) Request Number:	IR00077
2) PBO Contact Name:	Chris Matier 613-995-9804 or chris.matier@parl.gc.ca
3) Type of Request:	One-time
4) PBO Objective:	To provide comparisons and assessments of estimates of potential GDP.
5) Relation to Mandate:	The PBO is mandated under the <i>Parliament of Canada Act</i> to provide independent analysis of trends in the national economy and the state of the nation's finances.
6) Information and Data Requested:	The historical data series potential GDP (1975-2010) used in Finance Canada's 2011 <i>Fiscal Reference Tables</i> . Data to be provided electronically, through Microsoft Excel format or Microsoft Word format.
7) Priority:	Normal
8) Date Request Sent:	March 9, 2012
9) Response Required By:	March 23, 2012