

President  
of the Treasury Board



Présidente  
du Conseil du Trésor

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0R5

The Honourable John Williamson, P.C., M.P.  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Pursuant to Standing Order 109 of the House of Commons, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to provide the Government Response to the Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PACP) entitled, “*Public Accounts of Canada 2021.*”

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you and the members of the Standing Committee for your dedicated and cooperative work to improve the Public Accounts of Canada.

### **Recommendation 1**

The Government would agree to explaining the change in the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Government of Canada. The Government would consult with the Auditor General of Canada on what could be included in her Commentary on Financial Audits and will assess who would be the appropriate witnesses to appear before PACP should a decision be made in the future to revise the Consolidated Financial Statements after they have been audited and signed-off for the fiscal year. The Government will report back to the PACP by December 31, 2023, with the results of its consultations.

### **Recommendation 2**

The Government would commit to begin consultations to assess i) the feasibility to table the Public Accounts of Canada on or before October 15<sup>th</sup> and ii) the most appropriate means to implement such a change and report back to PACP by December 31, 2023.

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**Recommendation 3**

The Government will agree to undertake a comprehensive review and stakeholder consultations exploring enhanced reporting mechanisms for Crown corporations to reflect applicable expenditures aligned with Public Accounts of Canada Volume III compatible with their legal mandates. A review of this nature along with the required engagement with stakeholders will take several months. Consequently, the Government will provide the Committee with a report on findings, including an analysis of the advantages and administrative burden, by December 31, 2023, rather than by April 30, as was recommended.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you and the members of the Standing Committee again for your important work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mona Fortier', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Mona Fortier, P.C., M.P.