



19 March 2015

Gen (Ret'd.) Walter J. Natynczyk, Deputy Minister
Veterans Affairs Canada
66 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0P4
walter.natynczyk@vac-acc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0198

Dear Gen (Ret'd.) Natynczyk:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(d) 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 or committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information:

- A list of changes, along with related cost estimates and specific criteria changes, to Veterans Affairs Canada benefits announced by the Minister of Veterans Affairs on 9 March 2015.
- A list of changes, along with related cost estimates and specific criteria changes, to Veterans Affairs Canada benefits announced by the Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) on behalf of the Minister of Veterans Affairs on 11 March 2015.
- A list of changes, along with related cost estimates and specific criteria changes, to Veterans Affairs Canada benefits announced by Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister of Justice on 13 March 2015.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 9 April 2015.

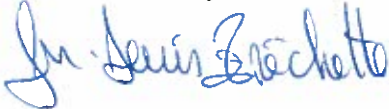
Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 9 April 2015, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". Could you please attach the requested information separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Carleigh Malanik can be contacted directly at Carleigh.Malanik@parl.gc.ca, 613-853-8763.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons is the PBO's primary objective. 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,



Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Mr. Douglas Nevison, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0198