



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

June 5, 2020

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
President
Treasury Board
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0R5

president@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0500

Dear President Duclos:

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 section 79.2(b)(i) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the nation's finances and economy at the request of the Standing Committee on National Finance of the Senate.

Our office is conducting an analysis of the financial impact of the pandemic on Canada's federal public service, particularly in terms of paid leave associated with COVID-19.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- Expenditures and employee counts associated with pay entitlement code 699, "Other Paid Leave", or any other pay entitlement category that is used to account for COVID-19-related leave reasons. This should be broken down by government department and agency and cover the three-month period beginning in March 2020 and ending in May. A spreadsheet indicating the desired format of this data is included with this information request.
- All available data from the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat COVID-19 Tracking System including the number of reported cases of COVID-19, the number of refusals to work due to COVID-19, and the number of office closures due to COVID-19.

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 **June 19, 2020**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you, the Secretary or the Chief Human Resource Officer (CHRO) as soon as possible.

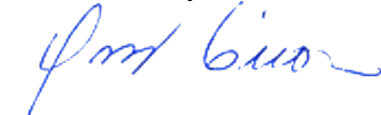
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Christopher Penney can be contacted directly at Christopher.Penney@parl.gc.ca, 613-294-2756.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by June 19, 2020, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you, the Secretary or the CHRO 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
Peter Wallace, Secretary of the Treasury Board
Nancy Chahwan, Chief Human Resources Officer, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Attachment: Reply form for IR0500
Spreadsheet for compiling the data