Patented Medicine Prices Review Board Canada

Conseil d'examen du prix des médicaments brevetés Canada

Patented Medicine Prices Review Board

2025–26 Departmental Results Report

The Honourable Marjorie Michel

Minister of Health

Canada

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The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board's 2025-26 Departmental Results Report

Contents

- At a glance
- From the Chairperson
- Results: What we achieved
  - Core responsibility 1: Monitor Patented Medicine Prices
  - Internal services
- Spending and human resources
  - Spending
  - Funding
  - Financial statement highlights
  - Human resources
- Supplementary information tables
- Federal tax expenditures
- Corporate information
- Definitions

At a glance

This departmental results report details the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB)'s actual accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results outlined in its 2025–26 Departmental Plan.

These results align with the priorities outlined in the May 21, 2025, mandate letter from the Prime Minister, as well as with the PMPRB's vision, mission, raison d'être and operating context.

Key priorities

The PMPRB identified the following key priorities for 2025–26:

- Publish and implement new Guidelines for PMPRB Staff.
- Publish new Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2030.
- Deliver high-quality information on the pharmaceutical market in Canada to the Minister of Health.
- Draft and consult on proposed Practice Directions to streamline hearing processes.

- Undertake a Comprehensive Expenditure Review to reduce spending over the next three years.

Highlights

The PMPRB's multi-year drafting and consultation process to develop new Guidelines for PMPRB Staff came to a conclusion in 2025-26 with the delivery of final Guidelines and their implementation. This process aimed at enhancing the Board's administrative efficiency and provide transparency and predictability to Rights Holders on the procedures followed by Staff to identify potential hearing candidates.

The PMPRB focused its efforts on consistent and frequent communication, transparency, and engagement throughout this process to ensure those affected by this work were supported in the transition.

- Total actual spending (including internal services): $13,334,111
- Total full-time equivalent staff (including internal services): 80

For detailed information on the PMPRB's total spending and human resources, read the Spending and human resources section of this report.

Summary of results

The following provides a summary of the results the department achieved in 2025–26 under its "core responsibility" (its main area of activity).

Core responsibility 1: Monitor Patented Medicine Prices

Actual spending: $9,140,305

Actual human resources: 53

In 2025-26, the PMPRB published and implemented new Guidelines for PMPRB Staff. The new Guidelines were published on June 30, 2025, after multiple rounds of consultations with interested parties, and came into effect on January 1, 2026, supported by communication and implementation plans.

The action items in the Guidelines implementation plan were well underway by the end of the fiscal year, allowing for a smooth transition to the new price monitoring process and a reduction in the backlog of medicines that had been on hold pending new Guidelines. Proposed Practice Directions to streamline hearings processes and make them more efficient were also developed and shared for consultation in March 2026, as a direct result of the objectives set out in the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and to respond to commitments set out in Budget 2025.

The PMPRB delivered the 9th edition of its Meds Entry Watch report and the 10th edition of its CompassRx report in 2025-26, with work in progress for additional reporting. These reports are

developed by the PMPRB as a result of a request from the federal Minister of Health under section 90 of the *Patent Act*.

For more information on the PMPRB's activities related to Monitor Patented Medicine Prices, read the "Results: What we achieved" section of this report.

Internal Services

Actual spending: $4,193,806

Actual human resources: 27

The PMPRB also released a five-year Strategic Plan in 2025-26, sharing its proactive vision, commitments, and strategies for 2026 to 2030. In a complementary exercise, the PMPRB participated in the government-wide Comprehensive Expenditure Review in 2025-26, identifying significant operational savings to reduce spending by $1.2 million in 2026-27, $1.7 million in 2027-28, and 2.5 million in 2028-29 and ongoing.

In addition, work was undertaken to modernize the PMPRB's internal information management system and implement new software to manage Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) requests. The PMPRB updated its internal Codes of Conduct in 2025-26 (Employees and Board Members) and promoted mentorship and sponsorship programs to eliminate barriers to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility at all levels.

For more information on the PMPRB's activities related to Internal Services, read the "Results: What we achieved" section of this report.

From the Chairperson

The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) is a quasi-judicial body responsible for protecting Canadians from patent abuse related to patented medicine prices. To do so, the PMPRB reviews the prices of these medicines and intervenes as necessary in the form of a hearing, during which a panel determines whether the prices are excessive.

