



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

April 14, 2021

The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Indigenous Services
Indigenous Services Canada
10 Wellington Street
28th Floor, Room 2812, Mail Stop 2738BH
Gatineau QC K1A 0H4

Marc.Miller@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0592

Dear Minister Miller:

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)(f) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction at the request of a member of the Senate or of the House of Commons.

For this analysis, I am requesting the following information:

- Historical spending from 2016-17 to 2019-20 and planned spending for 2020-21 to 2025-26 for the planning, design, construction, capital, training, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of First Nations water and wastewater programs, broken down by annual base funding and other funding investments.
- Population data for all First Nations living on-reserve, including:
 - Population and number of households by community, from 2011-12 onward, and
 - Population projections and assumed population growth rates.
- Results from the annual risk assessment for all public water and wastewater systems in First Nations communities for the years 2011-12 onward.
- For the 694 water and wastewater-related infrastructure projects: estimated costs of completion and estimated completion dates for all ongoing projects.

- If an updated assessment of First Nations water and wastewater systems exists (similar to the 2011 Neegan Burnside National Assessment), whether on a national or regional level, we also ask for the results of that assessment.
- If available, any comparative studies that estimate (1) the total cost of on-reserve First Nations water and wastewater systems and (2) the cost needed to solve on-reserve water and wastewater issues for First Nations communities.

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 **April 30, 2021**. 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, Jill Giswold can be contacted directly at Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca, 613-297-3856.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by April 30, 2021, 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.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Christiane Fox, Deputy Minister, Indigenous Services Canada

Attachment: Reply form for IR0592