



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

December 1, 2020

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

Carla.Qualtrough@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0568

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)(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 to support analysis of the impact on Canada Student Loans that are determined for students with a disability, if a free tuition grant was deducted from a student's assessed need, similar to other Canada Student Grants.
- The average education costs and tuition costs (for the past 5 years) that are used in the needs assessment process for students eligible for the Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities. Please provide this for all eligible students, and part-time students.
- The total value of grants provided to part-time students receiving the Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities (for the past 5 years).

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 **December 16, 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.

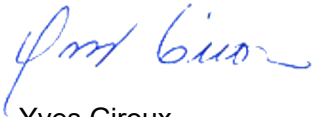
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Kristina Grinshpoon can be contacted directly at Kristina.Grinshpoon@parl.gc.ca, 613-794-1635.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by December 16, 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
Graham Flack, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0568