

Expenditure Estimates Volume 2 Table of Contents (2016-17)

Expenditure Estimates of the Province of Ontario for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017 Volume 2.

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Introduction

The 2016-17 Estimates set out details of the Operating and Capital spending requirements of Ministries and Legislative Offices for the year commencing April 1, 2016 and constitute the Government's formal request to the Legislature for approval of the expenditures involved. Once approved by the Legislature in the Supply Act, the Estimates become the legal spending authority for each Ministry/Office.

The services or programs which Ministries and Offices are responsible for delivering are each identified by a unique Vote number within the Estimates. Votes in turn are sub-divided into Items in order to distinguish between their different functions. This Vote/Item structure permits the Legislature to be more specific in appropriating funds to particular services. Within each Item, expenditures are shown by Standard Account, i.e. Salaries and wages, Employee benefits, Transportation and communication, Services, Transfer payments etc. (see explanatory notes below).

For comparative purposes, Estimates and Actual amounts for prior years are provided on (Ministry) Program Summary and Vote Summary pages. These amounts are restated to provide comparability where functional reorganizations and transfers, Supplementary Estimates or accounting changes have occurred.

Estimates for all Legislative Offices are presented on the modified cash basis of accounting.

Where it is necessary to seek the Legislature's approval for additional expenditures after the tabling of the

Main Estimates, Supplementary Estimates may be tabled.

Offices

- [Assembly, Office of the](#)
- [Auditor General, Office of the](#)
- [Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the](#)
- [Ombudsman Ontario](#)

You can find estimates for years before 2016-17 at the [Ministry of Finance](#).

Explanatory notes

NOTE: Spending is forecast for the fiscal year 2016-17 under seven Standard Accounts at the item level. The descriptions of the contents of the Standard Accounts given below are intended to serve as brief outlines only and should not be considered all inclusive.

Salaries and Wages

Includes salaries and wages, overtime and other remuneration paid to regular, probationary, unclassified and other staff; temporary help costs; indemnities and allowances paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly; and special allowances paid to employees.

Employee Benefits

Includes the government's contribution as an employer to the Canada Pension Plan; the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union Pension Plan; the Public Service Pension Plan; Employment Insurance; the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board; and other employee benefit plans.

Transportation and Communication

Includes traveling expenses of employees on government business and recipients of government services, such as wards of the province; relocation expenses of employees who transferred or were recruited; expenses of moving office furniture and equipment; costs of transportation of goods other than for initial delivery; mailing costs, such as postage and registration; and communication costs, such as telephone and data communications.

Services

Includes information services, such as, advertising and communication services provided by professional agencies and advertising placed directly with the media; rental and purchased repair and maintenance of machinery, equipment, buildings, land and engineering structures; data processing services; insurance premiums; and other professional and special services.

Supplies and Equipment

Includes provision for the purchase of all machinery and equipment including motor vehicles and computers, both new and used; and the purchase of all materials, supplies and utilities.

Transfer Payments

Includes grants, subsidies, assistance to persons; the business sector; non-commercial institutions; and other government bodies.

Other Transactions

Includes special transactions, such as interest incentives and subsidies; guarantees honoured; losses on loans; and repayable grants.

Note on Statutory Appropriations

Amounts required for Statutory Appropriations are shown, where applicable, as separate entries under the Standard Accounts Classification details relating to each item.

Note on Cost-Recovery Items

In cases where the anticipated recovery of costs of an item is equal to or greater than the expenditures, the balance of the item is shown at the nominal value of \$1,000.

Updated: March 10, 2017

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Expenditure Estimates Office of the Assembly (2016-17)

The Estimates for the Office of the Assembly.

Summary

The Office of the Legislative Assembly, established by the Province of Ontario under the *Legislative Assembly Act* of Ontario on December 20, 1974, exists to provide procedural, financial and operational support for all Members of Provincial Parliament in the House, Committees and constituency offices.

The Office also includes the Environmental Commissioner who administers the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*; the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario who oversees Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; the Office of the Integrity Commissioner who administers the *Members' Integrity Act, 1994*; the *Lobbyists Registration Act, 1998*; the *Cabinet Ministers' and Opposition Leaders' Expenses Review and Accountability Act, 2002*; and Disclosing and Investigating Wrongdoing and Ethical Conduct under the *Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006*; the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth who administers the *Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act, 2007*; the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner whose mandate is to ensure compliance with the *French Language Services Act* in the delivery of government services; and the Office of Financial Accountability Officer whose mandate is to administer the *Financial Accountability Officer Act, 2013*.

