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Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Annual Report on Competition Policy Developments in Canada

-- 2022 --

This report is submitted by Canada to the Competition Committee FOR INFORMATION.

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Canada

Executive Summary

1. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a lasting impact on Canada's economy. As we continue to economically recover, competition has never been more important. Citizens want a strong economy – and a fair one. That's why we must do all we can as a country to build a more competitive Canada: one that benefits all consumers and businesses.
2. In 2021, the Government of Canada increased the Competition Bureau's budget by \$96 million over the following five years, and \$27.5 million ongoing thereafter. These funds enhance our ability to enforce the law and advocate for more competition.
3. This annual report showcases the progress we made in the 2021–2022 fiscal year. This includes our focus on issues and markets that matter to Canadians: the digital economy, telecommunications, health care and infrastructure.

1. Changes to competition laws and policies, proposed or adopted

1.1. Summary of new legal provisions of competition law and related legislation

4. No new provisions were introduced in fiscal year 2021-2022.

1.2. Other relevant measures, including new guidelines

1.2.1. Providing clarity on collaborations between competitors

5. Canadian firms face increasing pressure to adopt flexible business strategies to remain competitive in an economy that's changing constantly. Firms often look to combine capabilities and resources to lower their costs of production, enhance product quality and reduce the time needed to bring new products to market. Such pro-competitive collaborations can often benefit Canadians, by allowing firms to make more efficient use of resources and increase the pace of innovation. At the same time, certain competitor collaborations may result in significant harm to competition.

6. To ensure firms have clarity on when these collaborations may engage *the Competition Act*, the Bureau published the final version of its revised [Competitor Collaboration Guidelines](#). These updates help the business and legal communities understand how to identify and avoid the types of collaboration that can harm competition. The Bureau will continue to review and update its guidelines in light of experience, changing circumstances and court decisions.

1.2.2. Investing in our organization

7. Investing in our people is critical to our performance as an organization. We supported continuous learning and development while encouraging a culture of well-being, diversity and inclusiveness. We also created a centre of expertise on digital business

practices and technologies, which provides intelligence expertise for all directorates at the Bureau to better deliver on our work in the digital era.

Introducing CANARI

8. The Bureau made it a priority to advance proactive enforcement by expanding our intelligence capabilities and ability to detect potentially problematic conduct in the digital economy. We also made it a priority to be a world leader in our use of new tools and technologies, such as data analytics, to benefit our enforcement and advocacy work. In accordance with these priorities, we established a new Digital Enforcement and Intelligence Branch (CANARI), which strengthens the Competition Bureau's ability to protect and promote competition across Canada. CANARI stands for Competition through Analytics, Research and Intelligence, and it is the Bureau's high-tech version of the "canary in a coal mine."

9. CANARI is a team of competition specialists, intelligence experts and data scientists. The new Branch is as a centre of expertise on digital business practices and technologies. It provides market intelligence and specialized skills to all directorates of the Competition Bureau.

Building a more accessible website

10. To build a culture of competition in Canada, it's essential that all Canadians can equally access and understand the resources and news we publish online. It's important that everyone can understand the content as it's intended. For this reason, we updated our [website](#) with a more user-friendly design. This improves the way users search and navigate within the site, and ensures online information is relevant, accurate and timely. Key improvements include:

- website restructuring,
- content reorganization, and
- using plain language.

Keeping diversity and inclusion at the forefront

11. Diversity is a fact, but inclusion is a choice. At the Bureau, we consciously choose to create a diverse, inclusive workplace where our staff feel equally involved and valued. Our Diversity and Inclusiveness working group leads this charge. They strive to integrate diversity and inclusion lenses into decision making, business processes and daily work activities at the Bureau. The group continued to promote the "Your Voice" platform to ensure all our employees have a way to share their experiences with racism and discrimination, and to discuss ways we can improve.

12. We also launched our "Reflection Corner" initiative: a hosted, safe space discussion series on a range of important topics, including accessibility, racism, and indigenous matters. The goal is open, curious and respectful discussion where employees can critically self-reflect and confront tough realities relating to diversity, inclusion and anti-discrimination.

Ensuring representation across our organization

13. We also made it a priority to increase representation across our organization. To achieve this, we reviewed our staffing actions with a Diversity & Inclusiveness lens. This includes consulting on and considering our gaps when filling positions, as well as reviewing

every step in the hiring process to identify barriers. Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen our team by recruiting people with a range of unique perspectives. This will help us enhance performance, boost innovation and better serve Canadians.

