

Via electronic mail

January 11, 2023

Received LCO

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Honourable Kelly Regan, MLA
Chair of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts
c/o Legislative Committee Offices
Halifax NS

Dear MLA Regan:

RE: Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2022, regarding the Department's attendance at the Committee on December 14, 2022. The Committee requested information on five items identified below. Responses to these questions are as follows:

1. A detailed list of what the \$896 million in additional appropriations was spent on. (See page 3 of transcript)
 - **Schedule A, attached.**
2. A detailed list of what the \$1.4 billion that was spent during the last week of March was spent on. (See page 4 of transcript)
 - **Schedule B, attached.**
3. How much has been spent on the QEII redevelopment thus far including the buyout? (See page 8/9 of transcript)
 - **There has been \$69.9M spent on the Halifax Infirmary Expansion Program and these costs include consultant fees, intellectual property purchase, design/construction costs as well as allocations of salary and benefits costs attributable to the project.**
4. A list by department for additional appropriations approved to date for this fiscal and specifics on where that money was spent. (See page 11 of transcript)
 - **Schedule C, attached.**

Honourable Kelly Regan, MLA
Chair of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts
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5. Where specifically are the new investments in healthcare being made? (See page 20 of transcript)

- **For information on additional investments in healthcare spending related to Additional Appropriations, please refer to the attached Schedule A and Schedule C.**

Schedule A summarizes additional appropriations resulting from utilization pressures and incremental investment decisions for 2021/22 fiscal and Schedule C provides for information up to September 2022 for the 2022/23 fiscal. If the Standing Committee desires additional information requests can be made to the Department of Health and Wellness.

Yours truly,



Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister

c. Kim Langille, Clerk Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Enclosure

Schedule A
Additional Appropriations
For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
Advanced Education	September	Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Marconi Campus relocation - firehall replacement value	4,000	7,574
		NSCC Marconi Relocation - Remediation	250	
		NSCC Marconi Campus - Office building write-down	95	
		Additional Medical Laboratory Technologists Seats at NSCC & NBCC	2,503	
		PSAS program cost increased - carry forward funding	1,398	
		Student Assistance system development fee	188	
		Student Assistance - Decreased Recoverable Expenses	(860)	
		December	COVID-19 support to Nova Scotia Community College	
		Reduction in PPE from the provincial stockpile	(356)	
	March	University Infrastructure grants for deferred maintenance	65,000	132,783
		Center for Discovery and Innovation at Cape Breton University	35,000	
		Research Nova Scotia - Research Opportunities Fund	25,000	
		Strategic health initiative at Cape Breton University	5,000	
		Nova Scotia Loan Program	2,000	
		Post-Secondary accessibility services and equipment (fully recoverable from the Federal Government)	600	
		Transfer of GovLab from Department of Seniors and Long-term Care	303	
		Operational Savings	(120)	
	March-Year End	Nova Scotia Community College Academic Union wage settlement	2,967	6,654
		Student Assistance Program - upfront grant	2,047	
		Student Assistance - concessionary interest	1,275	
		Grants to Universities - Student Bursary Program	890	
		Operational Savings	(525)	
	Total Advanced Education 2021-22			
Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	September	NS Film and Television Production Incentive Fund - New Productions	14,947	50,649
		NS Film and Television Production Incentive Fund - Carried over from last year 2021-22	8,653	
		Tourism Initiatives	2,500	
		Rink revitalization	1,000	
		COVID-19 Emergency Support for Non-profit Recreation Facilities	800	
		COVID-19 Recovery - Support for free museum and AGNS admissions	710	
		North American Indigenous Games	500	
		Miscellaneous Expenses (Recoverable from third parties)	57	

