



BY EMAIL

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Carla Qualtrough
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

In March, after examining the Government's 2019 Budget, PSAC publicly expressed concern that the funds budgeted to help end the Phoenix nightmare fell short of what is required. Our fears were confirmed during a meeting of the Senate Financial Committee on National Finance on April 3, 2019.

According to your government officials, you have made stabilizing the current payroll system, clearing the backlog of Phoenix cases, and successfully developing and launching the next generation payroll system your top priorities. However, Budget 2019 earmarks 70 percent of the Phoenix spending for this current financial year, leaving thirty percent or less to address future needs.

At the committee meeting, Senator Elizabeth Marshall asked why Phoenix funding drops off significantly after 2019, and how the government plans to maintain staffing levels in subsequent years. Your representative admitted the need to "seek funding in budget in 2020 for ongoing operational costs."

We were alarmed by this because it confirms what we have long suspected – that the government is well aware of the additional funding needed to address Phoenix for upcoming years and yet has not included it in its budgeting to date.

This approach makes it impossible for the government to provide any timelines or long-term planning estimates with regards to stabilizing Phoenix. Our members are being deliberately kept in the dark about when their pay nightmares will finally come to an end.

Full public financial disclosure, and the planning that goes along with it, would allow our members and the general public to have answers to key questions: how long is the government going to take to resolve the backlog of pay problems? ; how long will current staffing levels continue? ; is the government's timeline to stabilize Phoenix reasonable?

Now into its fourth year, the Phoenix disaster continues to plague families across the country. Federal public service workers deserve a clear and accountable timeline to

stabilize Phoenix, eliminate the backlog, and transition to a new pay system. On behalf of all those impacted by Phoenix, I would like an explanation as to why the government has not proactively budgeted for these needs past the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and when they can expect a formal timeline to accompany the government's work on Phoenix.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Aylward', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Chris Aylward
National President
Public Service Alliance of Canada