Enhancing our Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

14. We gathered a group of Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) representatives from across the Bureau to gather feedback from staff on what's needed to apply GBA+ to their work. The feedback is being used to develop resources for Bureau staff. This will give staff practical tools to get a more nuanced understanding of how gender, race and other identity factors intersect with the Bureau's work. We are also developing our GBA+ group as a community of practise to provide input on integrating GBA+ into various work products and processes at the Bureau.

1.3. Government proposals for new legislation

15. As the digital economy continues to grow, it's essential that our policies and procedures grow with it. The Bureau made this clear in a February 2022 submission, responding to Senator Howard Wetston's invitation to comment on Canada's competition policy framework. Our submission, "[Examining the Canadian Competition Act in the Digital Era](#)," offered recommendations and analysis in support of dialogue about modernizing and strengthening Canadian competition policy, from the perspective of Canada's competition enforcement agency. The submission recommended updating the Competition Act so that all citizens and businesses in Canada can prosper in a competitive and innovative marketplace, and have an equitable opportunity to participate in the Canadian economy.

2. Enforcement of competition laws and policies

2.1. Action against anticompetitive practices

2.1.1. Cartels and Bid-Rigging

Cracking down on bid rigging

16. Bid rigging is an illegal practice that occurs when two or more persons agree that, in response to a call for bids or tenders, one or more of them will:

- not submit a bid,
- withdraw a bid, or
- submit a bid arrived at by agreement.

17. Cracking down on bid rigging is a top priority for the Bureau, because it harms consumers and taxpayers, robbing them of the benefits of the competitive pricing process. Without Bureau action, citizens may be forced to bear the cost of higher prices.

18. In January 2022, construction company [CPL Interiors Ltd.](#) was fined \$761,967 after pleading guilty in the Ontario Superior Court for its role in a criminal bid-rigging conspiracy. The bid-rigging scheme victimized condominium corporations in the Greater Toronto Area. The Bureau alleges that the accused conspired to commit fraud and rig bids for refurbishment contracts issued by private condominium corporations in the GTA between 2009 and 2014. Court proceedings are ongoing against the remaining accused.

On the lookout for bid rigging in the public sector

19. In June 2021, the [Bureau laid criminal charges](#) against a fifth person in connection with a conspiracy to rig bids for City of Gatineau infrastructure contracts. They were charged under the Criminal Code with:

- conspiracy to rig bids,
- conspiracy to commit fraud, and
- fraud over \$5,000.

20. This follows criminal charges that were first laid against four individuals in [June 2018](#). The Bureau found evidence that these engineering firms secretly fixed bid prices and strategically divided contracts awarded by the City of Gatineau among themselves. All four of those accused have since pleaded guilty for their respective roles in the scheme.

2.1.2. Deceptive Marketing Practices

Warning consumers about fake online reviews

21. Consumers count on reliable online reviews to help book a vacation, to buy an audiobook or to hire a contractor. These reviews help both consumers and businesses. Unfortunately, sometimes that glowing review was posted by an employee of the company or by someone hired to post it – not a real customer. This practice is sometimes done by a company trying to boost their own rating or lower their competitors’ ratings. Many Canadians fall victim to this deceptive marketing practice. In March 2022, the Bureau released a consumer alert, highlighting quick tips on how to recognize fake reviews to help them detect and avoid this type of scam.

Enforcement action in the digital economy

22. Safeguarding competitive markets in the digital economy is a priority for the Bureau. We advanced our investigation of whether Google is engaging in certain practices that harm competition in the online display advertising industry in Canada. In October 2021, [the Bureau obtained a court order](#) requiring Google to produce information relevant to our investigation. This investigation is ongoing: there’s no conclusion of wrongdoing at the time of publication.

23. In another case, the Bureau investigated the competitive impact of an exclusivity policy imposed by Turo Inc. on its car-sharing digital platform. This policy prohibited users who rent out their cars (known as hosts) from also listing the same cars on competing car-sharing platforms. When we began our investigation in the Summer of 2021, the policy applied to hosts in all countries where Turo operated. After the Bureau raised concerns over the exclusivity policy, Turo changed its terms of service to indicate that the exclusivity policy no longer applies in Canada.