Additional Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
		Transfer to other departments	(1,179)	
		Delay in CSS Acadia	(139)	
		Tourism Nova Scotia - Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program	7,300	
		Tourism Nova Scotia - Tourism Accommodations Restart Customer Attraction Program	10,500	
		Tourism Nova Scotia - Additional Marketing Campaign	3,000	
		Tourism Nova Scotia - Small Tourism Operators Restart Program	2,000	
	December	Grants Friendship Center	2,052	2,889
		Grants to Devour Festival	1,200	
		Grants to Summer Street Industries	1,000	
		Grants to 2022 World Sailing Championship	500	
		Maritime Bus Subsidy	450	
		Personal Protective Equipment-PPE	38	
		Salary recoveries	99	
		Recreation Amateur Sport Fund	66	
		Young Canada Works	55	
		Regional Libraries	20	
		Miscellaneous Recovery	1	
		Immigration's marketing campaign funding to Labour, Skills and Immigration from Tourism	(2,500)	
		Delay in CSS Acadia	(92)	
	March	Community Support grants (additional funding)	45,762	61,510
		Tourism Marketing Assistance Program	12,000	
		Jordanstown Acacia Ville Betterment Association	3,000	
		Tourism transfer	662	
		Support4Culture	300	
		ACOA secondment	40	
		Regional Libraries	7	
		CSS Acadia	(184)	
		Transfer of positions to PSC	(57)	
		Departmental PPE reduction	(13)	
		Recoverable secondment to Association of Nova Scotia Museums	(7)	
		Total Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage 2021-22		115,048
Economic Development	September	Small Business Impact Grant	31,500	34,019
		Develop Nova Scotia - TCA Stimulus MMA Acadia Wharf	1,847	
		Develop Nova Scotia - Stimulus/TRIP/Other TCA	672	

Additional Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
	March	Halifax International Airport Authority - Air Access Fund	13,000	13,490
		Internet Trust Contribution - Hardware for Starlink Satellite internet	8,500	
		Sydney Airport Authority - Air Access Fund and repairs	6,250	
		Verschuren Center - support for National Bio-Manufacturing Center	522	
		Nova Scotia Jobs Fund - unexpected payments and guarantee releases	(13,505)	
		Invest Nova Scotia	(677)	
		Small Business Loan Guarantee	(600)	
		Total Economic Development 2021-22		
Education and Early Childhood Development	September	COVID-19 emergency relief funding to the Childcare Sector (fully recoverable from the Federal Government for funding agreements to advance Early Learning and Childcare Initiatives)	52,942	52,942
		Total Education and Early Childhood Development 2021-22		
Environment and Climate Change	September	COVID-19 response for staff redeployment	1,761	1,761
		Total Environment and Climate Change 2021-22		
Health and Wellness	September	COVID-19 related expenses	57,074	87,071
		CART Cell Therapy: Approved treatments & New Program	9,020	
		Physician Services: Increase in APP contracts with individual physicians.	8,062	
		Pharmaceutical Services: CCS/BTO-Boarding, Transportation, Ostomy/PMP and Cystic Fibrosis	5,261	
		NSHA Operating Pressures	2,547	
		Medavie Contract	2,539	
		EHS: Medical Oversight/Air Transport	2,091	
		Telecare waitlist	1,290	
		OPOR Project	1,460	
		Capital Infrastructure	(16,883)	
		Health Care Workers Collective Agreement - NSH	10,774	
		The new Federal National Truth and Reconciliation Holiday	4,416	
	Other Programs	(580)		
	March-Year End	End	COVID-19 related expenses	68,534
EHS for purchase of power stretchers and loaders and second adult team for Air Medical Transport			4,200	
Capital Equipment Costs and Cochlear Implant Obsolescence Devices			2,300	

