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**Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs  
COMPETITION COMMITTEE**

**Annual Report on Competition Policy Developments in Canada**

**-- 2023 --**

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

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## Canada

### Executive Summary

1. Throughout the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Canadian economy dealt with a cost of living that increased at a rate not seen in decades. More and more Canadians began recognizing the importance of competition in our economy. That is why the Competition Bureau has done everything it can to build a more competitive Canada.
2. In June 2022, important amendments to the *Competition Act* became law. These amendments are an important step in helping to modernize Canada's competition law and building a more competitive Canadian economy.
3. Our accomplishments showcased in this report are consistent with our Strategic Vision for 2020-2024: to be a world-leading competition agency, one that is at the forefront of the digital economy and champions a culture of competition for Canada.

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

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

4. In June 2022, important amendments to the *Competition Act* became law, helping strengthen the Bureau's ability to protect Canadians from anticompetitive activities. These amendments:

- increase maximum fines and penalties;
- prohibit wage-fixing and no-poach agreements between employers;
- clarify that drip pricing (offering a product or service at a price that is unattainable because consumers must also pay additional charges or fees) is a deceptive marketing practice;
- allow private access to the Competition Tribunal for those impacted by abuse of dominance; and
- enable more effective enforcement in today's digital economy.

### 1.2. Other relevant measures, including new guidelines

#### 1.2.1. Modernizing Canada's competition laws

5. To assist Canadians in understanding the new amendments and their impact, the Bureau released our [Guide to the 2022 amendments to the Competition Act](#) and hosted public online information sessions for stakeholders.

6. In January 2023, the Bureau invited interested parties to provide comments on our new proposed [Enforcement guidance on wage-fixing and no-poaching agreements](#), following the new amendments to the *Competition Act*. It is now an offence for unaffiliated employers to agree to fix, maintain, decrease, or control wages or other terms of employment, or to not solicit or hire each other's employees.

7. In October 2022, the Bureau published its new [Information Bulletin on Transparency](#). This resource explains the approach the Bureau takes in communicating with different groups during its investigations. This new plain-language bulletin reflects the Bureau's ongoing commitment to transparency.

#### 1.2.2. Investing in our organization

##### *Expanding our digital footprint*

8. The Bureau continued to grow the Digital Enforcement and Intelligence Branch. This new Branch is a centre of expertise on digital business practices and technologies and provides specialized skills, including a centralized intelligence function. The Branch acts as an early warning system for potential competition issues at all stages, from initial intelligence to post-investigation. It acts as an internal think-tank on how businesses are using data and technology. The Branch's work includes:

- providing strategic advice to enforcement teams;
- providing proactive intelligence;
- analyzing the effectiveness of remedies; and
- analyzing how businesses may exploit consumer behaviour.

9. This plays an important role in making innovation central to the Bureau's work.

#### *Keeping inclusiveness at the forefront*

10. In May 2022, the Bureau made changes to our public-facing forms to be more inclusive. For example, we removed the salutations drop-down menu, which offered only gendered options like Mr., Mrs., or Ms. These actions made the Bureau a leader in terms of inclusivity within the federal government and better aligned us with our international partners.

#### *Breaking down language barriers*

11. The Bureau prioritizes effectively communicating with Canadians. In November 2022, the Bureau launched a plain-language campaign to encourage and help employees to write more clearly, avoid jargon, and maintain simplicity in communication. The Bureau launched an internal portal for employees to learn more about the initiative, as well as access to plain language resources. We created an editorial board and are developing a specialized Style Guide for plain language.

#### *Getting into the Learning Zone*

12. The Bureau is committed to the continuous learning and development of our employees, while encouraging a culture of well-being. In March 2023, the Bureau's Learning Unit launched a Learning Zone – a one-stop source for our employees' learning and development needs. It provides access to courses, resources, and tools. It was designed to further support employees and to assist the Bureau develop and manage our growing workforce.

### **1.3. Government proposals for new legislation**

#### *1.3.1. Recommendations for future amendments*

13. In early 2023, the Government of Canada launched a [consultation on the future of competition policy](#) in Canada. Given the Bureau's experience administering and enforcing the *Competition Act*, we submitted our recommendations to strengthen and improve competition law in Canada. Our [submission](#) included more than 50 recommendations, including:

- retooling the merger review framework to address issues with market concentration and harm to the public interest in competition;
- giving the Bureau formal information-gathering powers for market studies; and
- streamlining investigative and judicial processes to make them more timely and efficient.