Taking aim at greenwashing and environmental claims

24. Amid growing concerns about climate change, Canadians are looking for “green” products and services that are less harmful to the environment. Meeting that demand has come with an increase in false or misleading environmental ads or claims, also known as [greenwashing](#). Companies may make false or misleading claims that they’re reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Or that their products are made from recycled materials or have energy-saving benefits. They may use false or misleading images to portray their products and services as having less of a negative environmental impact than they really do. These

practices mislead consumers, preventing them from making informed purchasing decisions. Greenwashing also harms businesses who truthfully offer products that have measurably less environmental impact, hampering their ability to compete.

25. In January 2022 the Bureau reached an [agreement](#) with Keurig Canada Inc. to resolve concerns over false or misleading environmental claims made to consumers about the recyclability of its single-use Keurig® K-Cup® pods. The Bureau's investigation concluded that the company's claims about the recyclability of its single-use beverage pods were false or misleading in locations where they were not accepted for recycling. As part of the settlement, Keurig Canada agreed to:

- publish corrective notices about the recyclability of its product,
- change its recyclable claims and the packaging of the K-Cup pods,
- pay a \$3 million penalty,
- donate \$800,000 to a Canadian charity focused on environmental causes, and
- pay an additional \$85,000 for the costs of the Bureau's investigation.

Addressing unsubstantiated weight-loss claims

26. In January 2022, the Competition Bureau obtained a court order to [advance an ongoing investigation into weight loss claims](#) made by NuvoCare Health Sciences Inc. (NuvoCare) about certain natural health products. Those products include WeightOFF Max!, Forskolin+ and Forskolin Nx. The Bureau continued to investigate the marketing practices of NuvoCare under the deceptive marketing practices provisions of the *Competition Act*. We concluded that NuvoCare made marketing claims that gave the false or misleading impression that their products have been proven to cause weight loss. In April 2022, [The Bureau resolved its concerns](#) through a consent agreement reached with NuvoCare.

Protecting businesses and consumers from fraud

27. Fraud has a devastating impact, whether it's a business or a consumer who falls victim. The Bureau [took action in June 2021 against Mr. Terry Croteau of Ontario](#). Mr. Croteau was charged under the deceptive marketing provisions of the *Competition Act* for making false or misleading statements to promote the business listings, including failing to disclose the price and terms and conditions applicable to the services. He was also charged under the Criminal Code with fraud over \$5,000 for soliciting businesses via telemarketing, mail and fax messages, and for uttering a forged document: namely a letter claiming to be from a collection agency.

Protecting consumers from deceptive marketing claims throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

28. The Bureau made it a priority to continue targeting anti-competitive activity and deceptive claims related to the pandemic. We took action against numerous companies to protect consumers from being misled. For example, the Bureau [obtained a court order](#) to investigate potentially false or misleading claims made by Canada Tax Reviews when promoting services to Canadians wanting to apply for government benefit programs implemented in response to the pandemic. The Bureau will continue to do all in its power to protect consumers from deceptive marketing practices related to the pandemic.

2.1.3. Monopolistic Practices

Strengthening competition in the pharmaceutical sector

29. The Bureau advanced meaningful work to ensure competitive marketplaces in the pharmaceutical sector, working closely with our stakeholders. For example, we strengthened our [collaboration with Health Canada](#) on key issues in the pharmaceutical industry. Moving forward, we'll continue to collaborate with Health Canada's Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) to address issues such as refusals to supply samples of brand-name drugs to generic manufacturers. The Bureau will also continue to report to the HPFB when aspects of the regulatory framework for pharmaceuticals may affect competition. In turn, HPFB will provide feedback to the Bureau on competition-related issues affecting Canadians' access to medicines.

2.2. Mergers and acquisitions

30. Under the *Competition Act*, the Bureau has a mandate to review mergers to determine whether they're likely to result in a substantial lessening or prevention of competition. While many mergers don't raise competition concerns, some may harm competition through higher prices, reduced output, reduced quality of goods or services, or less innovation.

2.2.1. Fighting for competition in telecom

31. The Bureau obtained court orders to advance the review of the proposed acquisition of Shaw Communications Inc. by Rogers Communications Inc.. We continued to investigate whether the proposed transaction was likely to result in a substantial lessening or prevention of competition

2.2.2. Safeguarding competition for oil and gas waste services

32. In June 2021, the Bureau [sought to block](#) Secure Energy Services Inc.'s proposed acquisition of Tervita Secure and Tervita are the two largest suppliers of oil and gas waste services in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin (WCSB). In many areas, they're the only suppliers of these services. The Bureau's review of their proposed merger concluded it would likely result in a substantial decrease in competition in services provided at waste disposal facilities in the WCSB.

