



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

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister
Families, Children and Social Development Canada
140 Promenade du Portage
Floor 14, Mailstop 1401
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

29 November 2018

jeanyves.duclos@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0396

Dear Minister 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 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:

1. Two tables, one for EI maternity benefit claimants and one for EI sickness benefit claimants. In each table, please provide the following figures:

- The number of EI claimants
- The total benefit weeks in the month
- The number of claimants working while on claim
- The average employment income of claimants
- The employment benefit payments that were made
- For Aug 2018 onwards, please provide the total employment benefit payments that would have been made but-for the extension of the Employment Insurance Working While on Claim rules.
- Please provide monthly data for the last six years.

2. The following ESDC publications:

- ESDC. (2014a). Literature Review for the Evaluation of the Working While on Claim Pilot Projects (by Fuller, David, and Stephane Auray).
- ESDC. (2014b). Focus Groups for the Evaluation of Working While on Claim Pilot Project 18 (by SAGE).
- ESDC. (2016a). Key Informant Interviews on Pilot Project 18 (by TNS).
- ESDC. (2016b). Descriptive Analysis of the Working While on Claim Pilot Projects 8, 12, 17, 18 and 19.
- ESDC. (2017). Econometric Study on the Impacts of Pilot Projects 18 and 19.
- ESDC. (2011a). Evaluation of the Impacts of the Increase in EI Allowable Earnings Pilot Project: Update Study (by McCall, Brian P. and Stephanie Lluis).

3. Any ESDC research or analysis regarding expected or observed costs and behavioural responses resulting from the extension of the Employment Insurance Working While on Claim rules

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **14 December 2018**. 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, Ben Segel-Brown can be contacted directly at Ben.Segel-Brown@parl.gc.ca 613-407-8357.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 14 December 2018, 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.: Katharine Rechico, 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 IR0396