All funds are paid out of the Legislative Assembly Fund, which is separate and independent of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Program summary

Vote	Program	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
201	Office of the Assembly Program	\$131,706,200	\$128,521,200	\$3,185,000	\$122,669,760
202	Commission(er)'s Program	\$41,003,000	\$39,594,600	\$1,408,400	\$28,498,577
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$172,709,200	\$168,115,800	\$4,593,400	\$151,168,337
	Total operating expense	\$172,709,200	\$168,115,800	\$4,593,400	\$151,168,337
	Total including consolidation & other adjustments	\$172,709,200	\$168,115,800	\$4,593,400	\$151,168,337
	Total operating and capital including consolidation and other adjustments (not including assets)	\$172,709,200	\$168,115,800	\$4,593,400	\$151,168,337

Reconciliation to previously published data

Operating expense	2015-16 Estimates	2014-15 Actual
Total operating expense previously published	\$167,940,500	\$151,168,337
Supplementary estimates		
2015	\$175,300	-
Restated total operating expense	\$168,115,800	\$151,168,337

Total operating expense includes Statutory appropriations, Special Warrants and total operating expense to be voted.

Office of the Assembly Program - vote 201

This program includes salaries and allowances and all support services provided to Members by the various offices of the Assembly.

Vote summary

Item number	Item	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
1	Office of the Speaker	\$400,200	\$400,200	-	\$210,907
2	Office of the Clerk	\$799,300	\$799,300	-	\$716,126
3	Legislative Services	\$12,190,800	\$12,118,600	\$72,200	\$10,350,508
4	Information and Technology Services	\$11,364,500	\$11,364,500	-	\$9,912,325
5	Administrative Services	\$8,186,500	\$9,275,200	(\$1,088,700)	\$5,636,301
6	Sergeant at Arms and Precinct Properties	\$25,420,900	\$21,519,600	\$3,901,300	\$24,149,130
8	Caucus Support Services	\$11,596,700	\$12,291,900	(\$695,200)	\$12,749,916
9	Members' Compensation and Travel	\$20,539,700	\$20,995,100	(\$455,400)	\$21,403,732
10	Members' Office Support Services	\$40,945,600	\$39,494,800	\$1,450,800	\$37,278,815
11	Ontario Legislative Internship Program	\$262,000	\$262,000	-	\$262,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$131,706,200	\$128,521,200	\$3,185,000	\$122,669,760
	Total operating expense	\$131,706,200	\$128,521,200	\$3,185,000	\$122,669,760

Standard account by item and sub-items

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Operating expense	
201-1	Office of the Speaker	

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Salaries and wages	\$68,500
	Employee benefits	\$15,700
	Transportation and communication	\$131,600
	Services	\$150,100
	Supplies and equipment	\$34,300
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$400,200
201-2	Office of the Clerk	
	Salaries and wages	\$472,900
	Employee benefits	\$135,800
	Transportation and communication	\$26,300
	Services	\$148,100
	Supplies and equipment	\$16,200
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$799,300
201-3	Legislative Services	
	Salaries and wages	\$7,731,700
	Employee benefits	\$1,778,800
	Transportation and communication	\$677,500
	Services	\$1,536,800

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Supplies and equipment	\$569,000
	Subtotal	\$12,293,800
	Less: recoveries	\$103,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$12,190,800
201-4	Information and Technology Services	
	Salaries and wages	\$7,467,500
	Employee benefits	\$1,718,100
	Transportation and communication	\$184,000
	Services	\$1,237,700
	Supplies and equipment	\$758,700
	Subtotal	\$11,366,000
	Less: recoveries	\$1,500
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$11,364,500
201-5	Administrative Services	
	Salaries and wages	\$4,149,500
	Employee benefits	\$2,659,300
	Transportation and communication	\$613,600
	Services	\$634,900
	Supplies and equipment	\$190,200
	Subtotal	\$8,247,500
	Less: recoveries	\$61,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$8,186,500
201-6	Sergeant at Arms and Precinct Properties	

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Salaries and wages	\$7,161,800
	Employee benefits	\$1,647,100
	Transportation and communication	\$179,600
	Services	\$13,906,800
	Supplies and equipment	\$2,655,600
	Subtotal	\$25,550,900
	Less: recoveries	\$130,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$25,420,900
201-8	Caucus Support Services	
	Salaries and wages	\$7,850,100
	Employee benefits	\$1,805,600
	Transportation and communication	\$281,300
	Services	\$1,438,500
	Supplies and equipment	\$221,200
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$11,596,700
201-9	Members' Compensation and Travel	
	Salaries and wages	\$13,185,000
	Employee benefits	\$3,717,500
	Transportation and communication	\$2,141,100
	Services	\$1,484,400

