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Speech for the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, President of the Treasury Board

to the

Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO)

on

the Supplementary Estimates (C), 2020-21

Ottawa March 10, 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

INTRODUCTION

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to thank the committee for inviting me to speak about the Supplementary Estimates (C), 2020-2021.

With me today is:

- Glenn Purves, Assistant Secretary,
 Expenditure Management Sector;
- Karen Cahill, Assistant Secretary and Chief Financial Officer for the Treasury Board of Canada
 Secretariat;
- Tolga Yalkin, Assistant Deputy
 Minister, Workplace Policies and Services;

- Roger Ermuth, Assistant Comptroller
 General, Financial Management
 Sector; and
- Sonya Read, Acting Assistant
 Secretary, Digital and Services
 Policy

These Supplementary Estimates (C) are the third of three Supplementary

Estimates tabled in fiscal year 2020-21.

Like the Supplementary Estimates (A) and (B), they outline new and updated spending needs for programs and services that were not sufficiently developed in time for inclusion in the 2020-21 Main Estimates or previous Supplementary Estimates.

Transparency

Like all Estimates, the final Supplementary Estimates for the 2020-21 fiscal year are part of a broad set of reports to Parliament, such as the Departmental Plans, the Fiscal Monitor, the Departmental Results Reports and the Public Accounts, as well as enhanced information available through GC InfoBase, that provide transparency on government spending for Canadians and parliamentarians.

In addition, several changes have been made to the presentation of Supplementary Estimates (C) to further enhance transparency. For example, additional information relating to the COVID-19 response has been included in an online annex and on GC InfoBase. The Estimates also include a

comparison of the Fall Economic

Statement and planned expenditures in these Estimates.

SUPPORT FOR CANADIANS

As demonstrated in previous

Supplementary Estimates for 2020-21,
the Government continues to invest in

Canadians and the economy —

particularly in response to the public
health threats of COVID-19 and in an

effort to minimize its impacts on the health of Canadians, our economy and social well-being.

These Supplementary Estimates (C) support Parliament's consideration of the final planned appropriation bill for 2020-21, which authorizes many of these support and response payments, including those laid out in the Fall

Economic Statement 2020, which was tabled on November 30th.

These Supplementary Estimates also reflect, for information, the efforts introduced through several legislative measures, such as the *Canada Recovery Benefits Act*, which provides economic support through the Canada Recovery Benefit, the Canada Recovery

Sickness Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit.

THE AMOUNTS

The Supplementary Estimates (C),
2020-21 present a total of \$8.0 billion in
incremental budgetary spending, which
reflects \$13.4 billion in voted
expenditures, partially offset by

a \$5.4 billion decrease in forecast statutory expenditures.

Roughly \$9.9 billion (or 74%) of the voted requirements are for the Government's response to the impact on Canadians of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Most of this new spending is for:

 emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including medical research, vaccine development, public health measures in Indigenous communities, assistance to developing countries, testing, contact tracing, data management and purchases of personal protective

gear and medical equipment and supplies;

- economic responses to the
 pandemic, including support for
 small- and medium-sized
 businesses, regional air services and
 broadcasters; and
- government operations, including increased expenditures due to the pandemic.

Overall, about 89% of the voted spending sought through these Estimates is to support 10 organizations, 4 of which are seeking over \$800 million to meet their priorities.

They are:

- the Public Health Agency of Canada
 - with \$6.3 billion;

- the Treasury Board Secretariat at \$1.7 billion;
- the Department of Indigenous
 Services with \$1.6 billion; and
- the Department of Foreign Affairs,
 Trade and Development with
 \$895.6 million.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chair, my officials and I thank the Committee for their diligence and ongoing study of the Government's spending to support Canadians, especially during these challenging times.

We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Thank you.