#### *Clarifying section 48 of the Competition Act*

14. The Bureau took a closer look at section 48 of the *Competition Act* and raised its concern over the lack of definitions for ambiguous terms. Section 48 is a criminal provision that prohibits anyone from reaching agreements that unreasonably limit certain types of opportunities for players in professional sport leagues. Given that the way the provision is written presents significant challenges to its enforcement, the Bureau will not take action under this section as it is currently written.

## 2. Enforcement of competition laws and policies

### 2.1. Action against anticompetitive practices

#### 2.1.1. Cartels

15. Rigging bids on public contracts is a serious crime that raises costs for governments and amounts to a theft of taxpayer dollars. Cracking down on bid-rigging is a top priority for the Bureau.

16. In October 2022, [a fifth engineering executive pled guilty](#) in the Bureau's Gatineau bid-rigging case after the Bureau uncovered evidence of bid-rigging on a total of 21 contracts awarded by the City of Gatineau between 2004 and 2008. This conduct defrauded the municipality out of an estimated \$1.8 million. Francois Paulhus, a former executive of engineering firm Genivar (now WSP Canada) was sentenced to pay a \$25,000 fine, plus a 15% surcharge.

17. In another case, [a seventh settlement](#) was reached in relation to bid-rigging that targeted municipal infrastructure contracts in other parts of Quebec. Engineering firm, BPR-Infrastructure Inc. (BPR), was ordered to pay \$485,000 for participating in bid-rigging related to consulting engineering services in Quebec City and Montreal between 2002 and 2011. This settlement takes into account the fact that BPR had previously reimbursed overpayments related to the bid-rigging to the Government of Quebec's Voluntary Reimbursement Program. This is the seventh settlement resulting from the Bureau's ongoing investigation, which saw BPR and six other engineering firms ordered to pay a total of \$12,535,000 for their respective roles in the bid-rigging scheme.

18. In December 2022, five individuals were [charged](#) following a Bureau investigation into an alleged conspiracy to divide up contracts awarded by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. The charges allege that between approximately December 2011 and February 2016, these contractors manipulated at least 89 contracts, collectively valued at approximately \$4.5 million, for refurbishment services for social housing units.

#### 2.1.2. Deceptive Marketing

19. The Bureau is determined to pursue those who use deceptive marketing to cheat Canadians out of their hard-earned money.

##### *Deceptive telemarketing*

20. In October 2022, Terry Croteau pled guilty to fraud over \$5,000, using a forged document, and deceptive telemarketing. In 2021, a Bureau investigation led to multiple criminal charges under the *Competition Act* and the *Criminal Code* against Mr. Croteau, alleging the use of deceptive telemarketing and false or misleading statements to get Canadian businesses to sign up for listings in online directories.

##### *Misleading weight-loss claims*

21. In April 2022, the Bureau reached an agreement to [resolve concerns in NuvoCare Health Sciences Inc.'s misleading weight-loss claims](#) case. A Bureau investigation concluded that NuvoCare Health Sciences Inc. and its founder, Ryan Foley, made claims that gave the misleading and false impression that their products had been proven to cause weight-loss. We found that their claims were not supported by proper or adequate testing. The Bureau resolved our concerns through a consent agreement that will prevent both Mr. Foley and NuvoCare from making false, misleading, or unsupported marketing claims to

Canadians. In addition, both Mr. Foley and NuvoCare agreed to pay \$100,000 in total penalties, change or remove all weight-loss claims made about their products, and establish and maintain a corporate compliance program.

### *2.1.3. Abuse of Dominance*

#### *Protecting innovative alternatives in the digital economy*

22. Safeguarding competitive markets in the digital economy is a priority for the Bureau. In May 2022, we announced that, following our investigation, Turo Inc. amended their [terms of service in Canada](#) to remove an exclusivity policy imposed 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. This is good news for competition in the car-sharing space and in digital markets where anticompetitive conduct can lock in a company's strong market position and prevent innovative alternatives from entering or growing in the market.