The PMPRB also contributes to a greater understanding of the biopharmaceutical ecosystem by publishing annual reports on trends in sales, pricing, and research and development spending. Additionally, the PMPRB provides neutral, relevant, and timely ad hoc analysis on pharmaceutical trends, at the Minister's request.

The 2025-26 fiscal year marked a point of significant change in the PMPRB's program delivery, as well as important steps forward in planning for our future. In June 2025, the PMPRB released new Guidelines directing PMPRB Staff in the monitoring of patented medicine prices. The Guidelines came into effect in January 2026, coupled with an emphasis on communication with interested parties and an efficient implementation plan to facilitate the transition. In addition, in an effort to streamline hearings processes, the PMPRB developed and shared Practice Procedure Directions for consultation in March 2026.

In its reporting to the Minister of Health, the PMPRB, with the assistance of the National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) group of PMPRB Staff, delivered two analytic reports in 2025-26: the 9th edition of its Meds Entry Watch report on new medicines that recently entered the market and the 10th edition of its CompassRx report on annual public drug plan expenditures. Multiple analytic research briefs and presentations were also shared and are available alongside the full reports on the PMPRB's website.

In December 2025, the PMPRB issued a new Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2030, laying the brickwork for a bright and productive future in the delivery of our mandate and our service to Canadians. The plan also responds to the whole-of-government Comprehensive Expenditure Review reported in Budget 2025, drawing significant savings for the next three years and going forward. These savings are outlined in the PMPRB's 2026-27 Departmental Plan.

The PMPRB continues to focus efforts and resources on the efficient delivery of results under our core responsibility and building resilient, responsible, and reliable internal services. Through the simultaneous planning and implementation efforts carried out in 2025-26, we have a stronger foundation for the execution of our mandate in the coming years and beyond.

Anie Perrault, LL.L, ASC

Chairperson

Results: What we achieved

Core responsibilities and internal services

- Core responsibility 1: Monitor Patented Medicine Prices
- Internal services

Core responsibility 1: Monitor Patented Medicine Prices

In this section

- Description
- Quality of life impacts
- Progress on results
- Details on results
- Key risks
- Resources required to achieve results
- Related government priorities
- Program inventory

Description

The PMPRB monitors the prices of patented medicines and initiates public hearings to determine whether a price is excessive. It also monitors and provides information on trends in pharmaceutical sales and pricing and on research and development spending by Rights Holders through the issuance of its Annual Report.

Quality of life impacts

Canada's Quality of Life Framework uses 84 indicators to measure what matters most to Canadians and to help drive evidence-based budgeting and decision-making at the federal level. The PMPRB's core responsibility, though limited, overlaps indirectly with several of these indicators, including household finances indicators listed under the framework's domain of "Prosperity" and the indicator "Cost-related non-adherence to prescription medication" under the domain of "Health".

As many prescription medicines do not have less expensive generic versions available, monitoring the prices of patented medicines and intervening where the price appears to be excessive can contribute to the affordability of medicines for Canadian patients, which in turn can minimize cost-related non-adherence to these prescriptions. This is particularly relevant through the framework's

"Sustainability and Resilience lens", which is aimed at building resilience and maintaining the longevity of policies and quality of life in the years to come.

Progress on results

This section details the department's performance against its targets for each departmental result under Core responsibility 1: Monitor Patented Medicine Prices.

Table 1 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under Timely and effective monitoring of patented medicine price information provided by Rights Holders in the last three fiscal years.

Table 1: Timely and effective monitoring of patented medicine price information provided by Rights Holders

Departmental result indicator	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual result
Percentage of Rights Holder filings monitored within the calendar year	95%	December 2027	2023–24: 100% 2024–25: 100% 2025–26: 100%
Percentage of Hearings completed within 24 months of the issuance of a Notice of Hearing	90%	March 2028	2023–24: N/A 2024–25: N/A 2025–26: N/A
Number of months after the relevant calendar year that the PMPRB's Annual Report is submitted to the Minister of Health	Fewer than 12 months	March 2026	2023–24: 11 2024–25: 10 2025–26: 9

Table 1 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and actual result for each indicator under Timely and effective monitoring of patented medicine price information provided by Rights Holders in the last three fiscal years.

The Results section of the Infographic for the PMPRB on GC Infobase provides additional information on results and performance related to its program inventory.

Details on results

The following section describes the results for Monitor Patented Medicine Prices in 2025–26 compared with the planned results set out in the PMPRB's departmental plan for the year.