Additional Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
		Auto Levy refunds	2,100	
		Nova Scotia Health Authority - Capital Operating Costs	(12,900)	
		Reduction in Capital Grants due to change in cashflows for infrastructure construction projects (South Shore Redevelopment, Halifax Infirmary Dialysis, North Cumberland Redevelopment)	(42,400)	
		Vacancies savings	(6,200)	
		Total Health and Wellness 2021-22		102,705
Justice	September	To support for the African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (ANSDPAD) in establishing and operating the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute for a three-year period	4,801	4,801
	March	RCMP contract operating costs	14,328	11,142
		Vacancy and Operational Savings	(3,186)	
	March-Year End	Mass Casualty Commission public inquiry	12,083	15,247
		Retroactive wages related to the 2017 Judicial Compensation Tribunal Recommendations	4,444	
		Vacancies savings	(1,280)	
		Total Justice 2021-22		31,190
Labour, Skills and Immigration	September	Workforce Development Agreement program cost increase	7,150	10,782
		Labour Market Development Agreement incremental funding	2,258	
		COVID-19 sick leave program	1,000	
		NSAA Forestry Initiative carry forward funding	401	
		Workforce Development Agreement overpayments from clients	100	
		WCB Recoverable costs	(127)	
	December	Funding for the Immigration and Population Growth marketing campaign	2,500	3,430
		Federal Labour Market Transfer Agreements Overpayments from Clients	600	
		Federal Labour Market Transfer Agreements - Base funding	556	
		Salary for Immigration and Population Growth	305	
		Miscellaneous Recovery	5	
		WCB-recoverable programs	(350)	
		NSAA Forestry Initiative Funding	(186)	
	March	Workers' Compensation Board firefighter presumptive cancer liability	67,400	65,178
		WCB recoverable programs	(908)	

Additional Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount	
		Federal Workforce Development Agreement	(700)		
		Women in construction apprenticeship initiative	(245)		
		Operational savings	(203)		
		Apprenticeship Progression and Completion Awards program	(116)		
		Federal Workforce Development Agreement - overpayments from clients	(50)		
		Total Labour, Skills and Immigration 2021-22		79,390	
Municipal Affairs and Housing	September	Canada Community Building Fund (formerly Federal Gas Tax Transfer)	55,829	105,727	
		Municipal Financial Capacity Grants	32,000		
		New Build Canada Fund - Small communities	3,543		
		Reduction in spending in Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)	(9,079)		
		Reduction in spending in New Building Canada Fund - National & Regional Projects	(305)		
		Provincial Housing Operating Grants	25,000		
		P3 Contract Management	(1,261)		
	December	Affordable Housing Commission Initiatives	6,461	8,722	
		Emergency Repair Waitlist for home repairs	2,000		
		Disaster Financial Assistance	3,500		
		Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - ICIP	414		
		New Build Canada Fund - Small communities	(2,691)		
		New Building Canada Fund - National and Regional Projects	(962)		
	March	Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - ICIP	15,706	19,582	
		Municipal Consolidation Fund for West Hants Regional Municipality	3,000		
		National Disaster Mitigation Program	1,176		
		New Build Canada Fund - Small Communities	(150)		
		Municipal Innovation Program	(150)		
			Total Municipal Affairs and Housing 2021-22		134,031
	Natural Resources and Renewables	September	Project spending under the Infrastructure Canada Investment Program (ICIP)	7,252	7,252
December		Energy Efficiency Programming support to low income	50,000	38,908	
		Energy Efficiency Programming support to small business	7,000		
		Reduction in Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - ICIP spending	(18,092)		
March-Year End		Increase in the abandoned mine remediation liability estimate	4,551	4,551	
			Total Natural Resources and Renewables 2021-22		50,711

Additional Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
Communications Nova Scotia	March-Year End	Severance and workforce adjustments	70	70
		Total Communications Nova Scotia 2021-22		70
Elections Nova Scotia	September	Provincial General Elections 2021-22	13,000	13,000
		Total Elections Nova Scotia 2021-22		13,000
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Office	March-Year End	IT hardware purchases	4	4
		Total Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Office 2021-22		4
Office of Addictions and Mental Health	September	COVID-19 related expenses	48	1,499
		Health-care workers new collective agreement: NSH	718	
		Federal Holiday National Truth and Reconciliation Day	368	
		Other Programs	365	
		Total Office of Addictions and Mental Health 2021-22		
Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives	September	Salaries and benefits	1,152	1,678
		Mediation	149	
		Operating expenses	365	
		Membership dues	12	
		Total Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives 2021-22		
Office of Healthcare Professional Recruitment	December	Salaries and benefits	1,009	1,389
		Traveling	75	
		Professional services	150	
		Other Costs for Healthcare Professional Recruitment Support	155	
		Total Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment 2021-22		
Public Prosecution Service	September	Salaries and benefits	693	1,447
		LTD costs	100	
		WCB costs	8	
		Transcription costs	55	
		Expert witness fee	114	

