

EXPENDITURE BUDGET

2017 › 2018

ESTIMATES AND ANNUAL
EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLANS
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AND PERSONS APPOINTED
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

EXPENDITURE BUDGET

2017 ▶ 2018

ESTIMATES AND ANNUAL
EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLANS
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AND PERSONS APPOINTED
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

for the fiscal year ending
March 31, 2018

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

Expenditure Budget 2017-2018

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Message from the President of the National Assembly of Québec	5
Annual Expenditure Management Plan	9
Appropriations	15

PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Annual Expenditure Management Plans

The Public Protector	23
The Auditor General	29
The Chief Electoral Officer	33
The Lobbyists Commissioner	37
The Ethics Commissioner.....	41
Appropriations	45



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

As President of the National Assembly, I respectfully table the National Assembly of Québec's Annual Expenditure Management Plan and appropriations for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The National Assembly constitutes the foundation of our democracy, and is where the orientations that are crucial to our society take shape, important debates take place and decisions are made that have repercussions on the everyday lives of all Quebecers. Every year, considerable legislation is adopted there further to parliamentary work. To accomplish this democratic exercise, 125 Members represent the citizens of Québec. On February 10, the seats in the House were distributed as follows: 69 Members from the Quebec Liberal Party, 30 Members from the Parti québécois, 20 Members from Coalition avenir Québec, 2 Members from Québec solidaire and 3 independent Members. One seat was empty.

Members do a significant portion of their work within 11 standing committees. From April 1 to December 31, 2016, these committees held 428 sittings totalling more than 1,228 hours. Studying proposed legislation is the kind of mandate that takes up most of these commissions' time; during this period, they studied 34 bills.

A major commemorative activity will keep us busy in 2017: we are celebrating the 225th anniversary of our parliamentary institutions. December 17, 1792 is an important date in our history: the first representatives of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada gathered in Québec City. In April, we will announce the festivities for this historic anniversary. Furthermore, the construction of the reception pavilion to make the Parliament Building safer and more inviting will continue in 2017; the project is on time and within budget. Outside excavation, blasting, and form and concrete work are ongoing and will take us to the fall, and the indoor work will follow. The inauguration of the new pavilion is slated for the first quarter of 2019.

To conclude, please note that the 2017-2018 expenditure budget and appropriations in this publication are for information only; the Office of the National Assembly is responsible for final approval of the document and for making amendments, where necessary. I hope that, in reading this document, you understand how rigorously legislative and democratic leaders use the public funds entrusted to them.

JACQUES CHAGNON

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 fiscal year under Program 1 is \$7.1 million, down \$0.1 million from the 2016-2017 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 2017-2018 fiscal year under Program 2 is \$58.3 million and includes a \$1.3-million increase due mainly to the \$0.9-million increase in the depreciation budget as well as the indexation of salary expenses.

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 2017-2018 fiscal year for this program is \$72.1 million. The net increase of \$0.7 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 indexation of salary expenses.

Expenditure Budget by Program

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
1. General Secretariat and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	7,108.9	(95.2)	7,204.1	7,204.1
2. General Directorate for Administration, Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	58,279.0	1,327.6	56,951.4	56,951.4
3. Statutory Services for Parliamentarians	72,112.8	665.1	71,447.7	71,447.7
Total	137,500.7	1,897.5	135,603.2	135,603.2

CAPITAL BUDGET

The forecast capital expenditures of the National Assembly planned for 2017-2018 aim to meet the needs of its clientele:

- Improve services to Members on an ongoing basis;
- Improve accessibility and information to citizens;
- Ensure a healthy work environment for staff members.

The projects mainly concern the building of a loading dock, the restoration of certain National Assembly buildings and several information technology development projects, including purchasing computer and broadcasting equipment.

Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017
	Change		
Fixed Assets	3,235.0	(190.0)	3,425.0
Information Resource Assets	5,475.0	1,257.0	4,218.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	100.0	-	100.0
Total	8,810.0	1,067.0	7,743.0

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

APPROPRIATIONS

National Assembly

Programs	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018	2016-2017
				Appropriations	Appropriations
(\$000)					
1. General Secretariat and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	7,108.9	-	-	7,108.9	7,204.1
2. General Directorate for Administration, Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	58,279.0	7,025.0	8,710.0	59,964.0	58,428.4
3. Statutory Services for Parliamentarians	72,112.8	-	100.0	72,212.8	71,547.7
	<u>137,500.7</u>	<u>7,025.0</u>	<u>8,810.0</u>	139,285.7	137,180.2
Less: Permanent Appropriations				139,285.7	137,180.2
Appropriations to be Voted				-	-

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

Expenditure Budget	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Remuneration	100,419.8	99,508.0
Operating	37,030.9	36,045.2
Transfer	50.0	50.0
Total	137,500.7	135,603.2
Capital Budget		
Fixed Assets	3,235.0	3,425.0
Information Resource Assets	5,475.0	4,218.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	100.0	100.0
Total	8,810.0	7,743.0

Program 3 Statutory Services for Parliamentarians

Elements	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018	2016-2017
				Appropriations	Appropriations
				(\$000)	
1. Indemnities and Allocations for Parliamentarians	30,089.7	-	100.0	30,189.7	29,651.0
2. Members and Members' Staff Expenditures	29,777.2	-	-	29,777.2	28,723.5
3. Research Services for Political Parties	2,833.9	-	-	2,833.9	2,734.2
4. Pension Plan of the Members of the National Assembly	9,412.0	-	-	9,412.0	10,439.0
	<u>72,112.8</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100.0</u>	72,212.8	<u>71,547.7</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

15,727.6

15,464.6

Element 4

9,412.0

10,439.0

Act respecting the National Assembly, (CQLR, chapter A-23.1)

Element 1

14,462.1

14,186.4

Element 2

29,777.2

28,723.5

Element 3

2,833.92,734.2**Appropriation to be Voted**

-

-

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.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	Elements				2017-2018	2016-2017
	1	2	3	4		
					(\$000)	
Remuneration	17,022.8	26,744.4	2,833.9	9,412.0	56,013.1	55,650.7
Operating	13,066.9	2,982.8	-	-	16,049.7	15,747.0
Transfer	-	50.0	-	-	50.0	50.0
	<u>30,089.7</u>	<u>29,777.2</u>	<u>2,833.9</u>	<u>9,412.0</u>	72,112.8	<u>71,447.7</u>
Capital Budget						
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	100.0	-	-	-	100.0	100.0
	<u>100.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	100.0	<u>100.0</u>

Transfer Appropriations

	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Program 3 - Statutory Services for Parliamentarians		
Other Transfer Appropriations	50.0	50.0
Total	50.0	50.0

Allotment by Beneficiary

	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Non-profit Bodies	50.0	50.0
Total	50.0	50.0

Allotment by Expenditure Category

	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Support	50.0	50.0
Total	50.0	50.0

**PERSONS APPOINTED
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLANS

THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

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 his or her duties, the Public Protector is assisted by two Deputy Public Protectors appointed by the Government upon his or her recommendation.

Operating within the framework established by the Public Protector Act (CQLR, chapter P-32) and the 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.

Furthermore, under the Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies (S.Q. 2016, chapter 34), the Public Protector is the body in charge of dealing with, as of the coming into force of the Act on May 1, 2017, any disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies submitted to it by employees, citizens, or businesses. The Public Protector also processes complaints about reprisals resulting from these disclosures. It makes any recommendations considered appropriate in a report to the highest ranking administrative official within the public body concerned. It is also responsible for administering a legal advice service.

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.

Lastly, 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 2017-2018, the Public Protector will allocate its resources according to the three lines of intervention that define its mission: to ensure that individuals and their rights are respected, that reparation for any harm caused to individuals by the acts or omissions of public services is made, as well as the integrity of the public sector.

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 dysfunctions 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;
- Conducting systemic interventions and providing reports to the National Assembly as well as the Government or one of its Members.

ORIENTATION 3

Public integrity disclosures

As of May 1, 2017, when the Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies comes into force, any individual may disclose to the Public Protector information showing that a wrongdoing has been or is about to be committed relating to a public body. The Public Protector is thus required to carry out audits, inspections and investigations regarding these disclosures. Once its audits, inspections or investigations have been concluded, it may make any recommendations considered appropriate to correct the situation.

