

# EXPENDITURE BUDGET

2016 ■ 2017

Estimates and Annual Expenditure Management Plans  
of the National Assembly and Persons Appointed  
by the National Assembly



# EXPENDITURE BUDGET

## 2016 ■ 2017

Estimates and Annual Expenditure Management Plans  
of the National Assembly and Persons Appointed  
by the National Assembly

for the fiscal year ending  
March 31, 2017

Tabled in the National Assembly as required  
by sections 45 and 47 of the  
Public Administration Act (CQLR, chapter A-6.01)  
by Mr. Sam Hamad,  
Minister responsible for Government Administration  
and Ongoing Program Review  
and Chair of the Conseil du trésor

**Expenditure Budget 2016-2017**

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC**

As President of the National Assembly, I am proud to release the National Assembly's Annual Expenditure Management Plan and appropriations for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The National Assembly is a privileged place where society engages in its most important debates, where discussions and decisions have an impact on the everyday lives of Quebecers. One hundred and twenty-five Members sit in the National Assembly. As of February 12, the distribution of Members was as follows: 71 Members from the Quebec Liberal Party, 29 Members from the Parti québécois, 20 Members from the Coalition avenir Québec, 3 Members from Québec solidaire and 1 independent Member. One seat was vacant.

Over the past few years, we have observed an increase in Members' pace of work. In fact, parliamentary committee activity has changed a great deal since the 1984 and 2009 reforms. Members do a considerable amount of their work as part of 11 standing committees. From April 1 to December 31, 2015, some 1,100 hours were spent on parliamentary committee proceedings, which resulted in the adoption of 38 bills, 26 of which were adopted unanimously.

In November 2015, the Office of the National Assembly unanimously approved an infrastructure improvement project assessed at \$60.5 million to strengthen Parliament Building security while facilitating visitor access. The start of excavation work is slated for spring 2016, and construction will be completed during the first quarter of 2019. In 2017, we are celebrating the 225th anniversary of our parliamentary institutions. On December 17, 1792, the first Members of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada gathered in Québec City. Many activities are planned to commemorate this event.

The 2016-2017 expenditure budget and the appropriations presented in this volume are for information only, as the Office of the National Assembly is responsible for suggesting amendments, where necessary, and then approving them. I hope that reading this volume gives you a sense of the special and unique character of the National Assembly, and of how rigorously public funds are used in the hands of our legislative and democratic leaders.

JACQUES CHAGNON





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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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### **PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The mission of the National Assembly is to enact laws in its areas of jurisdiction, to control the actions of the Government, and to debate matters of public interest.

Members, who are elected by universal suffrage, are at the core of the legislative process. They contribute directly to the drafting of legislation affecting Quebecers' everyday lives, particularly by studying and analyzing the various bills in the National Assembly or in parliamentary committee and by voting on their adoption.

As controllers of government action, Members have several means of questioning the Government about its actions, such as the oral question period, the end of session debates and the annual study of department and body appropriations. In this regard, Members exercise continuous control over executive power and public administration. This process renders the Government and its administration accountable to the National Assembly and its committees.

In addition to their role as legislators and controllers of government activity, Members also perform an important function as intermediaries between their fellow citizens and the public administration.

In the exercise of its legislative authority, the National Assembly enacts legislation having a mandatory effect throughout Québec and in areas of jurisdiction recognized by the Constitution. The legislation adopted by the National Assembly consists of public interest laws for general application within Québec society or private legislation for application to a more defined portion of the population.

The National Assembly's autonomy is essential to accomplishing its mission and activities. Within this context of institutional independence, the law gives the National Assembly alone the power to adopt its own procedures and administrative means.

Operating within this autonomy, the administration of the National Assembly provides support services to Members in the performance of their parliamentary duties and in the fulfillment of the other aspects of the institution's core mission, in accordance with the law, the rules of procedure and operation, and the management framework it has adopted.

### **BUDGETARY CHOICES**

The National Assembly's financial resources are allocated to ensure that the services and resources required by the Members reflect their evolving roles and how they perform their duties, both for parliamentary proceedings and their constituency work.

As such, the proposed expenditure budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year takes into account the evolution of the service offering in the administration of the National Assembly, with continuous focus on openness toward citizens, seeking out best practices, transparency and sound management of the appropriations allocated to it.

## **BUDGET PLAN**

### **EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

The National Assembly expenditure budget is grouped into three programs. These programs, by the appropriations allocated to them, seek to optimize the National Assembly's core activities.

#### **PROGRAM 1**

##### **General Secretariat and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs**

The objective of this program is to assist the Members of the National Assembly in the performance of their role as legislators and controllers of government activity.

The expenditure budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year under Program 1 is \$7.2 million, up \$0.2 million from the 2015-2016 probable expenditure.

#### **PROGRAM 2**

##### **General Directorate for Administration, Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library**

The objective of this program is to ensure the necessary support for parliamentarians and administrative units regarding management of financial, human, material and informational resources and to ensure the safety of people and property. Its objective is also to provide services concerning the National Assembly Library, communications, protocol and interparliamentary activities, and pedagogical activities.

