The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board's 2025-2026 Annual Report to Parliament

Access to Information Act



Patented Medicine Prices Review Board

Conseil d'examen du prix des médicaments brevetés

Canada

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Introduction

The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB, The Board) is pleased to present to Parliament its annual report on the administration of Access to Information (ATI) services, in accordance with section 94 of the Access to Information Act (ATIA). The report describes activities that support compliance with these laws for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026.

Subsidiaries

The PMPRB did not have any non-operational ("paper") subsidiaries during this reporting period.

Purpose of the Access to Information Act (ATIA)

The ATIA gives Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada the right to access information contained in federal government records, subject to certain specific and limited exceptions. The ATIA complements but does not replace other means of obtaining government information.

About the PMPRB and its Mandate

The PMPRB became subject to the ATIA on June 14, 1990. Pursuant to sections 87 and 88 of the *Patent Act* and the *Patented Medicines Regulations*, certain information filed by patentees is privileged and may not be made public except during a public hearing before the Board. This information is also exempt from disclosure under section 24 of the ATIA.

The PMPRB is an independent quasi-judicial body established by Parliament in 1987 under the Patent Act (the Act). The Minister of Health is responsible for the pharmaceutical provisions of the Act as set out in sections 79 to 103. Although part of the Health Portfolio, the PMPRB carries out its mandate from the Minister of Health at arm's length. It also operated independently of other bodies, such as Health Canada, which approves drugs for safety and efficacy; federal, provincial, and territorial public drug plans, which have the responsibility for approving the listing of drugs on their respective formularies and determining price levels for the purpose of reimbursement; and the Common Drug Review, which provides listing recommendations based on cost-effectiveness to participating public drug plans.

Through its price review mandate, the PMPRB ensures that the prices of patented medicines sold in Canada are not excessive. Through its reporting mandate, the PMPRB issues an Annual Report with information on trends in pharmaceutical sales and pricing and on research and development (R&D) spending by Rights Holders

Organizational Structure

Information Management (IM) and Access to Information and Privacy Group

ATI requests are received and processed by the Access to Information and Privacy Analyst (ATIP Analyst), reporting to the Team Leader, Information Management and ATIP, who is responsible for reporting to the ATIP Coordinator, who in turn reports to the Chairperson of the Board on the disposition of the requests. The ATIP Analyst is responsible for consultations with the applicants, other government institutions, third parties, legal services, and the Office of the Information Commissioner.

A processing structure for the receipt, review and retrieval of requests is established to ensure incoming requests are registered with the ATIP Analyst, tasked to the appropriate Branch for action, and receipt of acknowledgement is sent to the applicant. The documents relevant to the request are retrieved by the Branch and forwarded to the ATIP Analyst, who reviews and recommends redactions, consults with Legal Services on accuracy and any potential issues, forwards all documents to the Team Leader, IM and ATIP for approval, then to the ATIP Coordinator for final approval. Once approval is received, the ATIP Analyst prepares the documents and processes the information for dissemination within the prescribed timeframe.

The ATIP Analyst liaises and coordinates with the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS), the Office of the Information Commissioner, and any other government department or agency. The Team Leader, Information Management, and ATIP develop and maintain the corporate policies and practices related to access to information and privacy.

Service Agreements

The PMPRB was not party to any new or pre-existing service agreements under section 96 of the

Access to Information Act during the reporting period.

Openness and Transparency

The PMPRB is committed to being open and transparent and continues to make information available to Canadians. The department continues to publish information per Part 2 of the ATIA, including ATI summaries, travel and hospitality expenses, reclassification of positions, and contracts over $10,000.

For a breakdown of the group(s) and/or position(s) responsible for meeting each applicable proactive publication requirement under Part 2 of the Access to Information Act, see the section “Proactive Publication under Part 2 of the ATIA”, below.

Delegation Order

The Chairperson of the Board has delegated the responsibilities associated with the administration of the ATIA to the Senior Director, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer. As a result, Access to Information duties are part of the Information Services Division, Corporate Services, and operational responsibility for the application of the Act has been delegated to the Senior Director, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, to act as the Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator (ATIP Coordinator). The signed Delegation Order in effect on March 31, 2026 is included in Appendix A.

Performance for 2025-2026

Caseload and Carry Forward

In the reporting period, the PMPRB received 39 new requests (ATI and Informal Access). A total of 38 requests were closed during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 100% of requests closed within the fiscal year were within the legislated timeframe.

Performance for 2025-2026

Type of Requests	Carried Over	Received	Closed	Carry Forward
Access to Information	0	11	10	1
Access Informal	0	28	28	0
Total	**0**	**39**	**38**	**1**

The following section of the report includes an interpretation and explanation of the data in the PMPRB's Statistical Report, which summarizes ATI-related activity between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026.