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Supplies and equipment	\$11,700
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$20,539,700
201-10	Members' Office Support Services	
	Salaries and wages	\$19,779,900
	Employee benefits	\$4,155,100
	Transportation and communication	\$5,310,400
	Services	\$8,987,000
	Supplies and equipment	\$2,713,200
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$40,945,600
201-11	Ontario Legislative Internship Program	
	Transfer payments	
	Ontario Legislative Internship Program	\$262,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$262,000
	Total operating expense for Office of the Assembly Program	\$131,706,200

Commission(er)'s Program - vote 202

This program includes the Environmental Commissioner who administers the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*; the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario who oversees Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; the Office of the Integrity Commissioner who administers the *Members' Integrity Act, 1994*; the *Lobbyists Registration Act, 1998*; the *Cabinet Ministers' and Opposition Leaders' Expenses Review and Accountability Act, 2002*; and Disclosing and Investigating Wrongdoing and Ethical Conduct under the *Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006*; the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth who administers the *Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act, 2007*; the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner whose mandate is to ensure compliance with the *French Language Services Act* in the delivery of government services; and the Office of Financial Accountability Officer whose mandate is to administer the *Financial Accountability Officer Act, 2013*.

Vote summary

Item number	Item	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				

Item number	Item	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
1	Environmental Commissioner	\$3,860,700	\$3,860,700	-	\$3,799,821
2	Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner	\$15,479,800	\$15,479,800	-	\$13,532,205
3	Office of the Integrity Commissioner	\$2,877,400	\$3,296,400	(\$419,000)	\$1,894,670
4	Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth	\$11,935,800	\$10,963,900	\$971,900	\$8,070,867
5	Office of the French Language Services Commissioner	\$3,594,300	\$3,744,300	(\$150,000)	\$1,124,600
6	Financial Accountability Officer	\$3,255,000	\$2,249,500	\$1,005,500	\$76,414
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$41,003,000	\$39,594,600	\$1,408,400	\$28,498,577
	Total operating expense	\$41,003,000	\$39,594,600	\$1,408,400	\$28,498,577

Standard account by item and sub-items

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Operating expense	
202-1	Environmental Commissioner	
	Salaries and wages	\$2,203,100
	Employee benefits	\$506,700
	Transportation and communication	\$136,500
	Services	\$944,100
	Supplies and equipment	\$70,300
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$3,860,700
202-2	Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner	
	Salaries and wages	\$10,444,100
	Employee benefits	\$2,401,900
	Transportation and communication	\$337,500
	Services	\$1,960,300

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Supplies and equipment	\$336,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$15,479,800
202-3	Office of the Integrity Commissioner	
	Salaries and wages	\$1,504,900
	Employee benefits	\$359,100
	Transportation and communication	\$88,500
	Services	\$847,300
	Supplies and equipment	\$77,600
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$2,877,400
202-4	Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth	
	Salaries and wages	\$5,911,700
	Employee benefits	\$1,359,700
	Transportation and communication	\$960,600
	Services	\$3,455,400
	Supplies and equipment	\$248,400
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$11,935,800
202-5	Office of the French Language Services Commissioner	
	Salaries and wages	\$1,450,000
	Employee benefits	\$333,500
	Transportation and communication	\$134,400

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Services	\$1,365,500
	Supplies and equipment	\$310,900
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$3,594,300
202-6	Financial Accountability Officer	
	Salaries and wages	\$1,988,300
	Employee benefits	\$457,300
	Transportation and communication	\$56,500
	Services	\$642,900
	Supplies and equipment	\$110,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$3,255,000
	Total operating expense for Commission(er)'s Program	\$41,003,000

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Expenditure Estimates for the Office of the Auditor General (2016-17)

The Estimates for the Office of the Auditor General.

Summary

The Auditor General, who is an Officer of the Assembly, conducts independent audits of government programs, the financial statements of the Province and numerous agencies of the Crown, broader public-sector organizations, and reviews under the authority of the *Auditor General Act* and various other statutes and authorities. The results of these audits and reviews provide assurance, objective information and advice to the Legislative Assembly. In doing so, the Office of the Auditor General assists the Assembly in holding the government, its administrators, and grant recipients accountable for their stewardship of public funds and for the achievement of value-for-money in the delivery of services to the public.