The proposed expenditure budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year under Program 2 is \$57.0 million and includes a \$2.5-million increase due mainly to the \$1.3-million increase in the depreciation budget and the \$0.6-million increase for the support of ministers' constituency offices, as well the indexation of non-salary expenses and pay scale increases.

#### **PROGRAM 3**

##### **Statutory Services for Parliamentarians**

The objective of this program is to ensure that Members have the necessary resources for carrying out their duties, both at the Parliament Building in Québec City and in their constituency office. The expenditure budgets essentially deal with the remuneration of parliamentarians and political staff at the National Assembly and the operating budget allocated to them.

The proposed expenditure budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year for this program is \$70.4 million. The net increase of \$3.7 million results from the application of the rules of the National Assembly that in particular establish an increase in operating budgets and allocations granted to Members as well as the support of ministers' constituency offices.

### Expenditure Budget by Program

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
1. General Secretariat and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	7,204.1	223.5	6,980.6	6,980.6
2. General Directorate for Administration, Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	56,951.4	2,452.8	54,498.6	54,498.6
3. Statutory Services for Parliamentarians	70,442.2	3,669.3	66,772.9	66,772.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,597.7</b>	<b>6,345.6</b>	<b>128,252.1</b>	<b>128,252.1</b>

### CAPITAL BUDGET

The forecast capital expenditures of the National Assembly planned for 2016-2017 mainly concern the restoration of certain National Assembly buildings, the support of ministers' constituency offices and several information technology development projects, including purchasing computer and broadcasting equipment. The objective of IT development is to improve the telecommunications infrastructure and institutional information management.

### Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016
		Change	
Fixed Assets	4,284.0	369.0	3,915.0
Information Resource Assets	3,359.0	422.0	2,937.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	100.0	—	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,743.0</b>	<b>791.0</b>	<b>6,952.0</b>



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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**APPROPRIATIONS**

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## National Assembly

<b>Programs</b>	<b>2016-2017 Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations</b>	<b>Plus: Capital Budget</b>	<b>2016-2017 Appropriations</b>	<b>2015-2016 Appropriations</b>
			<b>(\$000)</b>		
<b>1.</b> General Secretariat and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	7,204.1	-	-	<b>7,204.1</b>	6,980.6
<b>2.</b> General Directorate for Administration, Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	56,951.4	6,166.0	7,643.0	<b>58,428.4</b>	56,514.6
<b>3.</b> Statutory Services for Parliamentarians	70,442.2	-	100.0	<b>70,542.2</b>	66,872.9
	<u>134,597.7</u>	<u>6,166.0</u>	<u>7,743.0</u>	<b><u>136,174.7</u></b>	<u>130,368.1</u>
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations				<b><u>136,174.7</u></b>	<u>130,368.1</u>
<b>Appropriations to be Voted</b>				<b>-</b>	

Under the Act respecting the National Assembly (CQLR, chapter A-23.1), the expenditure budget and appropriations of the National Assembly are presented subject to the approval of the Office of the National Assembly.

### Allotment by Supercategory

<b>Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	2015-2016
	<b>((\$000))</b>	
Remuneration	<b>98,502.5</b>	96,499.4
Operating	<b>36,045.2</b>	31,702.7
Transfer	<b>50.0</b>	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,597.7</b>	128,252.1
<b>Capital Budget</b>		
Fixed Assets	<b>4,284.0</b>	3,915.0
Information Resource Assets	<b>3,359.0</b>	2,937.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	<b>100.0</b>	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,743.0</b>	6,952.0

**Program 1**  
**General Secretariat and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs**

Elements	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			(\$000)		
1. General Secretariat	1,248.4	-	-	1,248.4	1,247.7
2. Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	5,955.7	-	-	5,955.7	5,732.9
	7,204.1	-	-	7,204.1	6,980.6
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Act respecting the National Assembly, (CQLR, chapter A-23.1)					
Element 1				1,248.4	1,247.7
Element 2				5,955.7	5,732.9
Appropriation to be Voted				-	

The objective of this program is to assist the Members of the National Assembly in the performance of their role as legislators and controllers of government activity.

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	Elements		2016-2017	2015-2016
	1	2		
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	1,117.5	5,597.8	6,715.3	6,491.8
Operating	130.9	357.9	488.8	488.8
	1,248.4	5,955.7	7,204.1	6,980.6

## Program 2

**General Directorate for Administration, Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library**

Elements	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			(\$000)		
1. Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	12,782.1	-	-	12,782.1	12,550.9
2. Administrative Affairs and security	44,169.3	6,166.0	7,643.0	45,646.3	43,963.7
	56,951.4	6,166.0	7,643.0	58,428.4	56,514.6
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Act respecting the National Assembly, (CQLR, chapter A-23.1)					
Element 1				12,782.1	12,550.9
Element 2				45,646.3	43,963.7
Appropriation to be Voted				-	

The objective of this program is to ensure the necessary support for parliamentarians and administrative units regarding management of financial, human, material and informational resources and to ensure the safety of people and property. Its objective is also to provide services concerning the Library, communications, protocol and interparliamentary activities, and pedagogical activities.

