



Treasury Board of Canada  
Secretariat

Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor  
du Canada

Comptroller General of Canada

Contrôleur général du Canada

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0R5

Mr. Robert Kitchen  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates  
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Kitchen,

In response to the motion adopted by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO) on March 10, 2021 *that the Treasury Board Secretariat provide the committee with all monthly COVID-19 expenditure reports and COVID spending data, as disclosed by the chief financial officers of all respective departments; that they provide this to the committee no later than March 17, 2021, and update us monthly by the 15th of the month, each and every month*, please find in response the attached bilingual information.

Over the last year, with the unprecedented scale and impact of COVID-19, Parliament has prioritized measures responding to COVID-19. The government tabled Supplementary Estimates (A), 2020–21 on June 2, 2020; Supplementary Estimates (B), 2020-21 on October 22, 2020; and Supplementary Estimates (C) on February 16, 2021 to provide funding for COVID-19 priorities. Taken together, the Supplementary Estimates (A, B and C) for 2020-21 represent a total of \$159.5 billion in planned spending authorities for organizations across the Government of Canada to spend in support of COVID-19 measures. These are “up to” authorities in recognition of the urgency and uncertainty in which these measures were brought forward in the pandemic context. As of January 31, 2021, federal organizations reported total estimated expenditures of \$123.1 billion against those measures. The COVID-19 measures listed in the attached table are limited to those presented in the Estimates and correspond with the measures announced as part of the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan (i.e., Chapters 1 and 2 of the Fall Economic Statement 2020).

As the committee is aware, typically, reporting on government expenditures is done on a monthly basis through the Department of Finance’s Fiscal Monitor, quarterly by departments and

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annually through the Annual Financial Report and the Public Accounts. Given the extraordinary context of the pandemic, the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) has reached out to organizations to gather spending data related to COVID-19 on a monthly basis, recognizing that the ability to effectively track expenditures attributable to the COVID-19 response varies greatly by measure, and by organization.

To date, TBS efforts to collect estimated expenditures related to Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan have been done on an exceptional basis, and these efforts have not been audited. The estimated expenditures reported include only the cash payments that have been made to suppliers for goods and services or to grants and contributions recipients and do not represent the implementation status or results achieved for a measure. Final expenditures for 2020-21 will be reported in the Public Accounts of Canada 2021 (expected Fall 2021).

We sincerely hope the attached information meets the needs of committee members and we welcome their feedback should they wish for any changes to be made for monthly updates going forward.

Finally, please note that organizations are responsible for determining how best to identify the appropriate expenditures and, if required, to provide any subsequent explanation on the amounts and corresponding activities. Implementing organizations (departments, agencies, and Crown corporations) are best positioned to respond to questions about information provided by them to TBS on a particular measure and to speak to the overall implementation status of a measure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roch Huppé', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Roch Huppé

Enclosures