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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR THE HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Subject: **GOVERNMENT SPENDING, WE CHARITY AND THE CANADA STUDENT SERVICE GRANT**

Meeting(s): Various
Public

Overview: This briefing note provides the list of documents and information to be submitted by witnesses the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The list covers the public meetings from 16 July 2020 to 6 August 2020.

Andrew Barton
Brett Capwell
Sylvain Fleury
Michaël Lambert-Racine
Economic, Fiscal and Monetary Policy Section
Parliamentary Information and Research Service

10 August 2020

Meeting Date and Link to Testimony	Witness	Description of Document/Information Offered or Requested	Contextual Notes
Thursday, July 16, 2020	Hon. Bardish Chagger (Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth)	A written copy of Minister Chagger's statement to the committee.	Minister Chagger said "Mr. Chair, I can offer my words at the end, if you would like, so they can be shared. I will stick to English so there are no translation issues."
Thursday, July 16, 2020	Ms. Rachel Wernick (Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Skills and Employment Branch, Department of Employment and Social Development)	A confirmation of the number of officials and ministers to which WE sent a proposal for a social entrepreneurship program.	Ms. Wernick said "I don't have that information in front of me, but I'm happy to provide that in writing to the committee."
Thursday, July 16, 2020	Ms. Rachel Wernick	A list of organizations that were contacted to inquire whether they'd be willing to administer the program.	Ms. Wernick said "I can provide a written list of the organizations we contacted."
Thursday, July 16, 2020	Ms. Rachel Wernick	A copy of a WE proposal that was circulating prior to April 19.	When asked if she could provide this proposal, Ms. Wernick said "Yes, this is possible."
Thursday, July 16, 2020	Ms. Rachel Wernick	A copy of an email that Ms. Wernick received from Mr. Kielburger.	Ms. Wernick said "Yes, Mr. Chair, we are collecting all of the information that the committee asked for with a deadline, I believe, of August 8. We are moving as quickly as we can to pull it all together and get it to the committee."
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart (Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office)	The date that a discussion occurred with the Prime Minister "upstream in the development of the program". This was in response to a question related to whether discussions with the Prime Minister regarding WE Charity occurred prior to the proposal being presented to cabinet.	In response to the question, Mr. Shugart said that he'll "have to get the date to you". At the same time, he said that he would be happy "to provide extensive documentation, including timelines, to the committee".
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart	Confirmation that the WE Charity proposal was received by various officials in the government around April 19 or 20.	Mr. Shugart said that he "can confirm this timeline for the committee".
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart	A full list of organizations that were consulted "early in the development of policy".	Mr. Shugart said "We can provide you with the full list of organizations that were consulted."
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart	Media monitoring for the days following noted public appearances by Mrs. Margaret Trudeau and Mr. Alexandre Trudeau.	When asked if he would be prepared to submit this information to the committee, Mr.

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			Shugart said "I see no reason we would not support the committee that way".
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart	All of the communications between PMO staff and PCO with regard to the Canada student service grant and the WE Charity contribution agreement.	Mr. Shugart agreed that he would submit "as much of this information as possible".
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart	All of the communications from the finance minister's office to PCO and to the finance department.	When asked if he could commit to providing this information, Mr. Shugart said "I will do that."
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart	The names of all the participants at a mid-April meeting convened by a Finance Canada official (Michelle Kovacevic), as well as any meeting notes and a recording of the meeting if it took place via Zoom.	When asked if he could commit to providing this information, Mr. Shugart said "We'll include that in what we provide."
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	Mr. Ian Shugart	A due diligence report, as well as the contribution agreement with WE Charity.	Regarding the due-diligence report, Mr. Shugart said "If there are relevant documents in that regard, Chair, I would be happy to have them provided to the committee." Regarding the contribution agreement, he said "I would have no objection to the contribution agreement being made available and I cannot imagine that WE Charity would have any objection either."
Wednesday, July 22, 2020	Ms. Vivian Krause (Researcher and Writer, As an Individual)	Documents to support Ms. Krause's testimony "on the amount of information that WE has".	Ms. Krause said that "Today, I will send to the committee all the documents, the calculations, the numbers, the tables, and everything. I am also going to post them on my blog."
Wednesday, July 22, 2020	Ms. Vivian Krause	Information or a report regarding the connection between the different entities that are linked to WE.	Ms. Krause said that she has "compared the names of the directors in the United States and Canada to see whether any of the names appear together", and that she would forward this information to the committee.
Wednesday, July 22, 2020	Hon. Bill Morneau (Minister of Finance)	Names of organizations that were consulted or provided proposals.	The Hon. Bill Morneau said "I'm certain that we can provide an awareness of the organizations that were consulted with during the course of this period."