Additional Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
		Appeal costs	79	
		Other services costs	62	
		Office lease cost	138	
		Membership Dues	114	
		Subscription, periodicals and books	61	
		Online research subscription costs	23	
	March	Salaries and benefits	603	1,043
		Professional services	183	
		Long-service Awards	135	
		Office Lease cost	122	
	Total Public Prosecution Service 2021-22			
Public Service Commission	September	Severance and vacation pay out due to changes to NS Public Service	3,277	3,277
		Total Public Service Commission 2021-22		3,277
Public Works	September	Rural Impact Mitigation (RIM) Program	9,000	9,000
	March-Year End	Boat Harbour remediation	28,792	28,792
		Total Public Works 2021-22		
Seniors and Long-term Care	September	COVID-19 related expenses	(4,941)	28,603
		Seniors Grants	32,000	
		Home Care: Home Support Agencies CCA retention issues	(1,638)	
		Long Term Care: delay in bed conversion	(710)	
		Health-care workers new collective agreement-NSH	325	
		Federal Holiday National Truth and Reconciliation Day	2,976	
		Other Programs	591	
	December	COVID-19 related expenses	39,573	40,111
		Investment in Continuing Care Assistants	11,100	
		Long-term Care facilities upgrade and maintenance	6,200	
		LTC - Economic Adjustment (1.5%) for nursing union professional staff	1,124	
		Resources to support mandate initiatives	1,716	
		Federal Holiday National Truth and Reconciliation Day	191	
		Other Programs	26	
		Reduction in direct service hours of Home Support Agencies	(19,819)	
Total Seniors and Long-term Care 2021-22				68,714

Additional Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services	September	COVID-19 related expenses	2,080	2,580
		Technology upgrade - Software Solution	500	
	Total Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services			
Sinking Fund Installments and Serial Retirements	March-Year End	Minor rounding related to payments made during the year to set aside investments to be used to repay future debt maturities and the repayment of capital lease obligations	1	1
Total Additional Appropriations 2021-22				<u>896,436</u>

Schedule B.

Response to item 2 per PAC letter December 15, 2022

**Province of Nova Scotia
Summary of General Revenue Fund,
Expenses Recorded in the Last Week of
March 2022**

Item	Amount	
University Infrastructure		
- Deferred Maintenance	65,000,000	
		\$
- CBU Support Centre for Discovery & Innovation	<u>35,000,000</u>	100,000,000
Pharmacare Costs (Various months recorded)		95,779,652
DMAH Grant to Housing NS		85,977,971
DHW Rapid Test Kit Consumption		72,718,016
WCB Presumptive Cancer Coverage for Firefighters		67,377,000
NS Film Fund Accruals		65,170,796
DHW/DCS/SLTC/EECD COVID Funding & PPE Usage		52,479,896
NRR Efficiency Programs-Energy Poverty & Off Oil		50,000,000
DCS 2022 NSCB Pmts expensed for the whole year (CRA IT issues)		35,525,068
Tourism NS Operating Grant (Final Year)		32,861,410
Infrastructure Claims		
- NSCC Marconi Campus Claim	17,631,424	
- P3 Costs - BL-COC	<u>11,155,783</u>	28,787,207
CCTH Community Organizations		25,068,000
Research NS Opportunities Fund		25,000,000

DHW Write-off Inventory of PPE to NRV		23,902,968
Screen NS Investments		
- Content Creator Fund	15,000,000	
- Sound Stage Development	<u>8,000,000</u>	23,000,000
Grants to Regional Airports		
- Halifax Airport	13,000,000	
- Sydney Airport	<u>6,250,000</u>	19,250,000
CBU Health Centre & Medical School Supplement		12,700,000
SLTC Travel HHR Fund - NORTHWOOD		7,610,000
SNSIS HARP Year-end Top-ups		6,900,000
Other Dept Program Grants		40,986,703
Other transactions above \$5m (Disaster Recovery Assistance, MSI Physician Services, NS Job Funds Interest Incentive, NS Internet Funding Trust Payment, Strategic Innovation Fund Funding, PW project claims, Mass Casualty Public Inquiry quarterly accrual, Sport System Accessibility grant)		138,125,913
Other transactions less than \$5m (fleet card purchases, heating assistance rebates, seniors' grants, regular dept operational costs)		416,395,190
		<hr/>
Total Spending		1,425,615,790