#### *Promoting and protecting consumers and innovation in the health care sector*

23. In May 2022, we closed [two investigations](#) into potentially anticompetitive patent litigation settlement agreements involving pharmaceutical drugs. These investigations were launched as a result of the Bureau's proactive monitoring of agreements between branded and generic drug manufacturers. Evidence gathered during these investigations suggested that the agreements under review did not contravene the *Competition Act*, but the Bureau remains of the view that these types of agreements do have the potential to result in significant economic harm. We will continue proactive enforcement efforts in this area to protect competition and innovation. The Bureau has called for legislative changes to ensure that the Bureau is aware of, and can protect Canadians from, these types of potentially anticompetitive settlement agreements.

24. In March 2023, the Bureau reached [an agreement with Isologic Innovative Radiopharmaceuticals Inc.](#) to address competition concerns with its contracting practices in the radiopharmaceutical industry. These practices required certain customers, such as hospitals and clinics, to exclusively purchase some products directly from Isologic. This practice was found to contravene the abuse of dominance provisions of the *Competition Act*. To resolve the Bureau's concerns, Isologic agreed to enter into a consent agreement. Isologic will remove certain terms in its contracts with some customers, including legal exclusivity clauses. Isologic will also include a term in any multi-year contracts with these customers, permitting them to terminate the contract prior to its expiration.

## **2.2. Mergers and acquisitions**

### *2.2.1. Answering the call for Canadians*

25. In May 2022, the Bureau announced it would [challenge the proposed \\$26 billion merger of Rogers Communications and Shaw Communications](#) and seek a full block of the transaction. In the Bureau's application to the Competition Tribunal, we alleged that removing Shaw as a competitor would threaten to undo the significant progress it had made in introducing more competition in an already concentrated wireless services market, where Bell Canada, Telus Corporation, and Rogers serve approximately 87% of the market. Our investigation determined that, since entering the market in 2016, Shaw had provided services to over two million customers and was Rogers' closest competitor, driving down prices and making wireless data more accessible to consumers.

26. During the investigation, the Bureau conducted a comprehensive review of the evidence collected, including over 100 meetings with stakeholders, the review of over three million records, as well as 7,800 submissions from the public. Following this in-depth investigation, the Bureau's position was that the transaction would likely harm millions of Canadian consumers in Alberta and British Columbia, through higher prices, lower-quality services, and lost innovation.

27. As a result, the Commissioner filed an application asking the Competition Tribunal to block the merger. The hearing took place over five weeks in November and December 2022. The Tribunal subsequently released a decision dismissing the Commissioner's application. The Commissioner then appealed the Tribunal's decision, but the Federal Court of Appeal ultimately [dismissed that appeal](#). Despite this result, the Bureau remains committed to vigorously protecting and promoting competition for Canadians in telecom markets.

### ***2.2.2. Fuelling competitive markets in the gasoline industry***

28. The rising price of gasoline is concerning for all Canadians, which is why the Bureau works hard to preserve competition in these markets. The Bureau obtained consent agreements with Parkland Corporation and Federated Cooperatives Limited (FCL) in relation to their [acquisition of Husky Energy's retail gas stations](#). After Parkland and FCL announced their separate purchase agreements to acquire collectively 337 Husky stations throughout central and western Canada, the Bureau conducted a thorough investigation and determined that both proposed transactions would likely result in a substantial lessening of competition in the retail supply of gasoline in local markets across central and western Canada.

29. In another case, the Bureau reached an [agreement with Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.](#) and its affiliates in relation to their proposed acquisition of Wilson Fuel Company (Wilsons). Wilsons operates retail gas locations in the Maritimes. After the Bureau's investigation, we concluded that the proposed transaction would likely substantially lessen or prevent competition in the supply of retail gasoline in a number of markets in the Maritimes. As part of the agreement, Couche-Tard agreed to sell 46 Wilsons sites and supply agreements and one Couche-Tard gas station.

### ***2.2.3. Preserving competition in Canada's admixture systems market***

30. The Bureau entered into a [consent agreement](#) with Sika AG to address [competition concerns with its acquisition of MBCC Group](#). The Bureau's investigation revealed concerns with the post-merger increase in market power in the supply of admixture. This could lead to increased prices and decreases in other non-price aspects of competition. Sika AG agreed to sell certain MBCC Group assets to a single independent purchaser.