33. The Bureau [sought an order](#) from the Competition Tribunal to temporarily prevent this merger from closing until the Commissioner's application for an injunction could be heard. We also sought an order for an interim injunction. The Tribunal initially ruled that it could not grant either order. The Bureau appealed the decision. In February 2022, the Federal Court of Appeal said the [Tribunal can prevent a merger from closing](#) until an application for an injunction can be heard in full. This confirmed the Bureau's access to a powerful tool to preserve competition.

2.2.3. Oil recycling and industrial waste under control in Western Canada

34. To protect competition for customers of industrial waste services (IWS) and oil recycling services (ORS), the Bureau challenged [GFL Environmental Inc.'s purchase of Terrapure Environmental Inc.](#) Prior to the acquisition, Terrapure was GFL's closest competitor in many IWS and ORS markets within Western Canada. Our review found the elimination of this rivalry would likely result in increased prices, as well as reduced service quality for customers. We also concluded the acquisition would likely result in a substantial

lessening in the provision of ORS in eight regions across British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In November 2021, the Bureau [filed an application](#) with the Competition Tribunal for an order requiring GFL to sell any assets necessary to remedy this situation. The Bureau ultimately [reached an agreement](#) with GFL to resolve the Bureau's litigation and competition concerns through a consent agreement in April 2022.

2.2.4. Protecting competition in the agricultural sector

35. As a vital part of the economy, the agricultural sector needs competition to thrive. To ensure this, the Bureau conducted an [extensive inquiry](#) about alleged exclusionary conduct towards the Farmers Business Network.

36. The Bureau also continued to review proposed mergers in the agricultural sector. In July 2021, the Bureau reached an agreement with Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) and Blair's Family of Companies (Blair's) to resolve concerns related to their [proposed joint venture](#). Our review concluded that the proposed transaction would likely substantially lessen competition in the retailing of crop inputs, resulting in higher prices and lower service quality for local growers. In January 2022, [the Bureau approved ProSoils Inc.](#) as the buyer of the facility, preserving competition for the sale of crop inputs in the Lipton area.

2.2.5. Maintaining competition in the retail gasoline industry

37. In October 2021, an agreement was reached with MacEwen Petroleum Inc., related to their [proposed acquisition of 51 Quickie convenience stores](#): 22 of which included gas stations in Ontario and Quebec. The Bureau's review concluded that the proposed transaction would likely substantially lessen competition in the supply of gasoline to retail customers in Kemptville, Ontario. MacEwen addressed the Bureau's concerns by agreeing to sell the Quickie gas station in Kemptville. In November 2021, the Bureau [approved the sale](#) of this gas station to Centex Petroleum.

2.2.6. Preserving competition in the pulp and paper industry

38. In November 2021, an agreement was reached to address competition concerns with [the merger of two of Canada's largest pulp and paper manufacturers](#) - Karta Halten B.V. (Paper Excellence) and Domtar Corp. The Bureau's review concluded that the proposed transaction would likely lessen competition substantially for the purchase of wood fibre – a key input in the manufacture of pulp – from the Thompson/Okanagan region of British Columbia. As part of the agreement, Paper Excellence was required to sell Domtar Corp's pulp mill in Kamloops, British Columbia (the Kamloops Mill). The Bureau ultimately approved Kruger Specialty Papers Holding L.P., an affiliate of Kruger Inc., as the purchaser of the Kamloops mill. The Bureau is satisfied that the sale of the Kamloops mill will resolve the competitive issues arising from the proposed transaction.

2.2.7. Ensuring price assessments remain competitive

39. In December 2021, the Bureau [reached an agreement with S&P Global Inc.](#) to resolve competition concerns related to its proposed acquisition of IHS Markit Ltd (IHSM). Both companies operate price reporting agencies that supply price assessments for certain commodities, such as oil, coal and liquified petroleum gases (e.g., propane). Our review of the proposed merger concluded that the elimination of head-to-head competition between the companies would leave few effective competitors. S&P Global agreed to sell certain assets to News Corporation, which was approved by the Bureau as an acceptable purchaser of the assets.

2.2.8. Statistics on number, size and type of mergers notified and/or controlled under competition laws

40. In 2021-22, the Bureau concluded 252 merger reviews and registered 4 Consent Agreements with the Competition Tribunal. The Bureau achieved a 100% merger review service standard for non-complex cases and a 92% merger review service standard for complex cases.