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget		Elements	2016-2017	2015-2016
1	2			
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	9,627.8	27,514.2	37,142.0	36,409.2
Operating	3,154.3	16,655.1	19,809.4	18,089.4
	12,782.1	44,169.3	56,951.4	54,498.6
Capital Budget				
Fixed Assets	-	4,284.0	4,284.0	3,915.0
Information Resource Assets	-	3,359.0	3,359.0	2,937.0
	-	7,643.0	7,643.0	6,852.0

### Program 3

#### Statutory Services for Parliamentarians

Elements	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 <b>Appropriations</b>	2015-2016 Appropriations
				<b>(\$000)</b>	
1. Indemnities and Allocations for Parliamentarians	29,551.0	-	100.0	<b>29,651.0</b>	26,952.7
2. Members and Members' Staff Expenditures	28,723.5	-	-	<b>28,723.5</b>	28,557.2
3. Research Services for Political Parties	2,734.2	-	-	<b>2,734.2</b>	2,669.6
4. Pension Plan of the Members of the National Assembly	9,433.5	-	-	<b>9,433.5</b>	8,693.4
	<u>70,442.2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<b><u>70,542.2</u></b>	<u>66,872.9</u>
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly, (CQLR, chapter C-52.1)					
Element 1				<b>15,464.6</b>	15,234.5
Element 4				<b>9,433.5</b>	8,693.4
Act respecting the National Assembly, (CQLR, chapter A-23.1)					
Element 1				<b>14,186.4</b>	11,718.2
Element 2				<b>28,723.5</b>	28,557.2
Element 3				<b>2,734.2</b>	2,669.6
<b>Appropriation to be Voted</b>				<b>-</b>	

The objective of this program is to ensure that Members have necessary resources for carrying out their duties.

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget		Elements		2016-2017	2015-2016
1	2	3	4		
		(\$000)			
Remuneration	16,708.0	25,769.5	2,734.2	9,433.5	54,645.2
Operating	12,843.0	2,904.0	-	-	15,747.0
Transfer	-	50.0	-	-	50.0
	29,551.0	28,723.5	2,734.2	9,433.5	70,442.2
Capital Budget					
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	100.0	-	-	-	100.0
	100.0	-	-	-	100.0

## Transfer Appropriations

	2016-2017	2015-2016
	(\$000)	
<b>Program 3 - Statutory Services for Parliamentarians</b>		
Other Transfer Projects	50.0	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>

## Allotment by Beneficiary

	2016-2017	2015-2016
	(\$000)	
Non-profit Bodies	50.0	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>

## Allotment by Expenditure Category

	2016-2017	2015-2016
	(\$000)	
Support	50.0	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>



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**PERSONS APPOINTED  
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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## THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

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### PRESENTATION OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

Appointed by and reporting to the Members of the National Assembly, the Public Protector acts impartially and with the independent status required to perform its functions. In the performance of her duties, the Public Protector is assisted by two Deputy Public Protectors appointed by the Government upon her recommendation.

Operating within the framework established by the Public Protector Act (CQLR, chapter P-32) and An Act respecting the Health and Social Services Ombudsman (CQLR, chapter P-31.1), the mandate of the Public Protector is to ensure that individuals and their rights are respected by intervening with departments and bodies of the Gouvernement du Québec whose staff are appointed according to the Public Service Act (CQLR, chapter F-3.1.1). This includes Québec detention facilities and specific bodies mentioned in the Public Protector's constituting Act. As a second and final recourse, or in response to a report, the Public Protector intervenes with institutions in the health and social services network (establishments, or any and all resources used for the delivery of health services and social services; community organizations; pre-hospital emergency services; and residences for seniors and vulnerable individuals). In order to rectify situations that pose harm to an individual or group of individuals, the Public Protector makes recommendations to the institution in question, indicating the measures required to correct any errors, negligence, abuse or failures it has observed.

If, after making a recommendation, the institution of the Public Protector considers that no satisfactory action has been taken to remedy the situation acceptably within a reasonable time, it may notify the Government. If deemed appropriate, the Public Protector may also present the case in a special report or in its annual report to the National Assembly.

As part of its efforts to remedy harmful situations observed in the course of its duties and prevent their recurrence, the Public Protector may bring to the attention of the institution in question any legislative, regulatory or administrative reforms it considers of general interest. Within the same context, the Public Protector examines proposed legislation and regulations.

Finally, the Public Protector may publicly comment on any report it has submitted to the National Assembly or on any action it has taken if it deems such an initiative to be of public interest.

### BUDGETARY CHOICES

In 2016-2017, the Public Protector will allocate its resources according to the two lines of intervention that define its mission: to ensure that individuals and their rights are respected and that reparation for any harm caused to individuals by the acts or omissions of public services is made.

**ORIENTATION 1****Services to individuals and users**

Handling individual complaints is a primary function of the Public Protector, who examines the public's requests impartially, empathetically and thoroughly. The Public Protector interprets and defends the balance between legality and legitimacy when seeking to resolve the issues brought before it, in the search for an equitable solution.

The Public Protector is attuned to the changing nature of public services, including the state of public finances, and how this impacts the satisfaction of individual needs and the respect of individual rights. The Public Protector acts as a mediator between individuals and public service providers, seeking solutions that are relevant, acceptable and feasible to ensure the well-being of all individuals and effect sustainable improvements to the quality of public services.