31. The Bureau worked closely with its international counterparts from the European Commission, the United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority, the United States Department of Justice, the New Zealand Commerce Commission, and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

### ***2.2.4. Safeguarding competition for industrial waste and oil recycling services in Western Canada***

32. In April 2022, the Bureau [reached an agreement with GFL Environmental Inc.](#) (GFL) to resolve litigation related to its acquisition of Terrapure Environmental Ltd. The Bureau challenged the acquisition before the Competition Tribunal after concluding that it had likely substantially lessened competition in the markets for industrial waste services

and oil recycling services in western Canada. To resolve the Bureau's concerns, GFL [agreed](#) to divest seven facilities that provide industrial waste or oil recycling services in Western Canada.

### ***2.2.5. Unfolding new opportunities in the pulp and paper industry***

33. In December 2022, the Bureau entered into a [consent agreement](#) with Domtar Corporation to address competition concerns regarding their [acquisition of Resolute Forest Products Inc.](#) After an in-depth review, we concluded that the proposed transaction would likely provide Domtar with sole-buyer power, enabling them to pay lower than competitive prices to suppliers of northern bleached softwood kraft pulp in Central and Eastern Canada, and in the purchasing of wood fibre from private lands in northwestern Ontario. To resolve these concerns, Domtar agreed to sell its Dryden pulp mill and Thunder Bay pulp and paper mill to two independent purchasers approved by the Commissioner.

### ***2.2.6. Preserving competition supply of pharmacy products and services***

34. Competition was preserved in rural Saskatchewan when the Bureau reached an [agreement](#) with Neighbourly Pharmacy Inc. relating to their acquisition of Rubicon Pharmacies. The Bureau determined that this transaction was likely to result in a loss of competition for retail pharmacy services in Kamsack and Shaunavon, SK, as Neighbourly would own both pharmacies in each location. To resolve the Bureau's concerns, Neighbourly agreed to sell one of the two pharmacies in each town to encourage and maintain competition in rural Canada.

### ***2.2.7. Protecting competition along the pipelines***

35. In July 2022, the Bureau registered a [consent agreement](#) with the Competition Tribunal addressing our concerns with the [proposed joint venture](#) between Pembina Pipeline Corporation (Pembina) and KKR's Global Infrastructure Funds (KKR). In particular, the Bureau had concerns with the acquisition of a 50% interest in the Key Access Pipeline System (KAPS) project resulting from the associated purchase of the remaining portion of Energy Transfer Canada ULC not already held by KKR's Global Infrastructure Funds.

36. Following the investigation, the Bureau concluded that the proposed joint venture would likely substantially lessen competition in Northern Alberta for the transportation of natural gas liquids. To remedy these concerns, the consent agreement requires Pembina and KKR to sell Energy Transfer Canada ULC's interest in the KAPS to a third party. This agreement will help protect competition in pipeline transportation for natural gas liquids in Alberta and keep prices lower for consumers and businesses down the line.

### ***2.2.8. Competition takes to the skies***

37. In May 2022, the Minister of Transportation commenced a public interest review of the proposed merger between WestJet Airlines. and Sunwing Airlines. In response to the review, the Bureau delivered a detailed [report](#) to the Minister. The report concluded that the proposed acquisition would likely eliminate competition between the two airlines and tour operators in certain areas, and that prices would likely increase due to fewer choices and a decrease in services for Canadians. The Bureau will continue to advocate for Canadians to ensure that travelers reap the benefits of competition.

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

38. In 2022-23, the Bureau concluded 208 merger reviews and registered 7 consent agreements with the Competition Tribunal. The Bureau reached a 98.5% service standard for non-complex cases and a 92% service standard for complex cases.

## **2.3. Collaboration with Partners**

39. 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.

40. This year, on the international front, we continued our regular cooperation with our enforcement partners. This includes an international working group focused on sharing information to identify and preventing potentially anti-competitive conduct in the global supply and distribution of goods. The working group consists of Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

41. On the domestic front, we continued to work cooperatively with our counterparts at the Public Prosecution Services of Canada and other domestic agencies.