2.3. Collaboration with partners

41. To foster a highly competitive and innovative marketplace, it's vital that the Bureau engage in ongoing collaborative efforts with domestic and international partners. Strong, mutually beneficial partnerships help advance shared competition goals and build awareness on key issues, while also taking action against unlawful practices.

2.3.1. International collaboration

Improving competition in digital markets

42. In November 2021, [the Bureau joined its counterparts from the G7 and guest nations in an Enforcers Summit](#) to discuss opportunities for international cooperation to improve competition in digital markets. The Bureau will continue to collaborate with our international partners, as protecting and promoting competition in digital markets is vital for Canadian consumers and businesses.

Serving as President of the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network

43. The Bureau held a one-year Presidency of the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network from July 2020–2021. During that time, we:

- led the network of consumer protection and law enforcement authorities from over 65 countries, representing approximately five billion consumers worldwide,
- chaired the development, adoption and implementation of the [ICPEN Strategy Plan 2021–2024](#), which will guide the Network for the next four years,
- co-led a Working Group on Enforcement in the Digital Economy and a Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and hosted a virtual conference, where attendees discussed:
 - artificial intelligence,
 - online consumer behaviour,
 - digital platforms,
 - misleading environmental claims, and
 - enforcement during COVID-19.

44. More than 300 participants from over 45 countries attended the sessions.

45. With our tenure concluded as President, the Bureau continues to actively participate within the network to achieve results for the benefit of Canadian consumers.

Collaborating beyond borders

46. In February 2022, the Bureau joined a new [international working group](#) focused on sharing information to identify and prevent potentially anti-competitive conduct in the global supply and distribution of goods. The working group includes competition authorities from:

- the United States,
- Australia,
- New Zealand, and
- the United Kingdom

47. In light of pandemic-related disruptions to global markets, the competition authorities will share information on potentially anti-competitive conduct affecting global and domestic supply chains. The purpose of the working group is to help identify attempts by businesses to use supply chain disruptions as a cover for price-fixing or other collusive activities that involve competitors cooperating instead of competing with each other.

Advancing gender-inclusive competition policy

48. The Bureau continued ongoing work with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to advance our understanding of gender-inclusive competition policy. The OECD received a grant from the Government of Canada to support further research on the intersection between gender and competition. In particular, the OECD has explored:

- how a gender lens might help deliver a more effective competition policy by identifying additional relevant features of the market, and
- the behaviour of consumers and businesses.

49. The OECD was also exploring ways in which competition policy can help address gender inequality. Seven research projects identified several implications for our work. The final research papers were presented at a virtual public conference in October 2021.

2.3.2. Strengthening domestic relationships*Spreading awareness about impersonation scams*

50. Financial losses due to scams and fraud increased in 2021 by a shocking 130% year-over-year. The prevalence of this issue is why the Bureau joined forces with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in March 2022 to lead the 18th annual [Fraud Prevention Month](#). This campaign focused on impersonation scams. We posted a series of fraud prevention awareness material on social media. The Bureau will continue raising awareness about online fraud to protect our communities and prevent scammers from robbing Canadians of their hard-earned money.

Being a world-leader in antitrust compliance initiatives

51. The Bureau launched and continued initiatives to help businesses comply with competition law and safeguard against the risks of anti-competitive conduct in their operations. We continued to work with procurement officials across all levels of government to raise general awareness of the *Competition Act* and to promote our [compliance bulletin](#), which provides guidance to businesses on how to set up credible, effective compliance programs. These compliance programs help businesses detect and

correct unlawful conduct quickly before it damages their company. We also launched a podcast on competition issues and developed training videos to help procurement agencies spot and report bid rigging. In recognition of these initiatives, the Bureau won the Concurrences [2021 Antitrust Compliance Award](#) in the Agency Initiatives category for “Best Antitrust Compliance Initiatives.”

3. The role of competition authorities in the formulation and implementation of other policies

52. Competition is an essential part of a thriving economy. As Canada’s competition authority, we regularly advocate for increased competition in sectors that matter most to Canadians. The Bureau encourages policymakers and regulators to adopt pro-competitive policies that drive Canada’s economic growth – crucial in the wake of the global pandemic. We also deepened our international and domestic relationships to protect and promote competition in the marketplace, and to advance work on gender considerations in competition policy.