**Actions envisioned**

The key actions planned are:

- Investigations leading to individual settlements;
- Intercession with public authorities in favour of individuals;
- Initiatives to resolve collective and multi-sector problems.

**ORIENTATION 2****Prevention and innovation**

Handling individual complaints is only one avenue available to the Public Protector for correcting errors or injustices to individuals. It does, however, provide a documented perspective on the shortcomings to be addressed to improve the quality of public services. The Public Protector Act and the Act respecting the Health and Social Services Ombudsman assign a preventive role to the Public Protector, enabling it to fully carry out its mission. In this role, the Public Protector uses the various means of action at its disposal to address problems at their root and contribute to improving the quality of public services.

Whenever possible, the Public Protector acts to prevent the repetition of observed failures and inaction, and to avert court actions between individuals and the government.

**Actions envisioned**

The main actions planned to accomplish this part of the mandate are:

- Studying proposed legislation and regulations;
- Submitting information and arguments to Parliamentary committee members;
- Monitoring the effective implementation of recommendations, and reporting on their follow-up to parliamentarians;
- Systemic interventions and reports to the National Assembly as well as the Government or one of its members.

It is important to note that all of the actions envisioned in the annual expenditure management plan are aligned with the commitments described in the Statement of Services for the Public and in the operational objectives of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan.

### 2016-2017 Budget Breakdown by Orientation

	\$ million	%
<b>Orientation 1:</b> Services to individuals and users	12.1	76.5
<b>Orientation 2:</b> Prevention and innovation <sup>1</sup>	2.4	15.1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>91.6</b>
<b>Administration</b>	0.9	5.6
<b>Permanent Appropriations*</b>	0.4	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The name of Orientation 2 (Prevention and innovation) is consistent with the institution's strategic plan, but it no longer corresponds to the name of the sub-protectorate to which this orientation refers, which is now titled "Legal and institutional affairs".

\* Appropriations for the retirement plans of former protectors and deputy protectors.

## BUDGET PLAN

### EXPENDITURE BUDGET

#### PROGRAM 1

#### The Public Protector

This program allows the Public Protector to protect individuals from abuse, error, negligence, violation of their rights or inaction in public services by assuring that they are treated with justice, equality and respect for democratic values. The Public Protector recommends corrective action when harmful situations are observed.

The Public Protector's expenditures amount to \$15.8 million for 2016-2017, up \$0.6 million from 2015-2016. This increase mainly stems from salary adjustments expected as of April 1, 2016, an increase in operating expenses and an adjustment in permanent appropriations.

## Expenditure Budget by Program

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
1. The Public Protector	15,843.3	590.7	15,252.6	15,252.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,843.3</b>	<b>590.7</b>	<b>15,252.6</b>	<b>15,252.6</b>

## CAPITAL BUDGET

As set out in its strategic plan, the Public Protector will primarily invest in the integrated management of its administrative documents. A preliminary analysis is underway, and the amounts necessary to deliver the solution will be determined in the coming months.

The \$2.0-million variation in the capital budget is due to the revision of the level of appropriations of capital assets for information resources.

## Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016
	Change		
Fixed Assets	355.0	—	355.0
Information Resource Assets	—	(2,000.0)	2,000.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>355.0</b>	<b>(2,000.0)</b>	<b>2,355.0</b>

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## THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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### PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

The Auditor General is at the service of the National Assembly. His mission is to support parliamentary control over public funds and other public property by conducting audits for the benefit of Québec citizens, fostering sustainable development. To achieve this mission, he primarily performs two types of work.

The first type is the financial audit, which includes an audit of financial statements and of other financial information. The purpose of the financial audit is to provide reasonable assurance that all public funds and other public property of the Government and its bodies faithfully reflect their financial circumstances. These audits are conducted by the Auditor General alone, or, for a small number of entities, jointly with chartered professional accounting firms from the private sector. The Auditor General may also, at his discretion, audit health and social services establishments and educational institutions.

Value-for-money audits are designed to inform parliamentarians of the methods that managers implement to administer the resources entrusted to them in an economic, efficient and effective manner. Also audited are the use of subsidies granted by government and public bodies, the application of the Sustainable Development Act (CQLR, chapter D-8.1.1), and actions taken to evaluate effectiveness and performance under the Act respecting the governance of state-owned enterprises (CQLR, chapter G-1.02).

The audit of operational compliance with statutes, regulations, policy statements and guidelines is also conducted as part of the financial audit and value-for-money audit.

### BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budgetary choices support the activities that are essential for carrying out the Auditor General's mission to perform legislative auditing. Financial resources are allocated among activities related to financial audits, value-for-money audits and support activities.

For comparative purposes, in 2014-2015 (most recent actual data), 76% of financial resources were allocated to audit activities, and 24% were allocated to professional and administrative support and training activities.

The financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor General are generally determined by the entities' constitutive acts. The resources invested are affected by changes in accounting standards, events specific to the year and the financial statements' level of complexity. In addition, the Auditor General sometimes uses contractual resources or the services of a chartered professional accounting firm from the private sector to conduct all or part of a financial statement audit.

