FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON
THE CHARITABLE SECTOR
Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada
Date of appearance: September 18, 2018

Q.1

Senator Gold: First, what was the total amount of federal funding allocated to grants and contributions programs in the past year, say in 2017, and of that amount, how much was allocated to registered charities and not-for-profit organizations? Within the framework of that question, what is the breakdown between large and small organizations, however you might define those? I ask because an earlier report, the Voluntary Sector Initiative Report of 2003, expressed some concern that the diversity of voluntary sector was being compromised, if not indeed eroded, as smaller organizations are competing with larger ones that are better equipped both to seek and administer project funding. What efforts are being made to help the less large organizations access these federal grants and contributions programs? That’s a lot of stuff in one question, but I’m sure you can sort it out. We will benefit from your response. Thank you.

Mr. Lionais: I cannot provide the information for the Public Accounts being tabled this fall, because they are not yet public. I can provide what we spent in the past. We spend about $38 billion a year in grants and contributions funding. About $13 billion of that funding was provided to the charitable sector. Within the charitable sector, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development — the old name — spent $6.4 billion, about 50 per cent of the money that went to the charitable sector. Health Canada spent about $1.9 billion, about 15 per cent, and ESDC spent about $850 million, about 6 or 7 per cent. That’s the main spending that we did in grants and contributions, which is about $13 billion of the $30 billion we are spending. It is about one third.

In terms of large versus small, I don’t have that data at my fingertips, but I will see what we can do and get back to you. In terms of diversity eroded, that goes to the capacity of the organizations when they are applying for specific programs. The programs will be designed for different purposes. If some departments are specifically targeting small organizations to maintain the charitable sector, that would be criteria in the design of the program. I can’t come up with an example off my head but it goes to the purpose of the program. Not all programming is generic; that would just allow large organizations to scoop the funding. Some of it would be structured in such a way to permit the small organizations to apply. Again, I can’t think of a specific example, but it all goes to the mandate of what is being sought in the programming.
Response Q.1

The Public Account provides a list of all grants and contributions that have been issued. Volume III, Section 6 of the 2016-17 Public Accounts provides a detailed listing of the payments (i.e., cash payments and accrued charges) for each class of recipient. The information is aggregated to $100,000 or over for each recipient (one individual or organization). This detail shows the name and location of the recipient, together with the total amount paid. In cases where certain organizations have more than one place of business, their Head Office location was used for reporting purposes. In addition, this statement presents, for each class of recipients, the total amount of payments to a recipient aggregating to less than $100,000 and the total number of recipients.

Due to the size of the document, we have provided the Senate Committee with the link that will provide access to this detailed list of recipients. It should be noted however that this list does not distinguish between large and small organizations as this is typically information that TBS does not track. That said, it should provide the Committee with a sense of the recipients, where they are located and who is providing the funding.

Q.2

Senator Omidvar: Could you also look in your information for this: How much does IRCC spend on grants and contributions?

Mr. Lionais: I don’t have that information with me.

Senator Omidvar: Could you get that?

Mr. Lionais: Yes.

Response Q.2

As outlined in the 2016-17 Public Accounts, the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship spent $1,187,264,671 on grants and contribution programming in that same fiscal year. From this total amount spent, $690,238,800 was provided to the charitable sector.