



18 September 2018

The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister  
Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Floor 17  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0G5

bill.morneau@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0384

Dear Minister Morneau:

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:

Details of the methodology used by the Department of Finance in its preparation and publication of the web document titled “Real Progress for Canada's Middle Class”. Specifically, I am requesting the framework for creating the distributions, including:

- The definition of “family”;
- The definition of income for the creation of the deciles; and,
- The formula for adjusting income for family size;

I am also seeking clarification of the output measure presented in the distribution analysis (for example, the y-axis in Chart 13 of the "Real Progress for Canada's Middle Class" report).

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information be provided to my office no later than **2 October 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, Carleigh Malanik can be contacted directly at [carleigh.malanik@parl.gc.ca](mailto:carleigh.malanik@parl.gc.ca), 613-853-8763.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 2 October 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  
Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister, CRA

Attachment: Reply form for IR0384