Apart from the reprisals that constitute a forbidden practice under subparagraph 11 of the first paragraph of section 122 of the Act respecting labour standards (CQLR, chapter N-1.1), the Public Protector also receives complaints from any person who believes a reprisal has been taken against him or her for having, in good faith, made a disclosure or cooperated in an audit or investigation conducted on the basis of a disclosure. As applicable, the Public Protector makes any recommendations considered appropriate.

Still under the Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies, the Public Protector provides access to legal advice to any person making or wishing to make a disclosure. Access to legal advice may also be offered to persons cooperating in an audit, inspection or investigation or to persons who believe reprisals have been taken against them. This service is subject to a specific budget envelope used to pay the fees for legal advice, which is dispensed by resources external to the Public Protector.

Actions envisioned

The main actions planned include:

- Audits, inspections or investigations on disclosures of wrongdoings and complaints regarding reprisals;
- Report to the highest ranking administrative official within the public body concerned or, if warranted by the circumstances, the minister responsible for that body or to the Government;
- Special report to the National Assembly;

The Public Protector

- Monitoring the effective implementation of its recommendations;
- Administration of a legal advice service;
- Training and information on the scope of the Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies.

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, which will be extended until March 31, 2018, in light of the institutional context.

2017-2018 Budget Breakdown by Orientation

	\$ million	%
Orientation 1: Services to individuals and users	12.1	69.0
Orientation 2: Prevention and innovation ¹	2.4	13.8
Orientation 3: Public integrity disclosures	1.5	8.6
Subtotal	16.0	91.4
Administration	1.1	6.1
Permanent Appropriations ²	0.5	2.5
Total	17.6	100.0

¹ 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 "Institutional Affairs and Prevention".

² 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. This program also allows the Public Protector to monitor the integrity of the public sector by conducting audits, inspections and investigations following a disclosure of wrongdoings or of complaints regarding reprisals and to make any recommendations considered appropriate.

The Public Protector's expenditures amount to \$17.6 million for 2017-2018, up \$1.7 million from 2016-2017. This increase mainly stems from the addition of appropriations associated with the extra responsibilities entrusted to the Public Protector under the Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies. Another part of the increase is related to the increase in salary and operating expenses.

Expenditure Budget by Program

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
1. The Public Protector	17,555.9	1,712.6	15,843.3	15,843.3
Total	17,555.9	1,712.6	15,843.3	15,843.3

CAPITAL BUDGET

During the year, the Public Protector plans to upgrade its Centrex telephony to an IP telephony system. The Public Protector will also renew certain IT infrastructure (servers and equipment) to maintain network stability.

Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017
	Change		
Fixed Assets	30.0	(325.0)	355.0
Information Resource Assets	325.0	325.0	-
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	-	-	-
Total	355.0	-	355.0

THE AUDITOR GENERAL

PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

The Auditor General is at the service of the National Assembly and works closely with the parliamentary committees. His or her mission is to contribute, through audits and other work, to the better management of resources and to parliamentary control for the benefit of Québec citizens. To achieve this mission, he or she 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. This type of work is intended to provide reasonable assurance that the statements or information are free from material misstatements. In this sector, the Auditor General's jurisdiction extends to the funds and other public property of the Government. The Auditor General may also, at his or her discretion, audit health and social services establishments and educational institutions.

Performance audits focus on the quality and operation of the systems and processes used by the entities to ensure that the resources available to them are used economically, efficiently and effectively. They also include missions related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Act (CQLR, chapter D-8.1.1). Over and above the entities that fall under the financial audit, the Auditor General's jurisdiction encompasses all the public and government bodies that do not produce financial statements. It also includes audits on the use of subsidies by recipients, when such subsidies were granted by a public or government body.

Special attention is paid to operational compliance with statutes, regulations, policies and guidelines. This type of audit is usually done as part of performance or financial audits.

In addition to this work, the Government or the Conseil du trésor may entrust the Auditor General with special audits in any area that falls within his or her jurisdiction. The Auditor General also has the mandate of formulating an opinion on the plausibility of forecasts and assumptions presented in the pre-election report published by the Minister of Finance.