The legislative modifications made to the Auditor General's incorporating act in April 2015 mean that the Auditor General will annually carry out work to formulate an opinion on the plausibility of the forecasts and assumptions presented in the pre-election report that the Minister of Finance will publish in 2018.

Lastly, the decision to undertake a value-for-money audit or to carry out work on matters of a financial nature remains at the discretion of the Auditor General.

## **BUDGET PLAN**

### **EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

#### **PROGRAM 2**

##### **The Auditor General**

The objective of this program is to enable the Auditor General to carry out audits of financial statements, audits of operational compliance with statutes, regulations, policies and guidelines, value-for-money audits, and audits pertaining to the enforcement of the Sustainable Development Act in particular. The Auditor General's jurisdiction extends to all government and public bodies, to health and social services establishments and educational institutions, and to grant recipients. This program also provides the Auditor General with a way of communicating his findings to the National Assembly.

The Auditor General's expenditure budget is \$29.3 million in 2016-2017, compared with the 2015-2016 probable expenditure of \$28.2 million. This \$1.1-million variation is due in particular to the indexation of salaries and pay scale increases.

#### **Expenditure Budget by Program**

(thousands of dollars)

	<b>2016-2017</b>		<b>2015-2016</b>	
	<b>Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>Probable Expenditure</b>
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
<b>2. The Auditor General</b>	29,317.6	1,118.9	28,854.0	28,198.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,317.6</b>	<b>1,118.9</b>	<b>28,854.0</b>	<b>28,198.7</b>

Under the Auditor General Act (CQLR, chapter V-5.01), the Auditor General's expenditure budget is presented subject to the approval of the Office of the National Assembly.

## CAPITAL BUDGET

The 2016-2017 capital budget will be used mainly to purchase computer equipment for network security and infrastructure, and to implement IP telephony.

### Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016
	Change		
Fixed Assets	50.0	2.0	48.0
Information Resource Assets	550.0	243.0	307.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>600.0</b>	<b>245.0</b>	355.0

Under the Auditor General Act (CQLR, chapter V-5.01), the Auditor General's capital budget is presented subject to the approval of the Office of the National Assembly.





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## THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

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### PRESENTATION OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

The Chief Electoral Officer is an independent institution reporting directly to the National Assembly.

The mission of the Chief Electoral Officer is to ensure elections and referendums are held, ensure political financing rules are followed, guarantee full exercise of voting rights and promote the democratic values of Québec society.

As it is responsible for provincial elections, the institution provides training for election staff and updates the information in the permanent list of electors. It oversees the revision of the list of electors, polling and, if applicable, census-taking. It issues directives on how the law is applied.

As concerns the financing of political parties and control of election spending, the institution authorizes political entities to raise contributions and pay election expenses. It ascertains that the entities comply with the provisions of the law and administers the payment of contributions. It provides training and support for the official agents and representatives of the parties and candidates, as well as for municipal treasurers and directors general of school boards. It also reviews financial reports and election expenditure reports.

The Chief Electoral Officer does not directly administer municipal and school board elections. However, it provides training and offers its support to the returning officers who are responsible for operations.

It has the powers to institute inquiries to enforce the laws for which it is responsible and acts as a prosecutor to sanction any contravention of these laws. In this regard, it is responsible for keeping a criminal registry.

In the area of electoral representation, it provides professional and technical support to the Commission de la représentation électorale (CRE), which does not have its own staff.

### BUDGETARY CHOICES

The first budgetary choice concerns the organization of elections. Aside from following a schedule of preparatory activities for the 2017 municipal general elections, the Chief Electoral Officer is preparing for the next provincial general elections, which should be held on a fixed date in fall 2018, in particular by recruiting and training new returning officers and their assistants. In addition, the Chief Electoral Officer's activities include means assessment and the preparation of training material for election staff. This work will help attain the objective of achieving excellence in organizing and holding elections. A budget of \$2.9 million is allocated for these activities, which fall under the first strategic orientation of ensuring elections run smoothly and citizen participation is optimal.

The second budgetary choice involves the quality of the permanent list of electors and the permanent board of revisors work, which have been allocated a budget of \$1.8 million. The Chief Electoral Officer is therefore pursuing the objective of achieving excellence in organizing and holding elections. This budgetary choice, which is also relevant to the institution's first strategic orientation, ensures elections run smoothly and citizen participation is optimal.

The third budgetary choice involves the means adopted to ensure the rules for financing political parties are followed and the practices in this area, improved. These activities are intended to optimize the knowledge of stakeholders through preventive measures focused on their compliance with legal obligations, and to strengthen control activities for political financing. In the case of alleged violations of electoral legislation provisions, investigations are conducted to determine whether offences have been committed and, where applicable, penal proceedings are instituted. A budget of \$5.3 million has been earmarked for the Chief Electoral Officer's second strategic orientation, which is to uphold the integrity, transparency and fairness of political financing.

