



2 February 2017

Mr. Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister  
Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Room 16027  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0G5

paul.rochon@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0277

Dear Mr. Rochon:

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:

Information on 2016 Budget measures related to Water and Wastewater on First Nations reserves.

- Budget 2016 proposes to address health and safety needs, ensure proper facility operation and maintenance, and end long-term boil water advisories on reserves within five years by investing an additional \$1.8 billion over five years, starting in 2016–17.
- To improve the monitoring and testing of on reserve community drinking water, Budget 2016 proposes to invest \$141.7 million over five years, starting in 2016–17.

- The PBO would like clarification on how much of this money is new? How much of this money represents a renewal of programs that were sun setting? What amounts were previously booked in the fiscal framework? What conditions apply to these measures?
- In addition please explain in table 3.2 found at the end Chapter 3 - A Better Future for Indigenous Peoples – Budget 2016.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 27 February 2017. If we do not hear back from you by that date, we may consider your non-response a deemed refusal and, accordingly, report it to our named committees as instructed.

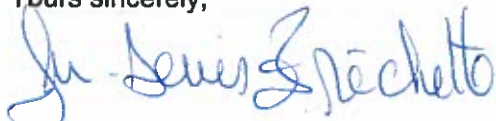
Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 27 February 2017, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

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, Peter Weltman can be contacted directly at [peter.weltman@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.weltman@parl.gc.ca), 613-992-8044.

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.: Katharine Rechico, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,  
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0277