BUDGETARY CHOICES

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

For comparative purposes, in 2015-2016 (most recent actual data), 75% of financial resources were allocated to audit activities, and 25% were allocated to professional and administrative support (6% and 14% respectively) and training activities (5%).

The financial statement audits are generally determined by the entities' constitutive acts.

The Auditor General

The resources invested in these audits 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 performance audit or to carry out work on matters of a financial nature remain 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, and performance audits, in particular those pertaining to the enforcement of the Sustainable Development Act. 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 or her findings to the National Assembly.

The Auditor General's expenditure budget is \$30.7 million in 2017-2018, compared with the 2016-2017 probable expenditure of \$28.4 million. This \$2.3-million variation is mainly due to the number of vacant positions to be filled and to pay scale increases.

Expenditure Budget by Program

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
2. The Auditor General	30,705.6	2,257.9	29,317.6	28,447.7
Total	30,705.6	2,257.9	29,317.6	28,447.7

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 2017-2018 capital budget will be used mainly for the following acquisitions:

- Equipment and related software to finalize the upgrade of IT network-linked infrastructure;
- Computers for the second part of the IT equipment, whose renewal was moved up to early 2017;
- IP telephony equipment and systems (this last investment, initially scheduled for 2016-2017, was postponed to 2017-2018).

Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017
		Change	
Fixed Assets	50.0	-	50.0
Information Resource Assets	550.0	-	550.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	-	-	-
Total	600.0	-	600.0

Under the Auditor General Act, the Auditor General's capital budget is presented subject to the approval of the Office of the National Assembly.

THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

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 revises the list of electors and carries out all the steps leading to the holding of elections. It issues directives on how the law is applied.

The Chief Electoral Officer does not directly administer municipal and school board elections. However, it offers its support to the returning officers in the planning of their event.

As concerns the financing of political parties and control of election spending, the institution authorizes political entities to raise contributions and pay expenses. It ascertains that the entities comply with the provisions of the law. 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 checks and reviews financial reports and election expenditure reports. Provincially, it administers the payment of contributions and the government funding granted to political entities.

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 involves the performance of activities for the holding of general municipal elections on November 5, 2017. The work that will be done for this, to which a \$3.0-million budget has been allocated, mainly concerns an information campaign and the training of returning officers, municipal treasurers and official agents.

The second budgetary choice involves organizing the next provincial general elections, scheduled for a fixed date that should be October 1, 2018. A \$7.2-million budget will be allocated to training returning officers and their assistants, carrying out preparatory activities in the ridings, developing an information campaign and resupplying election and computer equipment.

The third 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 \$1.9 million. For these first three budgetary choices, the Chief Electoral Officer is continuing to pursue its objective of achieving excellence in organizing and holding elections. These budgetary choices are in line with the institution's first strategic orientation, which is to ensure that elections run smoothly and citizen participation is optimal.

The fourth budgetary choice is related to activities to ensure that the rules for financing political parties are followed and encourage the people involved to apply sound practices in this area. 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 \$6.0-million budget 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 fifth budgetary choice involves maintaining and upgrading technological infrastructure and mission systems, as well as continuing to implement the guideline on information security, in particular by establishing a recovery plan. The \$8.4-million budget allocated for the management of the institution's information resources helps address the challenges of process optimization and technological evolution in support of its mission. In addition, 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.

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 political financing.

The 2017-2018 expenditure budget for Administration of the Electoral System is \$8.1 million higher than the 2016-2017 probable expenditure. This increase is due to the expenditures for the municipal elections in November 2017 and activities in preparation for and the resupply of election materials for the provincial general elections in 2018.

The budget forecasts of the Chief Electoral Officer that appear in the 2017-2018 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)

	2017-2018		2016-2017	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
3. Administration of the Electoral System	50,070.3	8,105.3	41,965.0	41,965.0
Total	50,070.3	8,105.3	41,965.0	41,965.0

CAPITAL BUDGET

The 2017-2018 capital budget will be used to reinforce the technology infrastructure, update the IT recovery plan and develop and upgrade information systems.

Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017
		Change	
Fixed Assets	100.0	(400.0)	500.0
Information Resource Assets	1,600.0	(100.0)	1,700.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	-	-	-
Total	1,700.0	(500.0)	2,200.0

THE LOBBYISTS COMMISSIONER

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, legitimacy 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 \$3.5 million for 2017-2018. However, it is important to note that the Lobbyists Commissioner prepares his or her 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)

	2017-2018		2016-2017	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
4. The Lobbyists Commissioner	3,480.9	57.2	3,458.7	3,423.7
Total	3,480.9	57.2	3,458.7	3,423.7

CAPITAL BUDGET

An amount of \$25,000 in capital expenditures has been earmarked for upgrading IT equipment.

Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017
	Change		
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Information Resource Assets	25.0	5.0	20.0
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	-	-	-
Total	25.0	5.0	20.0

THE ETHICS COMMISSIONER

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 governing the performance of the office of Member, of members of the Conseil exécutif and of political staff members 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 publishes guidelines and organizes training activities.

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 a data Ethics Commissioner's 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 their activities on January 5, 2011. He has an expenditure budget of \$1.2 million for 2017-2018 to meet his objectives.

The Ethics Commissioner

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)

	2017-2018		2016-2017	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(4)	(3)	(4)
5. The Ethics Commissioner	1,224.9	25.6	1,199.3	1,199.3
Total	1,224.9	25.6	1,199.3	1,199.3

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 2017-2018 capital budget involves the amounts that will be required to acquire office material and equipment.

Capital Budget

(thousands of dollars)

	2017-2018		2016-2017
	Change		
Fixed Assets	15.0	-	15.0
Information Resource Assets	-	-	-
Loans, Investments, Advances and Others	-	-	-
Total	15.0	-	15.0

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

**PERSONS APPOINTED
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

APPROPRIATIONS

Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

Programs	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018	2016-2017
				Appropriations	Appropriations
				(\$000)	
1. The Public Protector	17,555.9	675.0	355.0	17,235.9	15,523.3
2. The Auditor General	30,705.6	450.0	600.0	30,855.6	29,597.6
3. Administration of the Electoral System	50,070.3	1,250.0	1,700.0	50,520.3	42,580.0
4. The Lobbyists Commissioner	3,480.9	55.0	25.0	3,450.9	3,388.7
5. The Ethics Commissioner	1,224.9	45.0	15.0	1,194.9	1,169.3
	<u>103,037.6</u>	<u>2,475.0</u>	<u>2,695.0</u>	<u>103,257.6</u>	<u>92,258.9</u>
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations				52,161.1	44,195.2
Appropriations to be Voted				<u>51,096.5</u>	<u>48,063.7</u>

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Remuneration	65,559.9	60,447.2
Operating	26,771.1	20,476.7
Transfer	10,706.6	10,860.0
Total	<u>103,037.6</u>	<u>91,783.9</u>
Capital Budget		
Fixed Assets	195.0	920.0
Information Resource Assets	2,500.0	2,270.0
Total	<u>2,695.0</u>	<u>3,190.0</u>

Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

**Program 1
The Public Protector**

Element	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018 Appropriations	2016-2017 Appropriations
			(\$000)		
1. The Public Protector	17,555.9	675.0	355.0	17,235.9	15,523.3
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Public Protector Act, (CQLR, chapter P-32)					
Element 1				445.9	445.9
Appropriation to be Voted				16,790.0	15,077.4

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	2017-2018	2016-2017
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	13,601.0		13,601.0	12,253.4
Operating	3,954.9		3,954.9	3,589.9
	<u>17,555.9</u>		<u>17,555.9</u>	<u>15,843.3</u>
Capital Budget				
Fixed Assets	30.0		30.0	355.0
Information Resource Assets	325.0		325.0	-
	<u>355.0</u>		<u>355.0</u>	<u>355.0</u>

Program 2 The Auditor General

Element	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018 Appropriations	2016-2017 Appropriations
1. The Auditor General	30,705.6	450.0	600.0	30,855.6	29,597.6
Appropriation to be Voted				30,855.6	29,597.6

