



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

30 January 2020

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
21st Floor Room: C7-1
Ottawa, ON
K1E 0A4

nrcan.minister-ministre.nrcan@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0450

Dear Minister O'Regan:

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 documents 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:

- Additional information/data regarding the plan to plant two billion incremental trees over the next 10 years. More specifically: a) an overview of the program (including details of the intended start date and administering the program); b) the geographical areas in which the trees will be planted; c) the types and number of trees planted in each geographical area; and, d) the process of hiring tree planters/third party plant delivery agents.
- In addition, any information/data regarding the projected cost of the program, and how it was calculated, such as: a) number of trees planted per year; b) the number and cost per type of tree planted; c) the wages/funds paid to the tree planters/third party plant delivery agents per geographical area and/or type of tree; and, d) additional costs to administer the program.

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 **14 February 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, Sarah MacPhee can be contacted directly at Sarah.MacPhee@parl.gc.ca, 613-294-2874.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 14 February 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
Christyne Tremblay, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0450