Timely and effective monitoring of patented medicine price information provided by Rights Holders

Results achieved

- The PMPRB published new Guidelines for PMPRB Staff on June 30, 2025, following a multi-year consultation process. These Guidelines enhance the Board's administrative efficiency and provide transparency and predictability to Rights Holders on the procedures followed by Staff to identify potential hearing candidates.
- The Guidelines came into effect on January 1, 2026, coupled with communications and implementation action plans to facilitate the transition and support Rights Holders and other interested parties in preparing for the Staff's new operational guidance. As part of the transition, the PMPRB also updated internal databases. Updates on progress in the Guidelines implementation process were shared through the PMPRB's social media, on X and LinkedIn, and in the PMPRB NEWSletter.
- As committed in Budget 2025, the PMPRB is in the process of modernizing its hearings by leveraging existing technology to enable faster and more cost-effective procedural processes. Proposed Practice Directions for hearings processes were developed in 2025-26 and shared for consultation beginning in March 2026.
- The PMPRB continued to deliver high-quality reporting on the pharmaceutical market to the Minister of Health in 2025-26, including the 9th edition of its Meds Entry Watch report on new medicines that recently entered the market and the 10th edition of its CompassRx report on annual public drug plan expenditure, in addition to research briefs and presentations. These reports are generated with the assistance of the PMPRB's National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) group in the Policy and Economic Analysis branch, as the result of a request of the Minister of Health through s.90 of the *Patent Act*. The library of reports is available to access on the PMPRB's website.

Key risks

The PMPRB identified and addressed the following key risks to the achievement of this core responsibility in 2025-26.

The PMPRB continued to monitor changes in the geopolitical and economic context in which it operates. As the market for pharmaceuticals is complex, international, and interdependent, changes in trading relationships could have an impact on the prices of medicines in Canada. The PMPRB actively monitored the prices of medicines based on factors laid out in the *Patent Act* and associated *Regulations* and is empowered to take action in the event of a sudden rise in prices.

The Guidelines development process was a lengthy undertaking characterized by numerous consultations with interested parties from across the country. Over the course of 2025, the PMPRB monitored patented medicine prices under its Interim Guidance, which was last amended in September 2023. As the Interim Guidance was intended as a temporary measure to bridge the gap in which active Guidelines are not available, the development of an implementation action plan

and a collaborative review of internal processes this year laid the path for a smoother, more predictable transition to new Guidelines.

Along with standard communications with the public, the PMPRB provided information sessions to promote a well-rounded understanding of the new process and to support those affected by this change. This also included significant movement in the transition of PMPRB's public-facing website to Canada.ca, which has made key information more accessible to readers.

Resources required to achieve results

Table 2 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents required to achieve results.

Table 2: Snapshot of resources required for Monitor Patented Medicine Prices

Resource	Planned	Actual
Spending	$14,628,709	$9,140,305
Full-time equivalents	58	53

The Finances section of the Infographic for the PMPRB on GC Infobase page and the People section of the Infographic for the PMPRB on GC Infobase page provide complete financial and human resources information related to its program inventory.

Related government priorities

This section highlights government priorities that are being addressed through this core responsibility.

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus)

Sex and gender differences, race, ethnicity, age, and mental or physical disability are all factors in the accessibility, affordability, and appropriate use of prescription medicines and medical devices. Differences in sex and gender+ roles, income and utilization of health care services can affect access to medicines and health insurance, as well as prescribing patterns and medicine use, and may have important repercussions for health and well-being.

Since the price of an individual patented medicine does not vary for the sex or gender+ of the user, the PMPRB's price monitoring process cannot take explicit account of the diversity of user groups or their economic situation. The PMPRB's mandate to ensure non-excessive patented medicine prices can benefit all populations indirectly through health system reinvestments and improved access to better care. However, the benefits are greater for those who pay out of pocket for their medicine, who do not have adequate drug coverage, who have a greater need for prescription medications, or whose socioeconomic status makes it more difficult to afford their medication.

An intersectional study published by Statistics Canada in 2024 found that prescription drug insurance coverage varied for men and women across factors such as marital status, immigrant

status, racialized group, sexual orientation, household income, number of chronic conditions, and employment-related factors. The findings showed:

- lower levels of employer-sponsored drug insurance coverage among both recent and established immigrant men and women;
- lower levels of employer-sponsored drug insurance coverage among almost all racialized groups;
- lower proportions employer-sponsored drug insurance plan among bisexual men and women than heterosexual men and women; and
- more women than men skipping filling prescription drugs because of cost.

