

Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates

Meeting of January 27, 2021

Supplementary information requested during the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO)'s appearance before the Committee in the context of the study of the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. MP Paul-Hus requested that the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provide any information obtained regarding the federal government's spending on COVID-19 vaccines:

All of the information that the PBO has obtained on the Government's spending on COVID-19 vaccines is listed in the PBO's *Monitoring Framework for Government Spending* tool, which is available at the following link: <https://covid19.pbo-dpb.ca/#/en/monitoring-framework--cadre-de-surveillance>

Specifically, the information available on vaccine spending can be found in the tool under the Protecting Health and Safety tab, attributed to the following two programs: *COVID-19 Medical Research and Vaccine Development (over two years)*, and *Further Support for Medical Research, Countermeasures and Vaccines*.

Based on the most recent available information, contained in the January 25, 2021 version of the tool, under the two programs, the Government has spent \$744.6 million, provided \$139.6 million in grants and signed a contribution agreement for \$23 million.

These figures do not represent spending on vaccines alone, but rather include measures under the categories of medical research, countermeasures, vaccine development and vaccines. These figures might not represent total spending to date as the PBO is awaiting the completion of the information request process for some measures under these two programs.

For more detailed information, the federal government departments responsible for administering the programs would be best placed to respond.

2. MP Paul-Hus requested further details on data sharing delays related to the Government's COVID-19 Response Programs.

The information response process has not been completed for the following list of COVID-19 Response Programs that are under the responsibility of the department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED):

- Safe Restart Agreement (ISED)
- Increasing Biomanufacturing Capacity (NRC)

- COVID-19 Response Fund (WD)
- Women Entrepreneurship Strategy – Ecosystem Top-up (ACOA)
- Support for Fish and Seafood Processors through the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund (ACOA)
- Support for Canada’s Academic Research Community (SSHRC)
- Youth Employment and Skills Development Programs (ISED, NRC, SSHRC, NSERC)
- Establishing a multi-disciplinary network of data specialists in modelling emerging infectious diseases to support public health actions across Canada (NSERC)
- Support to the Eureka Program in Response to COVID-19 (NRC)
- Support for the CanCOVID Network (ISED)
- Creating Job Opportunities for Students (ISED, NRC)
- Support for Northern Businesses - Northern Business Relief Fund (CanNor)

3. MP Weiler asked if any supplementary data was publicly available on COVID-19 Response Program recipients?

Detailed information on the recipients of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program is publicly available on the Canada Revenue Agency’s (CRA) website at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy/cews-statistics/stats-detailed.html>

For additional information, the CRA would be best placed to respond.