The fourth budgetary choice involves maintaining and upgrading technological infrastructures and mission systems, as well as continuing to implement the guideline on information security, in particular by establishing a contingency plan and implementing an integrated management information solution. In addition to addressing one of its challenges regarding process optimization and technological evolution in support of its mission, implementing more robust systems will allow the Chief Electoral Officer to consolidate internal processes and implement its fifth strategic orientation, which is to be an efficient and environmentally responsible institution. To that end, the budget allocated for the management of the institution's information resources is \$8.8 million for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

## **BUDGET PLAN**

### **EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

#### **PROGRAM 3**

##### **Administration of the Electoral System**

The expenditure budgets of the Chief Electoral Officer and of the CRE are in Program 3 of the "Persons Appointed by the National Assembly" portfolio, Administration of the Electoral System. The objective of this program is to implement legislation respecting election and referendum administration and the financing of political parties.

The 2016-2017 expenditure budget for Administration of the Electoral System is \$0.2 million lower than the 2015-2016 probable expenditure. This decrease is due to some non-recurring expenses related to the work performed by the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec in 2015-2016 and the decrease in amortization costs.

The budget forecasts of the Chief Electoral Officer which appear in the 2016-2017 expenditure budget are presented for information purposes. Any amounts necessary for the Chief Electoral Officer to hold by-elections during the year would have to be added.

A parliamentary committee is responsible for approving these amounts in the study of budget forecasts and the preliminary financial report, and then submitting its report to the National Assembly.

**Expenditure Budget by Program**

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
3. Administration of the Electoral System	41,965.0	(200.0)	42,165.0	42,165.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,965.0</b>	<b>(200.0)</b>	<b>42,165.0</b>	<b>42,165.0</b>

**CAPITAL BUDGET**

The 2016-2017 capital budget will be used to secure the lobby, other building access points and stairwells. Additional capital will be used to reinforce computer network security and implement an IT continuity plan, with a view to meeting the standards of IT network security and developing computer systems.

**Capital Budget**

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016
	Change		
Fixed Assets	500.0	(2,800.0)	3,300.0
Information Resource Assets	1,700.0	(500.0)	2,200.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,200.0</b>	<b>(3,300.0)</b>	<b>5,500.0</b>



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## THE LOBBYISTS COMMISSIONER

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### PRESENTATION OF THE LOBBYISTS COMMISSIONER

Appointed by the National Assembly and reporting to it, in order to preserve complete independence, the Lobbyists Commissioner's mission is to enforce the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act (CQLR, chapter T-11.011) and the Code of conduct for Lobbyists (Code) and promote transparency and sound lobbying practices in approaching public officials in parliamentary, government and municipal institutions.

### BUDGETARY CHOICES

#### ORIENTATION 1

##### **Have stakeholders assume their roles in lobbying activities**

The Lobbyists Commissioner plans to continue supporting lobbyists and public officials and raise awareness on influential communication among the stakeholders. Its objective is also to improve the institution's communication tools.

##### **Actions envisioned**

- Raise awareness among and support lobbyists, companies and organizations to ensure compliance with the Act and the Code;
- Raise awareness among and support public officials to encourage them to assume their roles in achieving the objectives of the Act;
- Improve the institution's communication tools.

#### ORIENTATION 2

##### **Increase our ability to monitor and control, and act more firmly**

To improve compliance with legislative provisions governing lobbying activities, the Lobbyists Commissioner will see to tightening the monitoring mechanisms in all of the institution's activity sectors, to reducing file processing times, and to undertaking a greater number of audits and investigations.

### **Actions envisioned**

- Tighten the mechanisms for monitoring and following up on registrations in all sectors of the institution;
- Increase the number of audits or investigations as requested by the Lobbyists Commissioner while maintaining the number of cases to be monitored;
- Act more firmly with offenders;
- Reduce processing times and the time spent on carrying out monitoring, auditing and investigation activities.

### **ORIENTATION 3**

#### **Increase the institution's capacity for action and the quality of its services**

The Lobbyists Commissioner intends to review its operational and management processes. It will establish and implement a strategy for improving the quality of its services to better meet the needs of its clients.

### **Actions envisioned**

- Optimize certain operational and management processes to improve the institution's efficiency and effectiveness;
- Implement a strategy to improve the quality of services.

## **BUDGET PLAN**

### **EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

#### **PROGRAM 4**

#### **The Lobbyists Commissioner**

The Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act, was unanimously enacted by the National Assembly on June 13, 2002. It is designed to contribute to improving the quality of democratic life and building public confidence in parliamentary, government and municipal institutions and in their leaders.

The Lobbyists Commissioner expenditure budget is \$3.4 million for 2016-2017. However, it is important to note that the Lobbyists Commissioner prepares his annual budget forecasts and submits them to the Office of the National Assembly for approval pursuant to section 35 of the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act.

**Expenditure Budget by Program**

(thousands of dollars)

	<b>2016-2017</b>		<b>2015-2016</b>	
	<b>Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>Probable Expenditure</b>
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
4. The Lobbyists Commissioner	3,379.0	54.5	3,324.5	3,324.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,379.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>3,324.5</b>	<b>3,324.5</b>

**CAPITAL BUDGET**

An amount of \$20,000 in capital expenditures has been earmarked for upgrading IT equipment.