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

### **3.1. Promoting competition in Canada**

#### ***3.1.1. Advancing a culture of competition***

42. In 2022, the Bureau conducted studies into key sectors and actively discussed competition in a green economy. It is important for the Bureau to support competition within the different sectors of Canada's economy through research and the exchange of ideas.

#### ***Growing competition in the green economy***

43. Environmental and sustainability measures are playing a bigger role in how businesses compete to attract customers and investors. Consumers are changing how they shop based on what they know about the environment. This led the Bureau to host a [Competition and Green Growth Summit](#) which saw international competition experts, regulators, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, lawyers, and academics come together to discuss the interaction between competition policy and sustainability goals. The Summit attracted almost 400 people from more than 30 countries either virtually or in person. The Summit had many [takeaways](#) – participants agreed that competitive markets are key to helping support a greener economy. The Summit's valuable insights will help the Bureau continue its work in the intersection between competition and green growth.

#### ***Supporting digital health care***

44. Procompetitive 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. This is why the Bureau launched a market study of Canada's health care sector. The objective of the study was to examine

how to support digital health care in Canada through pro-competitive policies. This year, we released a total of three reports emerging from the study:

- [Unlocking the Power of Health Care Data](#) was published in June 2022 and made major recommendations to Canadian policy-makers on ways to make it easier to access and share personal health information—securely and efficiently—to benefit competition.
- [Improving Health Care Through Procompetitive Procurement Policy](#) was published in October 2022 and included recommendations for federal, provincial and territorial governments to modernize public procurement processes used to acquire digital health care products and services.
- [Empowering Health Care Providers in the Digital Era](#) was published in November 2022 and provided recommendations on how to improve the ways health care providers work within Canada’s public health system.

#### *Advocating for competition in the grocery sector*

45. With rising inflation, Canadian consumers have seen their purchasing power decline. This is especially true when buying groceries. Grocery prices in Canada have increased at the fastest rate in 40 years. This is why, in October 2022, the Bureau launched a [market study](#) of grocery store competition in Canada. The goal of the market study is to examine various issues, and recommend measures that governments can take to help improve competition in the sector. The study will allow the Bureau to highlight opportunities for change that can make it easier for new businesses to compete and innovate.

#### **3.1.2. Education and public outreach**

46. Awareness is key to preventing and avoiding anti-competitive behaviour. In 2022, the Bureau educated consumers and businesses through its education and outreach initiatives.

#### *Tricks of the trade: What’s in a fraudster’s toolbox?*

47. The beginning of March 2023 marked the launch of the 19th edition of Fraud Prevention Month (FPM). The Bureau, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre co-chaired FPM 2023. This year’s campaign concentrated on educating Canadians about the “fraudster’s toolbox” in the digital economy – the most common tricks, tools and tactics used by scammers to deceive victims and commit fraud. As part of FPM, we released a [consumer alert on the topic of cryptocurrency investment frauds](#) targeting Canadian consumers and businesses.

#### *Adding more tools to our toolbox*

48. In June 2022, the Competition Bureau launched its [Collusion Risk Assessment Tool](#) for procurement agents. This innovative new tool is a free, interactive online resource available to both public and private sector procurement officers and purchasing agents. It can be used as part of their day-to-day due diligence efforts to protect and promote competitive bidding processes. Procurement agents can use the tool by completing the 10-minute questionnaire about a call for bids that they are planning. The tool will then produce a collusion risk score based on the specifics of the project, and will offer tailored best practices to mitigate those risks. Procurement agents thus gain an early warning about

potential risks of bid-rigging, as well as mitigation strategies that can be taken to minimize those risks and help ensure a fair, competitive process from the start.

### *Tuning in to competition*

49. In December 2022, the Bureau joined forces with the Retail Council of Canada to record a [four-episode series](#) on the “Voice of Retail Podcast”. The series was created to help retailers understand the laws governing and protecting them in Canada. The episodes provide an overview of the Bureau’s work and mandate as well as a deeper dive into our work investigating deceptive marketing practices, collusion, and abuse of dominance.

