



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

July 6, 2020

The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister
National Defence
101 Colonel By Drive
13th Floor, North Tower
Ottawa, ON
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harjit.sajjan@forces.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0502

Dear Minister Sajjan:

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 subparagraph 79.2(1)(c)(iv) 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 Government Operations and Estimates of the House of Commons.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates of the House of Commons has requested that the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer undertake an analysis of the construction cost of the Canadian Surface Combatants, as compared to the FREMM and Type-31 frigates.

As we have already requested and received information on the Canadian Surface Combatant project pursuant to information request IR0422 on May 28th, 2019, we request that any updates to the following information be provided to our office:

- Information on project timelines and assumptions.
- Relevant cost data such as estimated labour and material costs, cost of initial spares and the cost of armament.

- The Type 26's design characteristics relevant to costing, including displacement (both lightship displacement and full-load) and system complexity metrics.

In addition, we request the following information that was not initially covered in IR0422:

- Historical data on costs already incurred since the inception of the CSC program, broken down by year.
- Any information surrounding costs that would be incurred as a result of a change in design from the Type-26; i.e., additional design costs, project management costs, legal costs, and any impacts on project timelines.

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 **July 27, 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, 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 July 27, 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,

AG
Yves Giroux
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister, National Defence

Attachment: Reply form for IR0502