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 performance audits, including audits pertaining to the enforcement of the Sustainable Development Act. 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	2017-2018	2016-2017
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	24,538.4		24,538.4	23,388.6
Operating	6,167.2		6,167.2	5,929.0
	<u>30,705.6</u>		<u>30,705.6</u>	<u>29,317.6</u>
Capital Budget				
Fixed Assets	50.0		50.0	50.0
Information Resource Assets	550.0		550.0	550.0
	<u>600.0</u>		<u>600.0</u>	<u>600.0</u>

Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

**Program 3
Administration of the Electoral System**

Elements	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018	2016-2017
				Appropriations	Appropriations
				(\$000)	
1. Internal Management and Support	28,283.1	700.0	700.0	28,283.1	25,840.0
2. Commission de la représentation électorale	80.9	-	-	80.9	76.0
3. Electoral Activities	21,706.3	550.0	1,000.0	22,156.3	16,664.0
	<u>50,070.3</u>	<u>1,250.0</u>	<u>1,700.0</u>	50,520.3	42,580.0
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Election Act, (CQLR, chapter E-3.3)					
Element 1				28,283.1	25,840.0
Element 2				80.9	76.0
Element 3				22,156.3	16,664.0
Appropriation to be Voted				-	-

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	Elements			2017-2018	2016-2017
	1	2	3		
			(\$000)		
Remuneration	20,395.0	10.2	3,527.4	23,932.6	21,376.0
Operating	7,888.1	70.7	7,472.3	15,431.1	9,729.0
Transfer	-	-	10,706.6	10,706.6	10,860.0
	<u>28,283.1</u>	<u>80.9</u>	<u>21,706.3</u>	50,070.3	41,965.0
Capital Budget					
Fixed Assets	100.0	-	-	100.0	500.0
Information Resource Assets	600.0	-	1,000.0	1,600.0	1,700.0
	<u>700.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000.0</u>	1,700.0	2,200.0

**Program 4
The Lobbyists Commissioner**

Element	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018 Appropriations	2016-2017 Appropriations
			(\$000)		
1. The Lobbyists Commissioner	3,480.9	55.0	25.0	3,450.9	3,388.7
Appropriation to be Voted				3,450.9	3,388.7

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	2017-2018	2016-2017
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	2,653.7		2,653.7	2,609.4
Operating	827.2		827.2	849.3
	<u>3,480.9</u>		<u>3,480.9</u>	<u>3,458.7</u>
Capital Budget				
Information Resource Assets	25.0		25.0	20.0
	<u>25.0</u>		<u>25.0</u>	<u>20.0</u>

Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

**Program 5
The Ethics Commissioner**

Element	2017-2018 Expenditure Budget	Less: Expenditures not Requiring Appropriations	Plus: Capital Budget	2017-2018 Appropriations	2016-2017 Appropriations
			(\$000)		
1. The Ethics Commissioner	1,224.9	45.0	15.0	1,194.9	1,169.3
Less:					
Permanent Appropriations					
Code of Ethics and Conduct of the Members of the National Assembly, (CQLR, chapter C-23.1)					
Element 1				1,194.9	1,169.3
Appropriation to be Voted				-	-

This program allows the Ethics Commissioner to apply the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly, the Rules of conduct applicable to the Staff of Members and House officers of the National Assembly and the Regulation respecting the rules of conduct applicable to the office staff of ministers.

Allotment by Supercategory

Expenditure Budget	1	Element	2017-2018	2016-2017
		(\$000)		
Remuneration	834.2		834.2	819.8
Operating	390.7		390.7	379.5
	<u>1,224.9</u>		<u>1,224.9</u>	<u>1,199.3</u>
Capital Budget				
Fixed Assets	15.0		15.0	15.0
	<u>15.0</u>		<u>15.0</u>	<u>15.0</u>

Transfer Appropriations

	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Program 3 - Administration of the Electoral System		
Financing of Political Parties	10,706.6	10,860.0
Total	10,706.6	10,860.0

Allotment by Beneficiary

	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Non-profit Bodies	10,706.6	10,860.0
Total	10,706.6	10,860.0

Allotment by Expenditure Category

	2017-2018	2016-2017
	(\$000)	
Support	10,706.6	10,860.0
Total	10,706.6	10,860.0