**Capital Budget**

(thousands of dollars)

	<b>2016-2017</b>		<b>2015-2016</b>
	<b>Change</b>		
Fixed Assets	—	—	—
Information Resource Assets	20.0	—	20.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20.0</b>





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## THE ETHICS COMMISSIONER

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### PRESENTATION OF THE ETHICS COMMISSIONER

In support of the basic principles of democracy, the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly (CQLR, chapter C-23.1) (Code) provides the population and elected representatives with important ethical guarantees concerning the performance of the office of Member, of member of the Conseil exécutif and of political staff member subject to the rules of conduct applicable to the staff of Members and House officers of the National Assembly (rules) and to the Regulation respecting the rules of conduct applicable to the office staff of ministers (CQLR, chapter C-23.1, r. 2) (Regulation). The Ethics Commissioner is called upon to perform prevention, advisory and training duties. Through his investigations, he ensures the respect of these ethical obligations. As required, he drafts guidelines.

### BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Ethics Commissioner's entire budget is dedicated to the application of the Code, the rules and the Regulation. To this end, a significant portion of the Commissioner's activities involves making recommendations on ethics and conduct matters to elected representatives and their staff, as well as investigations conducted by the Commissioner or at the request of a Member of the National Assembly.

The data we use does not allow allocating the budget based on activities related to applying the Code, rules or Regulation, or to distinguish between advisory, training and investigation work in the area of ethics and conduct work, or to target other orientations.

#### Action envisioned

- In pursuing its set objectives, the Ethics Commissioner intends to take measures to closely monitor expenses related to remuneration, operations and capital assets applied since the Code came into effect, while ensuring to meet its defined objectives.

## BUDGET PLAN

### EXPENDITURE BUDGET

#### PROGRAM 5

#### The Ethics Commissioner

This program allows the Ethics Commissioner to apply the Code, the Regulation and the rules.

The Ethics Commissioner began his activities on January 5, 2011. He has an expenditure budget of \$1.2 million for 2016-2017 to meet his objectives. These expenditures are allocated as follows: \$0.8 million for remuneration of staff levels composed, in particular, of specialized professionals, and \$0.4 million for operating expenditures, including rent, professional fees and all the expenditures necessary for operations.

#### Expenditure Budget by Program

(thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
5. The Ethics Commissioner	1,199.3	17.4	1,181.9	1,181.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,199.3</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>1,181.9</b>	<b>1,181.9</b>

Under the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly, the expenditure budget of the Ethics Commissioner is presented subject to the approval of the Office of the National Assembly.

## CAPITAL BUDGET

The 2016-2017 capital budget involves the amounts that will be required to acquire office material and equipment.

### Capital Budget (thousands of dollars)

	2016-2017		2015-2016
		Change	
Fixed Assets	15.0	—	15.0
Information Resource Assets	—	—	—
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15.0</b>

Under the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly, the expenditure budget of the Ethics Commissioner is presented subject to the approval of the Office of the National Assembly.



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**PERSONS APPOINTED  
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**APPROPRIATIONS**

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## Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

Programs	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			((\$000))		
1. The Public Protector	15,843.3	675.0	355.0	15,523.3	17,232.6
2. The Auditor General	29,317.6	320.0	600.0	29,597.6	28,889.0
3. Administration of the Electoral System	41,965.0	1,585.0	2,200.0	42,580.0	45,665.0
4. The Lobbyists Commissioner	3,379.0	90.0	20.0	3,309.0	3,254.5
5. The Ethics Commissioner	1,199.3	45.0	15.0	1,169.3	1,151.9
	91,704.2	2,715.0	3,190.0	92,179.2	96,193.0
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations				44,195.2	47,197.8
<b>Appropriations to be Voted</b>				<b>47,984.0</b>	<b>48,995.2</b>

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	2016-2017	2015-2016
	((\$000))	
Remuneration	60,484.9	58,624.7
Operating	20,694.9	21,407.8
Transfer	10,524.4	10,745.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,704.2</b>	<b>90,778.0</b>
<b>Capital Budget</b>		
Fixed Assets	920.0	3,718.0
Information Resource Assets	2,270.0	4,527.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,190.0</b>	<b>8,245.0</b>

## Program 1 The Public Protector

Element	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			<b>(\$000)</b>		
1. The Public Protector	15,843.3	675.0	355.0	<b>15,523.3</b>	17,232.6
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Public Protector Act, (CQLR, chapter P-32)					
Element 1				<b>445.9</b>	380.9
<b>Appropriation to be Voted</b>				<b>15,077.4</b>	16,851.7

This program allows the Public Protector to protect individuals from abuse, error, negligence, violation of their rights or inaction in public services by assuring that they are treated with justice, equality and respect for democratic values. The Public Protector recommends corrective action when harmful situations are observed.