## **3.2. Advocating for pro-competitive regulations**

50. Although the Bureau is not directly responsible for creating competition policy, we play a crucial role in advising policy makers on competition matters. In 2022, the Bureau provided its insight and expertise to a diverse range of government agencies and officials to advocate for pro-competitive policies.

### **3.2.1. Planting the seeds for competition**

51. This year, the Bureau took an active role in the legislative review of the Cannabis Act. We shared our [submission](#) with Health Canada’s expert panel in the spring of 2023. The focus of our submission is specifically on the potential impacts of the Cannabis Act on competition and innovation within the cannabis industry. Our submission examines issues such as packaging and labelling, potency limits, and regulatory fees from a competition perspective. The Bureau believes that stronger competition in the cannabis industry would help foster innovation and benefit consumers by providing them with increased choice and quality. Importantly, these benefits would serve to further displace illicit market activity and bolster the legal cannabis industry.

### **3.2.2. Engaging with senators and members of Parliament**

52. We value the opportunity to have open and transparent discussions with Canadian parliamentary committees. This year, the Bureau made a total of five appearances before parliamentary committees:

- In May 2022, we appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy (BANC) regarding *Competition Act* amendments included in Bill C-19;
- In June 2022, we appeared before the Standing Committee on Industry and Technology (INDU) with respect to their study of Small and Medium Enterprises;
- In November 2022, we appeared before BANC once more on the state of the Canadian economy and inflation;
- In January 2023, we appeared before INDU again, this time, concerning the proposed acquisition of Shaw by Rogers; and
- In March 2023, we appeared before the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) regarding their study of food-price inflation.

### **3.2.3. Reducing red tape for small businesses**

53. In July 2022, the Bureau sent a [letter to the Deputy Minister’s Office of Red Tape Reduction and Small Business](#) for the Ontario Provincial Government. In the letter, we

encouraged reducing regulatory red tape and promoting procompetitive policies. We provided our Competition Assessment Toolkit for consideration to help Ontario's red tape reduction efforts and to assist policy-makers in assessing the competition impact of their regulations. Our toolkit helps policymakers across Canada assess the impact of new and existing policies on competition and innovation in the marketplace. We will continue to provide our Toolkit to regulators because more competition empowers consumers and drives businesses to become more productive, improve product quality, and decrease prices.

## 4. Resources of competition authorities

### 4.1. Resources overall

54. The Bureau's budget for 2022-23 was \$67.5 million, including \$15.1 million from user fees, compared to a budget of \$59.5 million, including \$18.4 million from user fees for 2021-22.

#### 4.1.1. Annual budget (in CAD and USD)

55. The Bureau's budget for 2022-23 was \$67.5 million (\$49.9 million USD)<sup>1</sup>.

#### 4.1.2. Number of employees (person-years)

56. In the fiscal year 2022-23, approximately 414 full-time employees worked at the Bureau.

57. Most Bureau staff fill investigative and advocacy roles rather than economists and lawyer roles.

58. 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

59. Approximately 417 employees are dedicated to competition enforcement. Approximately 53 employees work in the Mergers Directorate, 53 are in the Cartels Directorate, and 45 in the Monopolistic Practices Directorate. The remaining employees are found in deceptive marketing, advocacy, international, electronic evidence gathering and analysis, digital intelligence, etc.

### 4.3. Period covered by the above information

60. The above information covers fiscal year 2022-23.

## 5. Closing Remarks

61. The Bureau continued to take enforcement actions in key sectors of the economy such as health, telecommunications and infrastructure. We also cracked down on numerous businesses to stop potentially deceptive marketing practices. Our bid-rigging investigations

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the Bank of Canada CAD-USD exchange rate as of March 31, 2023.

in the public and private sectors protected the integrity of a competitive marketplace, and our merger reviews preserved competition in several industries.

62. The Bureau also continued to promote and advocate for a culture of competition in Canada. We actively continued to make recommendations and provide insights to policy makers. We also conducted market studies in key sectors and hosted a summit on green growth and competition.

63. The year truly showcased the importance of increased competition in Canada. Competition is a key pillar of our economy, and we must take action to ensure that our competition law and policy are fit for purpose in the modern economy. We will continue to work hard to drive affordability and economic growth for the benefit of all Canadians.