Through the Pharmaceutical Trends program, the PMPRB is leveraging data from the National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) database hosted by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) to report on analytic research topics informed by GBA Plus.

In 2025-26, demographic-driven analysis was conducted on drug plan spending and drug usage. These reports were produced by the PMPRB, with assistance from the NPDUIS group of PMPRB Staff, as a result of a request from the Minister of Health under s. 90 of the *Patent Act*.

Program inventory

Monitor Patented Medicine Prices is supported by the following programs:

- Patented Medicine Price Monitoring Program
- Pharmaceutical Trends Program

Additional information related to the program inventory for Monitor Patented Medicine Prices is available on the Results page on GC InfoBase.

Internal services

In this section

- Description
- Progress on results
- Resources required to achieve results
- Contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Description

Internal services are the activities and resources that support a department in meeting its corporate obligations and delivering its programs. The eight categories of internal services are:

- procurement and contracting services
- financial management services
- human resources management services

- information management services
- information technology services
- material management services
- management and oversight services
- real property management services

Note that the PMPRB includes communications services and legal services under its core responsibility.

Progress on results

This section presents details on how the department performed to achieve results and meet targets for internal services.

The PMPRB released a 2026-2030 Strategic Plan in December 2025, sharing the core principles that will guide decision-making in the coming years as well as four clear commitments that support the efficient, effective, and proactive accomplishment of the PMPRB's mandate and the Internal Services that support Staff in achieving these targets.

As part of this forward-looking exercise, the PMPRB also participated in the government-wide Comprehensive Expenditure Review in 2025-26, identifying significant operational savings to reduce spending by $1.2 million in 2026-27, $1.7 million in 2027-28, and 2.5 million in 2028-29 and ongoing. Commitments to achieve these efficiencies were announced in Budget 2025.

To continue making sustainable use of resources, the PMPRB modernized its internal information management system and implemented new software to manage Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) requests in 2025-26. These updates will support the longevity and resilience of the PMPRB's processes.

Internal Services also modernized both Staff and Board Codes of Conduct in 2025-26, and prioritized work to eliminate barriers to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility at all levels and in all facets of the workplace, including through mentorship and sponsorship programs, with targeted goals and action plans to support staff and lead positive change across the organization.

Resources required to achieve results

Table 3 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents required to achieve results.

Table 3: Resources required for internal services for 2025–26

Resource	Planned	Actual
Spending	$3,500,223	$4,193,806
Full-time equivalents	23	27

The Finances section of the Infographic for the PMPRB on GC Infobase and the People section of the Infographic for the PMPRB on GC Infobase provide complete financial and human resources information related to its program inventory.

Contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Government of Canada departments are required to award at least 5% of the total value of contracts to Indigenous businesses every year.

As shown in Table 4, the PMPRB awarded 9% of the total value of all contracts to Indigenous businesses for the fiscal year.

Table 4: Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Contracting performance indicator	2025–26 result
Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses (A)	$106,556.55
Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses (B)	$1,138,741.13
Value of exceptions approved by deputy head (C)	$0
Proportion of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses [A / (B−C) × 100]	9%

Notes

For the purposes of the minimum 5% target, Indigenous Services Canada defines "Indigenous businesses" as:

- businesses owned and operated by Elders, band and tribal councils
- businesses registered in the Government of Canada's Indigenous Business Directory
- registered on a modern treaty beneficiary business list

A "contract" is a binding agreement for the procurement of a good, service or construction and does not include real property leases. It includes contract amendments and contracts entered into by means of acquisition cards of more than $10,000.

The PMPRB has no mechanism to track if any of its main suppliers awarded contracts to Indigenous companies.

The PMPRB surpassed its target in 2025-26 by assessing and prioritizing all opportunities to award contracts to Indigenous businesses. Contracts awarded were primarily in the procurement of computer hardware and peripherals, as well as office supplies. The strategy to strengthen Indigenous procurement also included efforts to increase awareness among business owners.

In its 2026–27 Departmental Plan, the PMPRB estimated that it would award 6.95% of the total value of its contracts to Indigenous businesses by the end of 2025–26. This forecast was exceeded by year-end.