Key statistics by fiscal year

Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Received	Number of Requests Carried Over	Total Caseload	Number of Requests Closed
2021-2022	128	11	139	127
2022-2023	19	12	31	27
2023-2024	11	4	15	14
2024-2025	43	1	44	44
2025-2026	39	0	39	38

Source of Requests under the *Access to Information Act*

The PMPRB received 0 formal ATI request from the Public and 11 formal ATI request from the Private Sector.

Source	Number of Requests
Business (Private Sector)	8
Public	0
Media	3
Organizations (e.g., political party, association, union)	0
Decline to Identify	0
Academia	0
Total	**11**

Processing Time for Requests

A total of 10 formal requests were processed within the legislated timeline. No requests were closed past the legislated timeline.

- 9 requests closed between 16 to 30 days
- 1 request closed between 31 to 60 days.
- 0 requests closed between 61 to 120 days.
- 0 requests closed between 121 to 180 days.
- 0 requests closed between 181 to 365 days.
- 0 requests closed after 365 days.

Extensions

The extension invoked under the ATIA was done under section 9(1)(a) interference with operations/workload and section 91(1)(b): consultation.

Consultations Completed for Other Institutions

The PMPRB received 1 consultation request from another Government of Canada institutions in the reporting period.

Dissemination of Completed Requests

Of the ATI formal requests completed in 2025-2026, 10% were completely disclosed, and 90% were disclosed in part. Requests transferred or declined to act with approval of the Office of the Information Commissioner represent 0% of all requests. Requests where no records existed represented 0% and requests where information could not be confirmed nor denied represented 0% of all requests received.

Exemptions invoked

Sections 13 to 24 of the ATIA provide specific legislated exemptions to protect information from disclosure, while section 26 provides a temporary exemption relating to information that will be published. In some instances, records may have multiple exemptions applied to them to appropriately safeguard information.

The PMPRB has a statutory obligation to protect information as filed by patentees. According to sections 87 and 88 of the Patent Act and the Patented Medicines Regulation, certain information filed by patentees is privileged and may not be made public except during a public hearing before the Board. This information is also exempt from disclosure under section 24 of the ATIA.

The exemptions applied in 2025-2026 were for section 20(1)(a), 20(1)(b), 21(1)(a), 21(1)(b), 23, and 24(1); 20(1)(a), 20(1)(b), 23, and 24(1) are mandatory exemptions while section 21(1)(a) and 21(1)(b) are discretionary.

Translation

No translations were required to respond to requests in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Format of Information Released

Of the requests that were fully or partially disclosed, all of them were released electronically.

Training and Awareness

All existing and new PMPRB employees are mandated to complete the *Access to Information and Privacy Fundamentals (COR502)* course administered by the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS). The course provides employees with an understanding to be aware of the policies, procedures, and legal responsibilities associated with the *Privacy Act*.

No formal training for staff was done for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in ATI.

The ATIP Analyst attended quarterly ATIP community meetings hosted by Treasury Board Secretariat TBS. Topics included the application of various provisions of the *Access to Information Act*, Access to Information Complaint processes, and other Access to Information considerations.

The ATIP analyst attended working groups hosted by Granicus for the purposes of learning the use of AMANDA case management software.

Policies, Guidelines and Procedures

No other institution-specific policies, guidelines, or procedures were implemented during the reporting period.

The ATIP Group continues to work in collaboration with other government institutions to improve workflows, procedural guidelines, and optimizing review and approval processes.

Monitoring Compliance

Monitoring activities are carried out on an ongoing basis by the ATIP analyst and the Team Leader, Information Management and ATIP. Updates on operational activities and status of requests are provided on an as-needed basis.

Initiatives and Projects to Improve Access to Information

During 2025-2026, the PMPRB implemented the AMANDA case management system, with the platform going live in spring 2026. The adoption of AMANDA aligns the PMPRB with many federal institutions that use enterprise-level tools to support the administration of Access to Information and Privacy requests.

The implementation of AMANDA modernized and digitized key ATIP processes, supporting more efficient request management, enhanced record tracking, and improved reporting capabilities. The system is expected to reduce administrative burden, strengthen consistency in the review process, and support the timely administration of *Access to Information and Privacy* requests and reporting obligations.

Summary of Key Issues and Actions Taken on Complaints and Audits

No complaints under the ATIA were filed with the Office of the Information Commissioner against the PMPRB in 2025-2026. No orders were issued to the PMPRB by the Commissioner in 2025-2026.