Additional Appropriations

September Forecast Update

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	September	NS Film and Television Production Incentive Fund	16,400	24,924
		Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB)	7,864	
		Congres Mondial Acadian 2024 event	425	
		OverDrive e-subscriptions (fully recoverable)	123	
		PPE expenses	90	
		Miscellaneous Tourism Nova Scotia programs	22	
Education and Early Childhood Development	September	Federal funding for Official Languages in Education Programs-OLEP (fully recoverable)	5,203	13,650
		Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)-Outdoor Learning Spaces carried-forward from 2021-22 (partially offset by ICIP revenue)	4,016	
		Federal Safe Return to School funding (offset by federal revenue)	2,674	
		Federal funding for Early Learning Child Care Agreement (ELCCA) initiatives carried forward from 2021-22 (fully recoverable)	1,757	
Health and Wellness	September	COVID-19 related expenses	89,900	93,525
		NSH for inflation-related pressures e.g. utilities, etc.	13,000	
		Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Day of Mourning	4,100	
		Air Medical Transport-increased fuel prices and projected missions	2,000	
		Out-of-province gender assignment surgeries	2,000	
		Command Center for hiring and technology needs	1,600	
		Digital Health Initiatives such as Panorama, Virtual Care and Health data repository	1,500	
		Influenza vaccine	900	
		Dialysis costs at Cumberland regional hospital	800	
		HANS benefits costs	400	
		Other programs	25	
		Reduction in NSH nurse premium claims	(1,000)	
		Reduction in out-of-province dialysis treatments	(1,200)	
		NSH projected surplus in various programs, delays in hiring including Regional Tissues bank, Chronic illness and Virtual care	(1,500)	
		CCA initiatives being funded by SLTC	(3,100)	
Reduction in TCA forecast due to project delays	(15,900)			

Schedule C
Additional Appropriations
September Forecast Update

(\$ thousands)

Departments/Office	Additional Appropriation Month	Program/Projects/Initiatives/Operating	Amount	Total Amount
Justice	September	Mass Casualty Commission Public Inquiry	10,400	16,773
		Wages related to the 2017 and 2020 Judicial Compensation Tribunal	2,046	
		Court Services additional operating expenses	1,766	
		RCMP contract operating costs	1,732	
		Nova Scotia Medical Examiner	1,027	
		Vacancy Savings	(198)	
Labour, Skills and Immigration	September	Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency NSAA (Agreement between NSAA and ESDC)	15,071	16,979
		Workforce Development Agreement (federally funded)	1,000	
		Modernization of Immigration and Population Growth	365	
		Labour and Market Development Agreement (federally funded)	401	
		Immigration to fund accommodations for people arriving from Ukraine	215	
		Provincial Territorial Apprenticeship Agreement (Forum of Labour Market Ministers)-recoverable from the Northwest Territories	15	
		WCB recoverable costs	(88)	
Public Works	September	Storm damage repairs	2,113	13,094
		One-time grant that is fully recoverable from the federal government to help maintain public transit services experiencing decreased ridership during the pandemic	10,981	
Seniors and Long-term Care	September	Travel Nurse expenses	19,900	31,037
		Expanded Home first utilization	13,000	
		Over hire funding to support HR operations	4,000	
		Health workforce planning initiatives for CCA transferred from DHW	3,000	
		Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Day of Mourning	3,000	
		Additional supplies and drugs	1,400	
		Various programs	1,137	
		Nursing utilization	500	
		Reduction in Home Support utilization	(14,900)	
Debt servicing costs (Finance and Treasury Board)	September	Higher than anticipated interest rates	11,533	11,533

Total Additional Appropriations September Forecast Update
2022-23

221,515