

**OPENING STATEMENT**

**BY MATTHEW SHEA**

**ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**TO**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND ESTIMATES**

**February 25, 2019**

**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

Good afternoon Chair and members of the Committee. Thank you for inviting the Privy Council Office (PCO) to review our *2017-18 Departmental Results Report* and our *2019-20 Interim Estimates*.

My name is Matthew Shea and I am the Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services Branch and the Chief Financial Officer of PCO.

I am accompanied today by Ms. Marian Campbell Jarvis, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Social Development Policy; Mr. Rodney Ghali, Assistant Secretary to the Impact and Innovation Unit and Mr. Michael Hammond, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

I would like to begin with a brief overview of the *2017-18 Departmental Results Report*. The Departmental Results Report (DRR) informs parliamentarians and Canadians of the results accomplished by the organization against priorities and commitments set out in the Departmental Plan of the same reporting period.

The DRR is PCO's last official report under the Program Activity Architecture reporting framework. The format has been streamlined to increase public accessibility and Sub Program-level information is reported on the [GC InfoBase](#) and made available to the public following the DRR having been tabled in Parliament.

The PCO's actual spending for 2017-18 is \$202.9 million including the resources for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The actual full-time equivalents is 1,111.

PCO's total actual spending increased by \$48.6 million from \$154.2 million in 2016-17 to \$202.9 million in 2017-18 which is mainly explained by the Budget

2016 initiatives, including spending for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Budget 2017 initiatives, including the establishment of two secretariats within PCO – the LGBTQ2 and the Review of Laws and Policies related to Indigenous Peoples secretariats.

PCO provided non-partisan advice on a range of economic, tax and fiscal priorities during the implementation of Budget 2017, in preparation for Fall Economic Statement 2017 and as part of Budget 2018. PCO provided the necessary machinery of government advice and support for the creation of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in 2017.

PCO coordinated the response to ongoing inequalities faced by Canada's LGBTQ2 communities by supporting the Prime Minister's apology for historical unjust treatment of Canadians who identify as LGBTQ2 and supporting passage of the Expungement of Historically Unjust Convictions Act. The Act puts into place a process to permanently destroy the records of convictions for offences involving same-sex partners that would be lawful today.

PCO also supported Government efforts to address climate change through assisting with the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change and providing advice and support to the Prime Minister in working collaboratively with the provinces and territories. This resulted in the approval of the first annual Synthesis Report to First Ministers on the Framework.

The *2019-20 Interim Estimates* were tabled January 28, 2019.

PCO is requesting \$53.7 million in its *2019-20 Interim Estimates* which represents four twelfths of the 2019-20 Main Estimates' program expenditures of \$161.1 million. This funding will support PCO financial requirements for the first three months of the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Over this fiscal year, PCO will continue to be the hub across government to coordinate and provide timely, comprehensive, expert analysis and non-partisan advice in support of the full spectrum of policy, budget and legislative priorities of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Cabinet committees.

PCO will continue to work with the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the status of mandate letter commitments and communicating results. This will include coordinating expert advice to ensure progress in key priority areas including: the Middle Class, Indigenous People, and Diversity and Inclusion.

PCO will continue to work with other federal departments to develop social and economic policies that will continue to grow a strong middle class, modernize international trade agreements, fight climate change and protect the environment, and address increased pressures on the immigration system.

PCO will provide support and advice to the Prime Minister, as Minister of Youth, in relation to the Prime Minister's Youth Council, the implementation of a youth policy, and youth initiatives across the Government of Canada, as well as with key partners. To accomplish these priorities, PCO will continue to work to improve mental health and workplace well-being, attract and retain top talent, and be a diverse and inclusive workforce.

As 2019 is a legislated election year, PCO will continue to provide non-partisan advice and support to the Minister of Democratic Institutions on advancing policy

to improve, strengthen and protect Canada's democratic institutions, including protecting the integrity of the 2019 election.

This brief summary of PCO's *2017-18 Departmental Results Report* and *2019-20 Interim Estimates* touches on a few of the means by which PCO continues to support the Clerk as head of the Public Service of Canada, the Prime Minister and Cabinet as part of a whole-of-government approach

Mr. Chair, members of Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this context. We would now be pleased to answer your questions.