Proactive Publication Under Part 2 of the ATIA

The PMPRB is committed to being open and transparent and continues to make information available to Canadians. The department continues to fulfill the proactive publication legislative requirements found in

Part 2 of the *Access to Information Act*. Sections 74 to 78 and 82 to 88 of Part 2 of the ATIA, stipulate that government entities that support a minister are required to publish proactively ATI summaries, travel expenses, hospitality expenses, reports tabled in parliament, reclassification of positions, contracts, grants and contributions, briefing materials, and expense reports. Within the PMPRB, this responsibility falls under the Corporate Services Branch (Finance Division, Administration and Procurement Division, Information Services Division, and Human Resources Division,) and the Board Secretariat and Communications Branch. Each section is responsible for publishing documents that pertain to their area of work.

Legislative Requirement	Section of ATIA	Publication Timeline	Does requirement apply to your institution? (Y/N)	Internal group(s) or positions(s) responsible for fulfilling requirement	% of proactive publication requirements published within legislated timelines	Link to web page where published
Apply to all Government Institutions as defined in section 3 of the *Access to Information Act*						
Travel Expenses	82	Within 30 days after the end of the month of reimbursement	Y	Finance & Administration & Procurement	100%	https://search.open.canada.ca/travel/?owner_org=pmprb-cepmb&page=1&sort=start_date+desc
Hospitality Expenses	83	Within 30 days after the end of the month of reimbursement	Y	Finance & Administration & Procurement	100%	https://search.open.canada.ca/hospitality/?owner_org=pmprb-cepmb&page=1&sort=start_date+desc
Reports tabled in Parliament	84	Within 30 days after tabling	Y	Finance & Administration & Procurement	100%	https://search.open.canada.ca/opendata/?collection=parliament_report
Apply to government entities or Departments, agencies, and other bodies subject to the Act and listed in Schedules I, I.1, or II of the *Financial Administration Act*						
Contracts over $10,000	86	Q1-3: Within 30 days after the quarter Q4: Within 60 days after the quarter	Y	Finance & Administration & Procurement	100%	https://search.open.canada.ca/contracts/?owner_org=pmprb-cepmb&page=1&sort=contract_date+desc
Grants & Contributions over $25,000	87	Within 30 days after the quarter	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Packages of briefing materials prepared for new or incoming	88(a)	Within 120 days after appointment	Y	Board Secretariat and Communications	N/A (NIL)	N/A

deputy heads or equivalent						
Titles and reference numbers of memoranda prepared for a deputy head or equivalent, that is received by their office	88(b)	Within 30 days after the end of the month received	Y	Board Secretariat and Communications	55%	https://search.open.canada.ca/briefing_titles/?owner_org=pmprb-cepmb&page=1&sort=date_received+desc
Packages of briefing materials prepared for a deputy head or equivalent's appearance before a committee of Parliament	88(c)	Within 120 days after appearance	Y	Board Secretariat and Communications	N/A (NIL)	N/A
Applies to government institutions that are departments named in Schedule I to the *Financial Administration Act* or portions of the core public administration named in Schedule IV to that Act (i.e. government institutions for which Treasury Board is the employer)						
Reclassification of positions	85	Within 30 days after the quarter	Y	Human Resources	N/A (NIL)	N/A
Apply to Ministers' Offices (therefore apply to any institution that performs proactive publication on behalf of a Minister's Office)						
Packages of briefing materials prepared by a government institution for new or incoming ministers	74(a)	Within 120 days after appointment	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

Titles and reference numbers of memoranda prepared by a government institution for the minister, that is received by their office	74(b)	Within 30 days after the end of the month received	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Package of question period notes prepared by a government institution for the minister and in use on the last sitting day of the House of Commons in June and December	74(c)	Within 30 days after last sitting day of the House of Common in June and December	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Packages of briefing materials prepared by a government institution for a minister's appearance before a committee of Parliament	74(d)	Within 120 days after appearance	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Travel Expenses	75	Within 30 days after the end of	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

		the month of reimbursement				
Hospitality Expenses	76	Within 30 days after the end of the month of reimbursement	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contracts over $10,000	77	Q1-3: Within 30 days after the quarter Q4: Within 60 days after the quarter	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ministers' Offices Expenses Note: This consolidated report is currently published by TBS on behalf of all institutions.	78	Within 120 days after the fiscal year	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix A: Access to Information and Privacy Act

– Delegation Order

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Access to Information Act and Privacy Act Delegation Order

Pursuant to subsection 95(1) of the Access to Information Act (ATIA), R.S.C.C. A-1 and subsection 73(1) of the Privacy Act, R.S.C., 1985 c. P-21, as amended:

I, Thomas J. Digby, Chairperson of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board, a government institution as listed in Schedule 1 (Section 3) of the Act, do herby authorize the Senior Director, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board to exercise, perform and to carry out the duties, functions, and powers of the Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator.

Dated, in Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario, this 25th day of November 2024.

E-SIGNED by Thomas Digby
on 2024-11-25 19:22:40 GMT

Thomas J. Digby
Chairperson of the Board
Patented Medicine Prices Review Board

Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada