



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Bill 395

An Act to establish the Just Transition Fund

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault
Member for Jonquière**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill amends the Act respecting the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs in order to establish the Just Transition Fund within the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques.

The bill provides for the Just Transition Fund to finance the implementation and management of measures and programs to enable an energy transition with due regard for Québec workers and to accelerate the development of high-potential companies in the green economy sector.

To do so, the bill establishes the sums to be credited to the Just Transition Fund, including the possibility for the Government to order that a part, which it fixes, be so credited of any sum that would otherwise be credited to the Generations Fund.

Further, the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change is entrusted with the responsibility of managing the Just Transition Fund. Within the scope of the Minister's functions, he or she must establish a governance committee responsible for making recommendations to the Minister regarding the implementation of all measures to carry out the objectives of the Just Transition Fund.

Lastly, the bill provides that the Fund's financial statements be audited each year by the Auditor General.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

– Act respecting the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (chapter M-30.001).

Bill 395

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JUST TRANSITION FUND

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE, DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DES PARCS

1. The Act respecting the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (chapter M-30.001) is amended by inserting the following division after section 15.4.43:

“DIVISION II.4

“JUST TRANSITION FUND

“**15.4.44.** The Just Transition Fund is established.

The Fund is dedicated to financing the implementation and management of measures and programs to allow an energy transition with due regard for Québec workers and to accelerate the development of high-potential companies in the green economy sector.

To do so, the Fund is dedicated to the financing of any measure the Minister may carry out within the scope of his or her functions, in particular as regards

(1) accelerating the development of high-potential companies in the sectors of the green economy, clean technologies, renewable energies, energy efficiency and the fight against climate change;

(2) launching an offering of blended finance products in association with responsible Québec-based private investment funds that invest in the just transition; and

(3) financing activities, projects or programs to requalify jobs lost in declining economic sectors toward growing economic sectors.

The Fund is to be used, in particular, to finance activities, projects and programs aimed at job training, support for companies and workers as well as implementation of measures to mitigate the impacts of the energy transition toward a green economy with respect to the matters mentioned in the third paragraph.

“15.4.45. The Minister is responsible for managing the Fund.

Within the scope of that management, the Minister sees to it that the sums credited to the Fund for the matters referred to in section 15.4.44 are dedicated to measures that relate to those matters.

“15.4.46. The Minister establishes a governance committee composed of representatives from the Ministère de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, the Ministère de l’Économie et de l’Innovation, the Ministère du Travail, de l’Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale and the Ministère du Conseil exécutif to support the Minister in the exercise of his or her responsibilities. The Minister also invites, in equal numbers, representatives from workers’ associations and employers’ associations.

In the exercise of its functions, the governance committee may retain the services of any other person whose participation is deemed necessary by the members of the committee.

The governance committee makes recommendations to the Minister regarding the implementation of all measures to carry out the matters referred to in section 15.4.44.

“15.4.47. The following are credited to the Fund:

(1) the sums transferred to the Fund by the Minister out of the appropriations granted for that purpose by Parliament;

(2) the sums transferred to the Fund by the Minister of Finance under sections 53 and 54 of the Financial Administration Act (chapter A-6.001);

(3) the gifts, legacies and other contributions paid into the Fund to further the achievement of its objects;

(4) any other sum provided for by law or government regulation; and

(5) the revenue generated by the investment of the sums credited to the Fund.

“15.4.48. The Government may, on the conditions it determines and on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, order that a part, which it fixes, be credited to the Fund of any sum that would otherwise be credited to the Generations Fund in accordance with sections 3 and 4.2 of the Act to reduce the debt and establish the Generations Fund (chapter R-2.2.0.1).

“15.4.49. The Fund’s financial data and a list of the measures financed by it must appear under a separate heading in the department’s annual management report.

The financial data under the heading must include

- (1) the expenditures and investments debited from the Fund; and
- (2) the nature and evolution of revenues.

“15.4.50. The Fund’s financial statements are audited each year by the Auditor General.”

2. This Act comes into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).

