

## **Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates Meeting of December 1, 2022**

Supplementary information requested from the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) in the context of the Committee's study of the subject matter of the Supplementary Estimates (B), 2022-23.

### **1. MP Jowhari asked for details on the impact of challenges within the supply chain and specifically labour shortages on lapses.**

Supply chain issues and labour shortages could result in lapsed funds if departments are not able to implement programs that they received funding for. In the OGGO committee on November 21<sup>st</sup>, a TBS official testified that \$5.5 billion in lapsed funds for the 21-22 fiscal year were caused by implementation delays, such as the result of staff being unable to travel to communities.

Source: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/OGGO/meeting-40/evidence>

### **2. MP Johns asked about which jurisdictions have more timely financial reporting than the Canadian Federal Government.**

In comparison to other G7 countries, Canada was among the last to publish their financial accounts for the 2020-21 fiscal year, even when factoring in the differences in fiscal year closing dates. Countries that published in advance of 6 months after the end of the fiscal year included: France, Germany, Italy and the United States. Nearly half of Canadian provinces and territories publish their respective public accounts within six months, with Alberta consistently doing so within three months.

Source: <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/RP-2122-027-S--economic-fiscal-update-2021-issues-parliamentarians--mise-jour-economique-budgetaire-2021-enjeux-parlementaires>

### **3. MP Johns asked if the PBO is continuing to collect performance data and for details on the type of information being collected and the sources.**

As part of our ongoing analysis of the Government's Estimates, we regularly review and assess the performance indicators of federal programs. These data are an integral aspect of our work. Recent publications regarding the Government's performance indicators include our analysis of the Indigenous portfolio and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Source: PBO Analysis of the Indigenous Portfolio: <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/RP-2223-004-C--research-comparative-analysis-cirnac-isc--rcaanc-sac-recherche-analyse-comparative>

PBO Analysis of Fisheries and Oceans Canada: <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/RP-2223-013-C--research-comparative-analysis-fisheries-oceans-canada--etude-analyse-comparatives-ministere-peches-oceans>

**4. MP Johns asked about which of the economic risk scenarios put forward by the PBO and the Department of Finance does the PBO believe is more likely.**

We do not have a view on which scenario is more likely.

**5. MP McCauley asked about the impact of the higher energy prices and energy exports on the federal revenues.**

We do not have current estimates. However, in 2018 we estimated that a \$5 reduction in the differential in price between a barrel of Western Canada Select and West Texas Intermediate resulted in a \$6 billion increase in nominal GDP.

Source: PBO Fall Economic Statement 2018: Issues for Parliamentarians: [9f8722e599ce0af014f6bec29e45d0c230d8514257bd6ec557c9327436fcf551](https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/9f8722e599ce0af014f6bec29e45d0c230d8514257bd6ec557c9327436fcf551) (pbo-dpb.ca)

**6. MP McCauley asked for figures on the administrative costs of the dental program.**

Based on similar federal programs, we have estimated that a reasonable overhead cost for the national program is 5%. That is, about 95% of total spending would be provided directly to eligible families and children.

The Government has shared its own estimates of administration costs with us. However, they have designated these figures to be confidential and therefore not to be released. The Committee may wish to reach out to Health Canada directly to obtain their estimates.

Source: PBO Costing Note for Bill C-31: <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/LEG-2223-017-M--canada-dental-benefit--prestation-dentaire-canadienne>

**Note for the Committee:**

Under section 79.2 (1) (c) (ii) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates may request the PBO to undertake research into and analysis of matters relating to the nation's finances or economy.