



NOV 16 2023

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

Yves Giroux
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer
99 Bank Street, 9th Floor
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A9

PBO-DPB@parl.gc.ca

Dear Yves Giroux:

Thank you for your correspondence on October 26, 2023, requesting information on the amount of expenses recorded by the Government related to Indigenous claims over the last three fiscal years (2020–2021 to 2022–2023). I am honoured to have been appointed as Minister of Crown–Indigenous Relations, and I look forward to working with you.

The Government of Canada continues to advance the resolution of historic Indigenous claims outside of the courts in order to advance Canada’s overall commitment to reconciliation by paving the way for a more respectful and constructive relationship with Indigenous people. Unlike other types of liability, Indigenous claims can arise from events that are centuries old, with losses related to damages continuing to accrue over time the longer left unresolved.

Of the \$26 billion for Indigenous claims recorded in the Public Accounts, \$22.7 billion relates to Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. You will find attached a report providing details on these recorded expenses by the main categories highlighted in the Public Accounts, as well as a further breakdown of these expenses by new claims and revised estimates for existing claims. Note that our submission covers only Indigenous claims recorded by Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Indigenous claims proceeding through the courts, as well as other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, provide for a high degree of uncertainty as to the final value of the liability. These claim expenses are recorded in the Public Accounts on an accrual basis in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards, which require that contingent liability estimates be recorded for claims only when there is a high degree of likelihood of a liability and when the amount of the claim is estimable. Over the course of the fiscal year, these claims are reviewed and revalued quarterly as new information becomes available.

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Given the sensitivity of these claims, departmental officials would be more than happy to assist you should you have any questions or require clarification as you draft your report. In addition, we would also welcome the opportunity to review the report before it is finalized to ensure the factual accuracy of the content.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a final horizontal stroke.

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, PC, MP

Encl.