



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 84

An Act to establish an early childhood development fund

Introduction

**Introduced by
Madam Michelle Courchesne
Minister of Families**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill establishes an early childhood development fund. The purpose of the fund is to support the overall development of children five years of age and under living in poverty.

The fund will be dedicated to the financing of activities, projects and initiatives that foster, as early as possible and with the involvement of the parents, the overall development of the children, specifically targeting not only their physical development but also their psychological, cognitive, language, social and emotional development. The fund will also be used to finance activities, projects and initiatives that support the parents from pregnancy onwards by providing them with the tools most likely to contribute to the development of their children, and that support innovation and the acquisition and transfer of knowledge in the area of early childhood development.

The bill also provides for the constitution and management of the fund.

Bill 84

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. An early childhood development fund is established at the Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés.

The purpose of the fund is to support the overall development of children five years of age and under living in poverty, in order to promote their successful entry into the school system and the continuation of their schooling.

2. The fund is dedicated to the financing of activities, projects and initiatives that

(1) foster, as early as possible and with the involvement of the parents, the overall development of the children, specifically targeting not only their physical development but also their psychological, cognitive, language, social and emotional development;

(2) support the parents from pregnancy onwards by providing them with the tools most likely to contribute to such development; and

(3) support innovation and the acquisition and transfer of knowledge in the area of early childhood development.

Only activities, projects and initiatives that do not come under regular programs established or approved by the Government may be financed by the fund.

3. The Government sets the date on which the fund begins to operate and determines its assets and liabilities and the nature of the costs that may be charged to it.

4. The fund is made up of

(1) the sums paid into it by the Minister of Revenue under section 6;

(2) the sums paid into it by a minister out of the appropriations granted for that purpose by Parliament;

(3) the gifts, legacies and other contributions paid into it to further the achievement of the purpose of the fund;

(4) the sums paid into it by the Minister of Finance under sections 7 and 8; and

(5) the interest earned on bank balances in proportion to the sums referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3.

5. The management of the sums making up the fund is entrusted to the Minister of Finance. The sums are paid to the order of the Minister of Finance and deposited with the financial institutions designated by the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Families keeps the books of account of the fund and records the financial commitments chargeable to it. The Minister also ensures that the commitments and the payments arising from them do not exceed the available balances and are consistent with them.

The particulars of the management of the fund are determined by the Conseil du trésor.

6. On the dates and in the manner determined by the Government, the Minister of Revenue pays into the fund part of the proceeds of the tobacco tax collected under the Tobacco Tax Act (R.S.Q., chapter I-2) for a total amount of \$15,000,000 per year.

7. The Minister of Finance may, with the authorization of the Government and subject to the conditions it determines, advance to the fund sums taken out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Conversely, subject to the conditions determined by the Minister of Finance, that minister may advance to the consolidated revenue fund on a short-term basis any part of the sums making up the fund that is not required for its operation.

Any sum advanced to a fund is repayable out of that fund.

8. The Minister of Families, as manager of the fund, may borrow sums from the Minister of Finance out of the financing fund of the Ministère des Finances.

9. The sums required for the following purposes are taken out of the fund:

(1) the payment of subsidies or contributions by the Minister of Families to the Société de gestion du fonds pour le développement des jeunes enfants or any other body for the purposes set out in sections 1 and 2;

(2) the payment of the remuneration and expenses pertaining to the employee benefits and other conditions of employment of the persons assigned, in accordance with the Public Service Act (R.S.Q., chapter F-3.1.1), to the activities related to the fund; and

(3) the payment of any expense necessary for carrying out the functions entrusted to the Minister of Families by this Act.

10. Sections 20, 21 and 26 to 28, Chapters IV and VI and sections 89 and 90 of the Financial Administration Act (R.S.Q., chapter A-6.001) apply to the fund, with the necessary modifications.

11. Despite any provision to the contrary, the Minister of Finance must, in the event of a deficiency in the consolidated revenue fund, pay out of the early childhood development fund the sums required for the execution of a judgment against the State that has become *res judicata*.

12. The fiscal year of the fund ends on 31 March.

13. For every fiscal year, the Minister of Families tables a report on the activities of the fund in the National Assembly.

14. The Minister of Families is responsible for the administration of this Act.

15. The provisions of this Act cease to have effect on the date or dates to be set by the Government, which may not be prior to 1 April 2018.

Any sum remaining in the fund on the date section 1 ceases to have effect is paid into the consolidated revenue fund and appropriated, in the manner established by the Government, to the funding of such complementary measures consistent with the purpose of the early childhood development fund as are determined by the Government.

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