Spending and human resources

In this section

- Spending
- Funding
- Financial statement highlights
- Human resources

Spending

This section presents an overview of the department's actual and planned expenditures from 2023–24 to 2028–29.

Budgetary performance summary

Table 5 shows the money that the PMPRB spent in each of the past three years on its core responsibilities and on internal services.

Table 5: Actual three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

Core responsibilities and internal services	2025–26 Main Estimates	2025–26 total authorities available for use	Actual spending over three years (authorities used)
Monitor Patented Medicine Prices	$14,628,709	$14,370,179	• 2023–24: $10,223,542 • 2024–25: $9,780,417 • 2025–26: $9,140,305
Subtotal	**$14,628,709**	**$14,370,179**	**$9,140,305**
Internal services	$3,500,223	$4,387,230	• 2023–24: $3,820,603 • 2024–25: $3,906,683 • 2025–26: $4,193,806
Total	**$18,128,932**	**$18,757,409**	• 2023–24: $14,044,145 • 2024–25: $13,687,100 • 2025–26: $13,334,111

Analysis of the past three years of spending

Actual spending decreased between 2023-24 and 2024-25 largely as a result of a reduction in the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs). Between 2024-25 and 2025-26, spending decreased further, owing to a decrease in operational spending related to savings on translation services, data holdings, health science consultants, travel, and IT equipment.

Spending through the Special Purpose Allotment (SPA) for hearings in 2025-26 amounted to $71,300 of the $4.5 million allotted. The PMPRB has conducted price reviews under Interim Guidance in recent years, which has created less demand for hearings in anticipation of new Staff Guidelines to identify potential cases for hearings released in June 2025. SPA spending is expected to return to its full amount in coming years as these new Guidelines come into effect.

The Finances section of the Infographic for the PMPRB on GC Infobase provides more financial information from previous years.

Planned spending for next three years

Table 6 shows the PMPRB's planned spending for each of the next three years on its core responsibilities and on internal services.

Table 6: Planned three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

Core responsibilities and internal services	2026–27 planned spending	2027–28 planned spending	2028–29 planned spending
Monitor Patented Medicine Prices	$13,668,116	$13,404,166	$12,881,398
Subtotal	**$13,668,116**	**$13,404,166**	**$12,881,398**
Internal services	$3,544,076	$3,392,026	$3,138,677
Total	**$17,212,192**	**$16,796,192**	**$16,020,075**

Analysis of the next three years of planned spending

The PMPRB has planned decreases in planned spending for the next three years to align with the Comprehensive Expenditure Review announced in Budget 2025. Spending will decrease by 7.5% in 2026-27, 10.0% in 2027-28, and 15.0% in 2028-29 onward, relative to the planned amounts listed in the 2025-26 Main Estimates.

For purposes of forecasting planned spending, it is necessary to assume that the entire SPA funding will be spent because these expenditures are dependent on the number of hearings, and the length and complexity of the hearings held, which are difficult to predict. Any unspent amount is returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

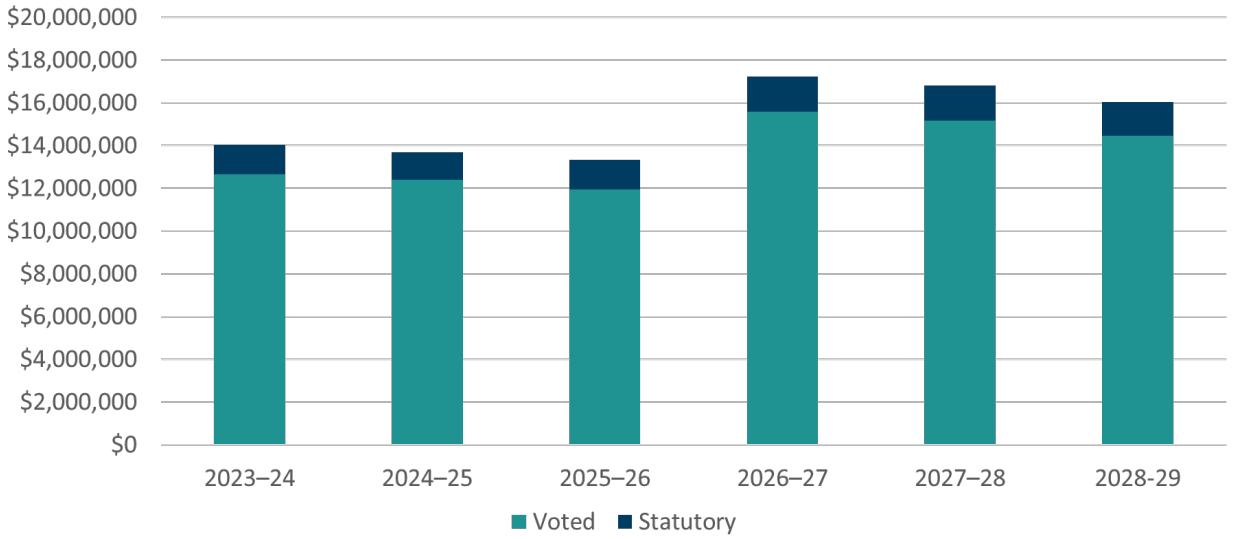
The Finances section of the Infographic for the PMPRB on GC Infobase provides more detailed financial information related to future years.

Funding

This section provides an overview of the department's voted and statutory funding for its core responsibility and for internal services.

Graph 1 summarizes the department's approved voted and statutory funding from 2023–24 to 2028–29.

Graph 1: Approved funding (statutory and voted) over a six-year period



Text version of Graph 1

Fiscal year	Statutory	Voted	Total
2023–24	$1,387,286	$12,656,859	$14,044,145
2024–25	$1,289,099	$12,398,001	$13,687,100
2025–26	$1,378,037	$11,956,074	$13,334,111
2026–27	$1,637,672	$15,574,520	$17,212,192
2027–28	$1,637,672	$15,158,520	$16,796,192
2028–29	$1,555,672	$14,464,403	$16,020,075

Analysis of statutory and voted funding over a six-year period

It is necessary to assume that SPA funding will be required in its entirety for planned spending in future years. Spending on the SPA in 2025-26 was $71,300, with a lapse of $4.46 million. This accounts for the difference between total spending in 2025-26 and planned spending for 2026-27.

Per the comprehensive expenditure review announced in Budget 2025, the PMPRB will be reducing spending by 7.5% in 2026-27, 10.0% in 2027-28, and 15.0% in 2028-29 onward, relative to the planned amounts listed in the 2025-26 Main Estimates.

Consult the Public Accounts of Canada for further information on the PMPRB's departmental voted and statutory expenditures.

Financial statement highlights

This section presents the PMPRB's Financial statements (Audited/Unaudited) for the year ended March 31, 2026.

Table 7 summarizes the expenses and revenues for 2025–26, which net to the cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

Table 7: Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited or audited) for the year ended March 31, 2026 (dollars)

Financial information	2025–26 actual results	2025–26 planned results	Difference (actual results minus planned)
Total expenses	$15,952,892	$19,812,943	$(3,860,051)
Total revenues	$887	$-	$887
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	$15,952,005	$19,812,943	$3,860,938

Analysis of expenses and revenues for 2025–26

The net cost of operations before government funding and transfers decreased by $3.9 million due to the SPA funding being fully forecasted for 2025-26 and ending up with a lapse of $4.4 million. The 2025–26 planned results information is provided in the PMPRB's Future-Oriented Statement of Operations and Notes 2025–26.

Table 8 summarizes actual expenses and revenues and shows the net cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

Table 8: Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited or audited) for 2024–25 and 2025–26 (dollars)

Financial information	2025–26 actual results	2024–25 actual results	Difference (2025–26 minus 2024–25)
Total expenses	$15,952,892	$15,337,895	$614,997
Total revenues	$887	$1,504	$(617)
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	$15,952,005	$15,336,391	$615,614

Analysis of differences in expenses and revenues between 2024–25 and 2025–26

The increase in total expenditures is mainly due to workforce adjustment costs, as in Budget 2025 , the Government announced savings measures to be implemented by departments by 2028-29. As a result, the PMPRB has included at March 31, 2026, an expense for an amount of $893,039 (nil in 2024-25) as part total expenses to reflect the estimated workforce adjustment costs.

Table 9 provides a brief snapshot of the amounts the department owes or must spend (liabilities) and its available resources (assets), which helps to indicate its ability to carry out programs and services.