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Wednesday, July 22, 2020	Hon. Bill Morneau	All communications that the Hon. Bill Morneau's office had concerning the April 9, April 21 and April 22 proposals, as well as any communications he or his office had with anyone in the WE organization.	The Hon. Bill Morneau said "We will certainly co-operate with the committee. That, I think, is important. I think there's been a request for documentation, which we will certainly comply with."
Wednesday, July 22, 2020	Ms. Michelle Kovacevic (Assistant Deputy Minister, Federal-Provincial Relations and Social Policy Branch, Department of Finance)	Emails showing with whom Ms. Kovacevic discussed WE.	Ms. Kovacevic said "I would very gladly turn over my emails and we could say very specifically with whom I was discussing."
Wednesday, July 22, 2020	Ms. Michelle Kovacevic	A copy of a document listing the people who were present at a meeting that took place the evening of April 18.	When asked if she could send this document, Ms. Kovacevic said "It would be my pleasure."
Wednesday, July 22, 2020	Ms. Michelle Kovacevic	Information regarding who sent the proposal from WE on April 9.	When asked if she could find out who sent the proposal, Ms. Kovacevic said "I can do my best to do that".
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Marc Kielburger (Founder, WE Charity)	The total amount that his organizations, including WE but not limited to it, have paid in expenses, benefits, reimbursements fees, or any other consideration in kind or monetary for all of the Trudeau family members.	Mr. Marc Kielburger said "we'd be happy to provide that to you as the Chair asked right after the conversation. No problem at all."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger (Founder, WE Charity)	A copy of the bill that WE sent to the Hon. Bill Morneau prior to his appearance before FINA.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We would be happy to submit whatever we have on record".
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	A list of ministers with whom they had discussions over the past two years, including the date and subject of the conversations.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We'd be happy to provide that to you."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Marc Kielburger	A full breakdown of expenses paid to individual members of the Trudeau family, not just remuneration for speaking fees but also for gifts and other benefits, including covering of travel expenses.	Mr. Marc Kielburger said "Yes, we are happy to provide that information, especially in terms of the reimbursement of travel expenses that was specifically requested."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	A detailed breakdown of the \$41,000 provided to Bill Morneau for trips to Ecuador and Kenya.	When asked if he could provide this information, Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We will provide it."

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Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Details regarding how Mr. Morneau's family travelled around Ecuador and Kenya, whether it was by plane, etc.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We'll contact our team to look into the question."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Marc Kielburger	Access to WE's general rules, specifically "rule number 1" that gives details on a non-profit's governance and functioning structure.	Mr. Marc Kielburger said "We're certainly happy to take that back and seek greater clarification."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Information regarding communications with ministers in March (dates and names).	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "I can say with confidence, sir, that we did not, and there was not the senior-most leadership in touch with anyone in the government in March. That being said, sir, we will check more broadly in the organization if there were any touchpoints that took place."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Date of a phone conversation he had with Minister Chagger, which occurred sometime in the middle of April, as well as written confirmation of a phone call with Minister Morneau around April 25-26.	Regarding the phone call with Minister Chagger, Mr. Craig Kielburger said "I will get you that date". Regarding the call with Minister Morneau, he said "I will happily put this into writing for you".
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Information regarding how many contracts previous federal governments awarded his organization, and what they were for.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We're happy to seek that information."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	A list of which ministers' staff members they or their intermediaries communicated with in April, including names and dates.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We'll actually send you a full list, if that's all right, in writing."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Details of a call that took place as part of "ESDC contract initiatives".	When asked if he could provide details of the call, Mr. Craig Kielburger said "Not on the spot, but we're happy to do that."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Marc Kielburger and Mr. Craig Kielburger	Information regarding the number of lay-offs in the organization, and the number of people hired before the agreement was signed.	Regarding the number of lay-offs, Mr. Marc Kielburger said "We'll get you that exact information". Regarding the number of people hired, Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We can get that to you."

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Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Information regarding the reason why they didn't register as lobbyists.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We're happy to look into that question, sir, for the month of April, when the government proactively approached us. Honestly, sir, we didn't think at that point that something was necessary, because they were calling us to be helpful to them. We're looking into the matter. We're happy to look further into the matter."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Details regarding conversations with Minister Ng, Minister Chaggar and Minister Morneau that occurred after March 1, as well as details regarding communications with staff members from ministers' offices.	When asked if he could commit to providing details regarding the conversations with ministers, Mr. Craig Kielburger said "Yes, sir." Regarding the communications with staff members, he said "Yes, we're happy to provide that also, sir."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Marc Kielburger	The date when it was agreed that WE could begin incurring expenses that would be eligible for reimbursement.	Mr. Mr. Marc Kielburger said "We'd have to get you the exact date".
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	A list of all the "touch points" with Amitpal Singh from the Minister of Finance's office.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We can get you all the touch points with Amit Singh."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Information regarding whether a \$1.18 million grant from Heritage Canada was used in part to finance a particular advertisement.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We'll have to look into that question and get back to you."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Marc Kielburger	A list of people paid to speak at WE Day auxiliary events, including how much they were paid.	Mr. Marc Kielburger said "The speaker contracts that we have, we've been warned are confidential so we just have to look into that issue with our lawyers."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Copies of proposals that the organization submitted to the government.	When asked if he would be prepared to provide this information, Mr. Craig Kielburger said "Absolutely."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Craig Kielburger	Justice Goudge's review of the Kielburgers' financial compensation.	Mr. Craig Kielburger said "We will send his review to you."
Tuesday, July 28, 2020	Mr. Marc Kielburger	Information on the insurance policies that were signed regarding the organization's contract with ESDC.	When asked if he could share this information, Mr. Marc Kielburger said "Yes, we'll share it."
Thursday, July 30, 2020	Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister)	The total amount of money that the Prime Minister's brother, mother and spouse received from the WE group.	The Prime Minister said "We can get that number for you, if you like. It's been out in the media. I don't have it—".

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Thursday, July 30, 2020	Ms. Katie Telford (Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister)	"All of the documentation" including the recommendations that went forward on May 8 and May 22 concerning the WE program. It was later clarified that the specific documents of interest are "the memos that were going to Cabinet on May 8 and May 22".	Ms. Telford said "In terms of documents—I'm not sure what documents you're looking for—but I'm happy to look into any specific requests."
Thursday, July 30, 2020	Ms. Katie Telford	The names of the people who were "in the room" when the WE scheme was being developed.	Ms. Telford said "I would have to look into that with the Clerk of the Privy Council, but I believe that you've actually already spoken to all of the key people who would actually be able to answer that exact question for you."
Thursday, July 30, 2020	Ms. Katie Telford	The names of PMO staff members who had conversations with WE Charity or its associated groups.	When asked if she could provide this information, Ms. Telford said "I can get back to you."
Thursday, July 30, 2020	Ms. Katie Telford	All communications, emails and texts between PMO and WE.	Ms. Telford said "I would have to seek advice on what I can and can't when it comes to cabinet confidences."
Thursday, July 30, 2020	Ms. Katie Telford	Information specifying whether the Iwanttohelp.org website was created by the government or WE.	A member asked that Ms. Telford commit to providing this information to the committee, although it is not clear whether she agreed to do this.
Thursday, July 30, 2020	N/A	The following motion was put forth: That the Prime Minister's Office release to the committee by the end of the next calendar week the names of all Prime Minister's Office staff members who communicated with the WE Charity, the Kielburger brothers, or any affiliates of the WE Charity since March 1, and that the PMO provide the dates, participants and contents of those meetings. The motion was amended to include the cabinet memos with recommendations on WE for May 8 and May 22 cabinet meetings.	The motion was agreed to.