3.1. Supporting digital healthcare through pro-competitive policies

53. Pro-competitive policies in the health care sector can encourage innovation by health care providers and businesses. They can lead to more choice, improved quality, and greater access to products and services for Canadians. In 2021–22, we issued a [market study notice](#), advanced the study and deepened our understanding of the competitive dynamics of digitization in the health care sector. It has three study topics:

- data and information,
- products and services, and
- health care providers.

54. The topics and questions were developed based on feedback received from stakeholders and citizens as part of the Bureau’s 2020 public consultation and digital health services survey.

3.2. Speaking up for competition

55. In April 2021, the Bureau’s Commissioner [addressed](#) the Canadian Bar Association’s Competition Law Spring Online Symposium, where he highlighted the importance of fostering inclusive growth through competition. He emphasized the importance of having an inclusivity lens: not only for promotional efforts, but also when choosing cases in competition enforcement work.

56. In October 2021, the Commissioner of Competition returned to address the Canadian Bar Association’s [Fall Symposium](#), where he championed the power of competition in building a more prosperous Canada. He emphasized the importance of competition – including the need for modernization of competition laws in Canada – as the country pivots from pandemic crisis management to economic recovery.

3.3. Making the switch: Putting competition to work for consumers

57. Research conducted for the Bureau found that Canadians could be saving hundreds of dollars each year by changing their service providers for things such as their cell phone,

internet, TV, banking and insurance. Switching service providers or renegotiating contracts makes providers compete for consumers' business. This, in turn, can lower their monthly bills and help them get better products and services. In February 2022, the Bureau launched its second annual [“Switch Week” campaign](#), aimed at spreading awareness of how Canadian consumers can make competition work for them. Throughout Switch Week, we issued practical tips and tools to Canadians on social and news media. This included publishing a [Switch Week Toolkit](#) to help Canadian consumers keep track of the end dates to their service provider contracts.

3.4. Addressing the “Right to Repair” movement

58. Consumers across the country have made it clear that they want more autonomy over their own devices. This has been seen through numerous “Right to Repair” campaigns, which call on federal lawmakers to give Canadians more control in how they maintain and repair the electronic equipment they buy, and what products and services they may interoperate with. To do this, legislative and regulatory amendments are being considered to make it easier for repairers (other than those who are part of the manufacturer’s repair network) to repair devices. The Bureau understands the benefits of competition. That’s why, we submitted our observations to two public consultations advocating for the rights of Canadians in this important area. Specifically, we participated in the consultation on [a modern copyright framework](#) and the consultation on [value retention processes](#).

4. Resources of competition authorities

4.1. Resources overall (current numbers and change over previous year):

59. The Bureau’s budget for 2021-22 was \$59.5 million, including \$18.4 million from user fees (including \$18.4 from pre-merger notification and advance ruling certificates, and \$22K in written opinions), compared to a budget of \$52.1 million, including \$13.7 million from user fees in 2020-2021.

4.1.1. Annual budget (in your currency and USD):

60. The Bureau’s budget for 2021-22 was \$59.5 million (47.6 million USD).¹

4.1.2. Number of employees (person-years):

61. During the 2021–22 fiscal year, the Bureau had a staff of 399 full-time employees.

62. Most Bureau staff fill investigative and advocacy roles.

63. The Bureau hires employees with a diversity of backgrounds, including individuals who have studied in economics and law. Specific information related to employees’ university degrees is no longer tracked

4.2. Human resources (person-years):

64. Approximately 140 employees are dedicated to competition enforcement. Approximately 52 employees work in the Mergers Directorate, 49 are in the Cartels Directorate, and 39 in the Monopolistic Practices Directorate. The remaining employees

¹ Based on the Bank of Canada CAD-USD exchange rate as of March 31, 2022.

are found in deceptive marketing, advocacy, communications, international, electronic evidence gathering and analysis, etc.

4.3. Period covered by the above information:

65. The above information covers fiscal year 2021-2022.

5. Closing Remarks

66. On the enforcement side, the Competition Bureau took action against more than a dozen businesses to stop potentially deceptive marketing practices. On the promotion side, we continued to champion the adoption of policies aimed at strengthening competition and building a culture of competition in Canada. We continued to partner both domestically and internationally to promote the role of competition in a vibrant economy. We established the Digital Enforcement and Intelligence Branch (CANARI) within the Bureau. This centre of expertise will boost our intelligence gathering efforts and support our existing branches on digital business practices.

67. Everything we do serves to empower consumers and strengthen Canada's economy, so it can be as vibrant, innovative, and productive as possible. This annual report showcases the decisive steps we continue to take toward greater competition.