

Opening Statement

By

Bill Matthews

Deputy Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada

At

Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates

Follow-up: Main Estimates 2019-2020

Mr. Chair and Committee members, good afternoon and thank you for inviting us back. Given that Minister Qualtrough tabled opening remarks with the Committee at last week's appearance, I will make my opening statement very brief.

With me today from Public Services and Procurement Canada are Associate Deputy Minister Les Linklater and Michael Vandergrift, as well as our Chief Financial Officer Marty Muldoon and Andre Fillion, the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Defence and Marine Procurement.

In addition, given that at last week's session, there was some discussion about the renewal of federal science infrastructure, I have invited Dr. Janet King, the Associate Deputy Minister leading the initiative to join us today.

We are pleased to be back to answer any follow-up questions you may have regarding our Main Estimates for 2019–2020.

I would like to draw the Committee's attention to the presentation that was tabled last week on this topic and I would be happy to provide the committee a walkthrough of the deck. Alternatively we can just leave it as tabled and members are free to refer to it, if it is helpful in framing their questions.

The deck contains information about this year's Estimates, which amounts to a request of \$4.2 billion for PSPC.

Well over half of this amount will be spent on property and infrastructure such as the parliamentary precinct.

This year's Estimates also include \$1 billion in new spending as outlined in the Government's 2019 Budget.

Of this, \$373 million will provide long-term, predictable funding for larger capital projects such as the rehabilitation of the Alaska Highway.

\$275 million will provide maintenance, repair and other real property services for federal office space, which PSPC provides for 99 federal departments and agencies in more than 1,500 locations across Canada.

Mr. Chair, I would also note that more than one-third of the new spending will support the Government of Canada's ongoing efforts to stabilize the current pay system and address pay issues.

These funds will help maintain the increased capacity for processing pay transactions.

Mr. Chair, I will stop there. If you would like me to walk through the presentation, please let me know, if not, I look forward to the Committee's questions.

Thank you.