

CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION OFFICIELLE
NOUVEAU PARTI DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CANADA



LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA

*Hon. Thomas Mulcair, Député/M.P.
Outremont*

O T T A W A
January 20th, 2012

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

The Order-in-Council appointment of Parliamentary Budget Officer, Kevin Page, will be coming to an end on March 25th, just over two months from today. We are surprised that no notice of vacancy has yet been placed in the Canada Gazette concerning his replacement. I also note that no clear indications have been given by your government on the search for the next PBO.

Given the importance of the Parliamentary Budget Officer to the work of parliamentarians, I believe it would be sensible to extend Mr. Page's appointment until such time as a thorough, transparent and competitive search for his replacement can be completed and a new PBO appointed. Mr. Page has proven that he has the confidence of Canadians in exercising his duties and informing the public on the state of the economy and how taxpayers' money is spent.

It is crucial that parliamentarians, who are responsible in the coming months for providing oversight on the government's annual budget, continue to have access to the PBO's valuable advice.

For the sake of accountability, I hope you will agree to ask Mr. Page to stay on until his replacement is found.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas Mulcair'.

Hon. Thomas Mulcair, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition
New Democratic Party of Canada

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