

**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**

**May 27, 2019**

**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

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

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PCO remains committed to providing non-partisan advice and support to the Prime Minister, Cabinet, portfolio ministers and Cabinet committees on matters of national and international importance, as well as facilitating the implementation of the Government's agenda and stewarding an agile, inclusive and equipped Public Service. PCO also supports the Prime Minister's portfolio responsibilities as Minister of Youth, as well as supporting the Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade, the Minister of Democratic Institutions and the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

I would like to begin with a brief overview of the *2019-20 Main Estimates*. PCO sought \$179.4 million overall for its core responsibility, which is to serve the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and for its internal services. This is an increase of \$13 million from the amount sought in the *2018-19 Main Estimates* which was \$166.4 million. This increase includes:

- Additional funding approved through 2018-19 Supplementary Estimates A to support Ministers for which the Privy Council Office has responsibility, including the creation of the new Office of the Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade;
- Funding also approved in 2018-19 Supplementary Estimates A to continue to support the management and oversight of an open, transparent and merit based process for Governor in Council (GIC) appointments;
- Funding for PCO's Secure Mobile Communications project;
- A decrease of funding related to the completion of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Commission as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019; and
- A funding decrease related to PCO's information technology modernization project as a number of sub-projects were completed in 2017-18.

This comprises the major needs and initiatives to be funded through PCO's proposed 2019-20 *Main Estimates*.

PCO will continue to provide the policy and implementation support and coordination for the Government's priorities related to growth for the middle class, open and transparent government, a clean environment and strong economy, strength in diversity, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and security and opportunity for all Canadians. Some examples include:

- Developing and implementing Canada's first-ever Youth Policy in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Council and organizations serving youth, as well as providing the vision for Canada Service Corps and

a Government of Canada Youth Digital Gateway. This is evidenced by the recent Canada Youth Summit, held May 2 & 3, 2019 in Ottawa, which has provided the Prime Minister with an opportunity to engage with Canadians on the Government's progress in advancing the Youth agenda; and

- Supporting the Minister of Democratic Institutions to further strengthen and protect Canada's democratic institutions, including implementing a plan to enhance and defend Canada's Electoral System and providing leadership on federal government measures to safeguard the integrity of the upcoming federal election, including implementation of the Critical Election Incident Public Protocol.

This brief summary 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.