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	1	Element	2016-2017	2015-2016
		<b>(\$000)</b>		
Remuneration	12,253.4		<b>12,253.4</b>	12,014.0
Operating	3,589.9		<b>3,589.9</b>	3,238.6
	15,843.3		<b>15,843.3</b>	15,252.6
<b>Capital Budget</b>				
Fixed Assets	355.0		<b>355.0</b>	355.0
Information Resource Assets	-		-	2,000.0
	355.0		<b>355.0</b>	2,355.0



## Program 2

### The Auditor General

Element	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			((\$000))		
1. The Auditor General	29,317.6	320.0	600.0	<b>29,597.6</b>	28,889.0
<b>Appropriation to be Voted</b>				<b>29,597.6</b>	28,889.0

The objective of this program is to enable the Auditor General to carry out audits of financial statements, audits of operational compliance with statutes, regulations, policies and guidelines, resource optimization audits, and audits pertaining to the enforcement of the Sustainable Development Act (CQLR, chapter D-8.1.1). The Auditor General's jurisdiction extends to all government and public bodies, to the health and social services and education networks, and to grant recipients. This program also provides the Auditor General with a way of communicating his findings to the National Assembly.

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	1	Element	2016-2017	2015-2016
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	23,388.6		<b>23,388.6</b>	22,600.0
Operating	5,929.0		<b>5,929.0</b>	6,254.0
	<u>29,317.6</u>		<b>29,317.6</b>	28,854.0
<b>Capital Budget</b>				
Fixed Assets	50.0		<b>50.0</b>	48.0
Information Resource Assets	550.0		<b>550.0</b>	307.0
	<u>600.0</u>		<b>600.0</b>	355.0

### Program 3 Administration of the Electoral System

Elements	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			<b>(\$000)</b>		
1. Internal Management and Support	28,404.9	960.0	1,400.0	<b>28,844.9</b>	28,304.1
2. Commission de la représentation électorale	184.0	-	-	<b>184.0</b>	323.1
3. Electoral Activities	13,376.1	625.0	800.0	<b>13,551.1</b>	17,037.8
	<u>41,965.0</u>	<u>1,585.0</u>	<u>2,200.0</u>	<b>42,580.0</b>	45,665.0
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Election Act, (CQLR, chapter E-3.3)					
Element 1				<b>28,844.9</b>	28,304.1
Element 2				<b>184.0</b>	323.1
Element 3				<b>13,551.1</b>	17,037.8
<b>Appropriation to be Voted</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The objective of this program is to implement legislation respecting election and referendum administration and the financing of political parties.

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	1	2	Elements 3	2016-2017	2015-2016
			<b>(\$000)</b>		
Remuneration	19,995.0	20.4	1,478.0	<b>21,493.4</b>	20,710.7
Operating	8,409.9	163.6	1,373.7	<b>9,947.2</b>	10,708.8
Transfer	-	-	10,524.4	<b>10,524.4</b>	10,745.5
	<u>28,404.9</u>	<u>184.0</u>	<u>13,376.1</u>	<b>41,965.0</b>	42,165.0
<b>Capital Budget</b>					
Fixed Assets	500.0	-	-	<b>500.0</b>	3,300.0
Information Resource Assets	900.0	-	800.0	<b>1,700.0</b>	2,200.0
	<u>1,400.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>800.0</u>	<b>2,200.0</b>	5,500.0

## Program 4

### The Lobbyists Commissioner

Element	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			((\$000))		
1. The Lobbyists Commissioner	3,379.0	90.0	20.0	<b>3,309.0</b>	3,254.5
<b>Appropriation to be Voted</b>				<b>3,309.0</b>	3,254.5

The objective of this program is to allow the Lobbyists Commissioner to oversee and control lobbying activities with those holding a public trust within parliamentary, government and municipal institutions.

#### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	1	Element	2016-2017	2015-2016
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	2,529.7		<b>2,529.7</b>	2,492.3
Operating	849.3		<b>849.3</b>	832.2
	<u>3,379.0</u>		<b>3,379.0</b>	3,324.5
<b>Capital Budget</b>				
Information Resource Assets	20.0		<b>20.0</b>	20.0
	<u>20.0</u>		<b>20.0</b>	20.0

## Program 5 The Ethics Commissioner

Element	2016-2017 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2016-2017 Appropriations	2015-2016 Appropriations
			((\$000))		
1. The Ethics Commissioner	1,199.3	45.0	15.0	1,169.3	1,151.9
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Code of Ethics and Conduct of the Members of the National Assembly, (CQLR, chapter C-23.1)					
Element 1				1,169.3	1,151.9
<b>Appropriation to be Voted</b>				-	-

This program allows the Ethics Commissioner to apply the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly.

### Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	1	Element	2016-2017	2015-2016
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	819.8		819.8	807.7
Operating	379.5		379.5	374.2
	1,199.3		1,199.3	1,181.9
<b>Capital Budget</b>				
Fixed Assets	15.0		15.0	15.0
	15.0		15.0	15.0

## Transfer Appropriations

	2016-2017	2015-2016
	(\$000)	
<b>Program 3 - Administration of the Electoral System</b>		
Financing of Political Parties	10,524.4	10,745.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,524.4</b>	<b>10,745.5</b>

## Allotment by Beneficiary

	2016-2017	2015-2016
	(\$000)	
Non-profit Bodies	10,524.4	10,745.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,524.4</b>	<b>10,745.5</b>

## Allotment by Expenditure Category

	2016-2017	2015-2016
	(\$000)	
Support	10,524.4	10,745.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,524.4</b>	<b>10,745.5</b>