Table 9: Condensed Statement of Financial Position (unaudited or audited) as at March 31, 2026 (dollars)

Financial information	Actual fiscal year (2025–26)	Previous fiscal year (2024–25)	Difference (2025–26 minus 2024–25)
Total net liabilities	$2,918,106	$2,593,940	$324,166
Total net financial assets	$1,132,085	$1,673,922	$(541,837)
Departmental net debt	$1,786,021	$920,018	$866,003
Total non-financial assets	$259,596	$166,782	$92,814
Departmental net financial position	$(1,526,425)	$(753,236)	$(773,189)

Analysis of department's liabilities and assets since last fiscal year

The increase in the departmental net financial position is mainly due to workforce adjustment costs, as in Budget 2025 , the Government announced savings measures to be implemented by departments by 2028-29. As a result, the PMPRB has included at March 31, 2026, an obligation for termination benefits for an amount of $893,039 (nil in 2024-25) as part of accrued liabilities to reflect the estimated workforce adjustment costs.

Human resources

This section presents an overview of the department's actual and planned human resources from 2023–24 to 2028–29.

Table 10 shows a summary in full-time equivalents of human resources for the PMPRB's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the previous three fiscal years.

Table 10: Actual human resources for core responsibilities and internal services for the last three years

Core responsibilities and internal services	2023–24 actual full-time equivalents	2024–25 actual full-time equivalents	2025–26 actual full-time equivalents
Monitor Patented Medicine Prices	58	54	53
Subtotal	**58**	**54**	**53**
Internal services	24	24	27
Total	**82**	**78**	**80**

Analysis of human resources for the last three years

Actual FTEs increased from 2024-25 to 2025-26 as a result of backfilling staff departures and fulfilling staffing actions.

Table 11 shows the planned full-time equivalents for each of the PMPRB's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the next three years. Human resources for the current fiscal year are forecast based on year to date.

Table 11: Human resources planning summary for core responsibilities and internal services for the next three years

Core responsibilities and internal services	2026–27 planned full-time equivalents	2027–28 planned full-time equivalents	2028–29 planned full-time equivalents
Monitor Patented Medicine Prices	58	58	55
Subtotal	**58**	**58**	**55**
Internal services	23	23	21
Total	**81**	**81**	**76**

Analysis of human resources for the next three years

Planned FTE levels are expected to be consistent with current levels through 2027-28. There is a reduction planned in 2028-29 to correspond with the comprehensive expenditure review announced in Budget 2025.

Supplementary information tables

The following supplementary information tables are available on the PMPRB's website:

- Gender-based Analysis Plus

Federal tax expenditures

The tax system can be used to achieve public policy objectives through the application of special measures such as low tax rates, exemptions, deductions, deferrals and credits. The Department of Finance Canada publishes cost estimates and projections for these measures each year in the Report on Federal Tax Expenditures. This report also provides detailed background information on tax expenditures, including descriptions, objectives, historical information and references to related federal spending programs as well as evaluations and GBA Plus of tax expenditures.

Corporate information

Departmental profile

Appropriate minister(s): The Honourable Marjorie Michel

Institutional head: Anie Perrault, Chairperson

Ministerial portfolio: Health

Enabling instrument(s): *Patent Act* and *Patented Medicines Regulations*

Year of incorporation or commencement: 1987

Other: The Minister of Health is responsible for the pharmaceutical provisions of the *Patent Act* set out in sections 79 to 103. Although the PMPRB is part of the Health Portfolio, because of its quasi-judicial responsibilities the PMPRB carries out its mandate at arm's length from the Minister.

The PMPRB also operates independently of

- Health Canada, which approves medicines for marketing in Canada based on their safety, efficacy, and quality;
- Canada's Drug Agency, which performs health technology assessment and assembles expert committees to make recommendations on which medicines should qualify for reimbursement under publicly funded drug programs;
- the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS), which evaluates medicines to make recommendations on reimbursement by public plans in Quebec;
- the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), which negotiates the list prices on behalf of the publicly funded drug programs across Canada; and
- federal, provincial, and territorial public drug plans and private drug plans, which approve the listing of medicines on their respective formularies for reimbursement purposes.

Departmental contact information

Mailing address:

The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board
Box L40
Standard Life Centre
333 Laurier Avenue West
Suite 1400
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C1

Telephone: 1-877-861-2350

TTY: 613-288-9654

Email: PMPRB.Information-Renseignements.CEPMB@pmprb-cepmb.gc.ca

Website(s): https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review.html

Definitions

appropriation (crédit)

Any authority of Parliament to pay money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

budgetary expenditures (dépenses budgétaires)

Operating and capital expenditures; transfer payments to other levels of government, departments or individuals; and payments to Crown corporations.

core responsibility (responsabilité essentielle)

An enduring function or role of a department. The departmental results listed for a core responsibility reflect the outcomes that the department seeks to influence or achieve.

