

Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates

Meeting of May 8, 2023

Supplementary information requested from the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) in the context of the Committee’s study of the subject matter of the Main Estimates 2023-24.

1. MP Barrett asked for the PBO’s most recent cost estimate of the Government’s firearm buy-back program.

In June 2021, the PBO published a [Cost Estimate of the Firearm Buy-Back Program](#), which estimated that the total compensation under the program could amount to \$756 million, depending on the number of affected firearms in Canada, the take-up rate, and the pricing structure used.

In May 2023, the Government announced new proposed measures for the implementation of the program. The PBO has issued an information request ([IR0692](#)) to the Minister of Public Safety Canada (PS) to obtain additional details about the new program parameters. Based on the information provided by the department, the PBO will be able to determine the scope and timing of an updated analysis.

2. MP Kusie asked about the Goods and Services Tax revenue received on the federal fuel charge.

The following table summarizes Table 3 – Budgetary impacts of the federal fuel charge under the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, which was presented in the PBO’s report entitled [A Distributional Analysis of the Federal Fuel Charge under the 2023 Emissions Reduction Plan](#):

\$ millions	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031
Goods and Services Tax Revenues	429	526	603	680	749	811	870	924

3. MP McCauley asked if the PBO could examine the effects of money laundering on the price of housing.

The PBO has assessed the feasibility of this analysis. Due to data limitations, the PBO has determined that he is unable to proceed with further analysis at this time.

4. MP McCauley asked if the current all-in cost for the average full-time equivalent (FTE) for the public service was available.

The PBO is able to provide an estimate of an all-in cost per full-time equivalent (FTE) based on the financial details specific to our office. To do so, we have added to personnel costs all variable costs associated with one additional FTE on a net basis (such as telecommunications, office computers and furniture). When we consider these additional costs, the markup on the cost per FTE is roughly 3 per cent.

The PBO does not have this level of financial data for other federal organizations. However, in applying the 3 per cent markup to the cost per FTE for the public service as a whole, the all-in cost per FTE is estimated to be roughly \$135,000 in 2023-24. It should be noted that the Office of the PBO is not necessarily reflective of all other federal organizations and the markup might vary across departments and agencies.