
SUBJECT /SUJET

PAYMENTS TO SUPPORT CANADA'S ENHANCED RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PURSUANT TO THE *PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS OF NATIONAL CONCERN PAYMENTS ACT* - TABLING OF THE 2020-21 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A)

ISSUE

Why is the Public Health Agency of Canada requesting \$74.7 million to support Canada's enhanced response to COVID-19 pursuant to the Public Health Events of National Concern Payments Act in the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (A)?

RÉPONSE / RESPONSE

- COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving global challenge. The Government of Canada is working closely with local, provincial, territorial, and international partners to minimize its health, economic and social impacts in Canada and around the world.
 - While the initial response funding helped to address immediate actions already taken, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic is presenting an unprecedented public health threat that will require increased efforts over a prolonged period of time.
 - Urgent access is requested for \$74.7M in funding through the new statutory authority under the *Public Health Events of National Concern Payments Act* to finance the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) enhanced response to the pandemic. Funding will address recent pressures that have surfaced with the COVID-19 response. This includes:
 - \$50M for safe and healthy isolation of incoming travellers;
 - \$20M for increased National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) testing capacity; and
 - \$4.7M for sustaining operations.
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- La COVID-19 est un enjeu mondial qui évolue rapidement, et le gouvernement du Canada collabore étroitement avec ses partenaires locaux, provinciaux, territoriaux et internationaux afin d'en réduire au minimum les répercussions sanitaires, économiques et sociales au Canada et dans le monde.
 - Le financement de l'intervention initiale a déjà permis de prendre les mesures immédiates qui étaient nécessaires, mais il est évident que la pandémie de COVID-19 représente une menace sans précédent pour la santé publique, qui exigera des efforts accrus, durant une période prolongée.

- Afin de financer une intervention renforcée de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada face à la pandémie, l'accès immédiat à des fonds de 74,7 millions de dollars est demandé au titre du nouveau pouvoir que confère la Loi sur les paiements relatifs aux événements de santé publique d'intérêt national. Le financement allégera les pressions financières récemment ressenties à la suite de l'intervention face à la COVID-19. La somme demandée comprend :
 - 50 M\$ destinés à l'isolement sûr et sain des voyageurs qui arrivent au pays;
 - 20 M\$ destinés au renforcement des capacités d'analyse du Laboratoire national de microbiologie (LNM);
 - 4,7 M\$ destinés au maintien des opérations.

KEY FACTS

- PHAC and Health Canada are providing support and national leadership to Canada's domestic response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Effective March 25, 2020, all travellers returning to Canada are required under the *Quarantine Act* to self-isolate for 14 days.

BACKGROUND

Since March 25, 2020, Canadians returning to Canada have been required to quarantine or self-isolate for 14 days. In order to support Canadians who don't have a suitable place to quarantine/isolate (i.e. no congregate living, no vulnerable people, and access to necessities of life without leaving), PHAC requested **\$50M** in 2020-21 to temporarily set-up and support primary quarantine sites in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, with additional capacity in St-John's, Halifax, Fredericton, Regina, Winnipeg, and Whitehorse.

There is significant variability in the cost of setting up these sites and final costs will depend on pricing in each jurisdiction and how frequently the sites are used. Costs include not only physical accommodations, such as hotel fees, but also services to support travellers throughout the quarantine/isolation period. These include contracted services for cleaning, medical transportation (from port of entry to site), security, meals, nursing, as well as salary for Government of Canada employees.

As the pandemic progresses, PHAC will need an additional **\$20M** not captured under the funding decision announced by the Prime Minister on March 11, 2020 for the procurement and upgrade of scientific equipment and infrastructure. This procurement will enable greater efficiency and turn-around times in testing and analysis. This equipment will support in-house validation of testing and could also provide instrumentation that could be rapidly deployed to remote locations to provide surge capacity if required.

Further, internal services play a key enabling role in PHAC's ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. In the context of COVID-19 response efforts, communications and corporate operational expenses have risen substantially, as enhanced IM/IT support is required. There will also be a need for additional labour relations, occupational health and safety, and emergency staffing support.

In addition to \$10M PHAC received through the Prime Minister's March 11, 2020 announcement, PHAC seeks a further investment of **\$4.7M** to support shared corporate services in the areas of real property, security and IM/IT to ensure that key emergency management operations, such as the Health Portfolio Operations Centre (HPOC), and other activities are supported.

Financial Details

(In dollars)		2020-21 Supps (A)	2021-22 ARLU	2022-23 ARLU	2023-24 ARLU	2024-25 and ongoing
<i>Operating expenditures</i>		54,700,000				
<i>Capital expenditures</i>		20,000,000				
TOTAL		74,700,000	0	0	0	0

Prepared by Préparé par	Key Contact Expert-conseil	Approved by Approuvé par	Date
Janet Marth Senior Financial Analyst, Resource Management and Analysis, OCFO	Tomasz Popiel Director, Resource Management and Analysis, OCFO 613-793-1322	Carlo Beaudoin Chief Financial Officer 613-948-5798	June 9, 2020