Departmental Plan (plan ministériel)

A report that outlines the anticipated activities and expected performance of an appropriated department over a three-year period. Departmental Plans are usually tabled in Parliament in spring.

departmental priority (priorité)

A plan, project or activity that a department focuses and reports on during a specific planning period. Priorities represent the most important things to be done or those to be addressed first to help achieve the desired departmental results.

departmental result (résultat ministériel)

A high-level outcome related to the core responsibilities of a department.

departmental result indicator (indicateur de résultat ministériel)

A quantitative or qualitative measure that assesses progress toward a departmental result.

departmental results framework (cadre ministériel des résultats)

A framework that connects the department's core responsibilities to its departmental results and departmental result indicators.

Departmental Results Report (rapport sur les résultats ministériels)

A report outlining a department's accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results set out in the corresponding Departmental Plan.

Full-time equivalent (équivalent temps plein)

Measures the person years in a departmental budget. An employee's scheduled hours per week divided by the employer's hours for a full-time workweek calculates a full-time equivalent. For example, an employee who works 20 hours in a 40-hour standard workweek represents a 0.5 full-time equivalent.

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) (analyse comparative entre les sexes plus [ACS Plus])

An analytical tool that helps to understand the ways diverse individuals experience policies, programs and other initiatives. Applying GBA Plus to policies, programs and other initiatives helps to identify the different needs of the people affected, the ways to be more responsive and inclusive, and the methods to anticipate and mitigate potential barriers to accessing or benefitting from the initiative. GBA Plus goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography (including rurality), language, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

government priorities (priorités pangouvernementales)

For the purpose of the 2025–26 Departmental Results Report, government priorities are the high-level themes outlining the government's agenda as announced in the 2025 Speech from the Throne.

horizontal initiative (initiative horizontale)

A program, project or other initiative where two or more federal departments receive funding to work collaboratively on a shared outcome usually linked to a government priority, and where the ministers involved agree to designate it as horizontal. Specific reporting requirements apply, including that the lead department must report on combined expenditures and results.

Indigenous business (entreprise autochtones)

Requirements for verifying Indigenous businesses for the purposes of the departmental result report are available through the Indigenous Services Canada Mandatory minimum 5% Indigenous procurement target website.

interested parties (parties intéressées)

For the purposes of the PMPRB, any group or individual who is impacted by or takes interest in matters under the PMPRB's jurisdiction. In the context of consultations, interested parties might include pharmaceutical Rights Holders, patient and health groups, public and private payers, distributors, and researchers and academics, among others.

non-budgetary expenditures (dépenses non budgétaires)

Net outlays and receipts related to loans, investments and advances, which change the composition of the financial assets of the Government of Canada.

performance (rendement)

What a department did with its resources to achieve its results, how well those results compare to what the department intended to achieve, and how well lessons learned have been identified.

performance indicator (indicateur de rendement)

A qualitative or quantitative measure that assesses progress toward a departmental-level or program-level result, or the expected outputs or outcomes of a program, policy or initiative.

plan (plan)

The articulation of strategic choices, which provides information on how a department intends to achieve its priorities and associated results. Generally, a plan will explain the logic behind the strategies chosen and tend to focus on actions that lead to the expected result.

planned spending (dépenses prévues)

For Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports, planned spending refers to the amounts presented in Main Estimates. Departments must determine their planned spending and be able to defend the financial numbers presented in their Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports.

program (programme)

An Individual, group, or combination of services and activities managed together within a department and focused on a specific set of outputs, outcomes or service levels.

program inventory (répertoire des programmes)

A listing that identifies all the department's programs and the resources that contribute to delivering on the department's core responsibilities and achieving its results.

result (résultat)

An outcome or output related to the activities of a department, policy, program or initiative.

statutory expenditures (dépenses législatives)

Spending approved through legislation passed in Parliament, other than appropriation acts. The legislation sets out the purpose and the terms and conditions of the expenditures.

target (cible)

A quantitative or qualitative, measurable goal that a department, program or initiative plans to achieve within a specified time period.

voted expenditures (dépenses votées)

Spending approved annually through an appropriation act passed in Parliament. The vote also outlines the conditions that govern the spending.