



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

August 24, 2020

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health
70 Colombine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0K9

hccminister.ministresc@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0537

Dear Minister Hajdu:

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)(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports analyzing the following federal government documents: (i) a budget tabled by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance; (ii) an economic and fiscal update or statement issued by the Minister of Finance; (iii) a fiscal sustainability report issued by the Minister of Finance; (iv) the estimates of the government for a fiscal year.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- The projections (including assumptions and data) used in producing the graphs on pages 13 and 16 of the presentation entitled “Update on COVID-19: Epidemiology and Modelling” published on August 14, 2020. If possible, we also request the data in that graph delineated by age of the person infected and the model/code used to produce the projections.

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 **September 8, 2020**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you, your deputy minister or the President of the Public Health Agency of Canada as soon as possible.

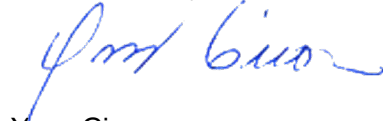
Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Jacques can be contacted directly at Jason.Jacques@parl.gc.ca, 613-853-1596.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by September 8, 2020, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you, your deputy minister or the President of the Public Health Agency of Canada 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
Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister, Health Canada
Tina Namiesniowski, President of the Public Health Agency of Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0537