



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

May 5, 2020

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister
Global Affairs Canada, Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Building Lester B Pearson,
Tower A
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G2

Francois-Philippe.Champagne@international.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0477

Dear Minister Champagne:

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:

Data regarding repatriation efforts taken by Global Affairs Canada in response to COVID-19. Specifically, for the repatriation costs incurred by GAC (direct purchases, in kind support, compensation) as a result of bringing home Canadians registered abroad, as well as other incremental spending. For all amounts, please indicate if the value is fiscally incremental or sourced from within existing departmental budgetary resources.

- 1) What is the number of Canadians registered abroad? What is the total number of Canadians repatriated and the number of Canadians yet to be repatriated?
- 2) What are the direct expenses incurred by GAC to repatriate Canadians since February 1 2020 until April 30 2020, in dollars? Direct expenses include direct purchases, in-kind support to individuals, or paying for plane fares.

- 3) What indirect costs has GAC incurred for repatriation? For example, cost of paying employees overtime, cost of establishing the 24/7 COVID-19 Emergency Response Centre in Ottawa,...etc.
- 4) What are the estimated private costs for repatriated Canadians?
- 5) What is the average cost per “repatriated person”?
- 6) What is the estimated fiscal cost of providing the COVID-19 Emergency Loans Program? How many loans do you expect, at what average amount? What losses do you expect on these loans?

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 **May 19, 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, Nigel Wodrich can be contacted directly at Nigel.Wodrich@parl.gc.ca , 613-296-0174.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by May 19, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yves Giroux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Yves Giroux
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Marta Morgan, Deputy Minister, Global Affairs Canada, Foreign Affairs

Attachment: Reply form for IR0477