Additionally, under the *Government Advertising Act, 2004*, the Auditor General is required to review specified types of advertising and certain printed matter proposed by government offices to determine whether they meet the standards required by that Act.

Under both Acts, the Auditor General reports the results of the work conducted each year directly to the Legislative Assembly.

As required by the *Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act, 2004*, in an election year the Auditor General is also required to review and report on the reasonableness of a Pre-Election Report prepared by the Ministry of Finance.

Program summary

Vote	Program	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016- 17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
2501	Office of the Auditor General Program	\$18,105,600	\$17,649,900	\$455,700	\$15,794,449
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$18,105,600	\$17,649,900	\$455,700	\$15,794,449
	Statutory appropriations	\$460,000	\$432,700	\$27,300	\$598,358
	Total operating expense	\$18,565,600	\$18,082,600	\$483,000	\$16,392,807
	Total including consolidation & other adjustments	\$18,565,600	\$18,082,600	\$483,000	\$16,392,807
	Total operating and capital including consolidation and other adjustments (not including assets)	\$18,565,600	\$18,082,600	\$483,000	\$16,392,807

Office of the Auditor General Program - vote 2501

The Auditor General conducts independent value-for-money and financial statement audits under the authority of the *Auditor General Act* and various other statutes and authorities. As well, under the authority of the *Government Advertising Act, 2004*, the Auditor General is required to review government advertising and certain printed matter proposed by government offices to determine if the advertising or printed matter meet the standards required by that Act. As required by the *Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act, 2004*, in an election year the Auditor General is also required to review and report on the reasonableness of a Pre-Election Report prepared by the Ministry of Finance.

Vote summary

Item number	Item	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
1	Office of the Auditor General	\$18,105,600	\$17,649,900	\$455,700	\$15,794,449
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$18,105,600	\$17,649,900	\$455,700	\$15,794,449
S	<i>The Auditor General Act</i>	\$460,000	\$432,700	\$27,300	\$598,358
	Total statutory appropriations	\$460,000	\$432,700	\$27,300	\$598,358
	Total operating expense	\$18,565,600	\$18,082,600	\$483,000	\$16,392,807

Standard account by item and sub-items

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Operating expense	
2501-1	Office of the Auditor General	
	Salaries and wages	\$10,706,300
	Employee benefits	\$3,178,100
	Transportation and communication	\$409,100
	Services	\$3,224,800
	Supplies and equipment	\$514,800
	Transfer payments	
	CCAF-FCVI Inc.	\$72,500
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$18,105,600
	<i>The Auditor General Act</i>	
Statutory	<i>The Auditor General Act</i>	\$460,000

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Total operating expense for Office of the Auditor General Program	\$18,565,600

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Expenditure Estimates Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (2016-17)

The Estimates for the Chief Electoral Officer.

Summary

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (Elections Ontario) administers the *Election Act* and the *Election Finances Act*. The Office operates under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly on the conduct of elections.

Program summary

Vote	Program	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016- 17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
501	Office of the Chief Electoral Officer Program	\$15,981,800	\$15,277,700	\$704,100	\$11,407,310
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$15,981,800	\$15,277,700	\$704,100	\$11,407,310
	Statutory appropriations	-	-	-	\$80,309,953
	Total operating expense	\$15,981,800	\$15,277,700	\$704,100	\$91,717,263
	Total including consolidation & other adjustments	\$15,981,800	\$15,277,700	\$704,100	\$91,717,263
	Total operating and capital including consolidation and other adjustments (not including assets)	\$15,981,800	\$15,277,700	\$704,100	\$91,717,263

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer Program - vote 501

The Office conducts general elections and by-elections of Members to the Legislative Assembly and provides research, public information and policy advice relating to the electoral process. The Office also trains, directs and supervises the returning officer in each of the 107 electoral districts.

The Chief Electoral Officer also administers the *Election Finances Act*. Over 430 Constituency Associations and 20 registered political parties must file annual returns and inform Elections Ontario of any changes to registration information. Any form filed with Elections Ontario is reviewed for compliance with the *Election Finances Act*.

The Office has responsibility to administer referenda under the *Taxpayer Protection Act, 1999*.

The Office serves Ministries, agencies and the public on a continuing basis by conducting historical and comparative research and providing policy advice and general information regarding the electoral process.

Vote summary

Item number	Item	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
1	Election Administration	\$8,052,500	\$7,922,900	\$129,600	\$6,840,549
2	Election Finances Administration	\$7,929,300	\$7,354,800	\$574,500	\$4,566,761
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$15,981,800	\$15,277,700	\$704,100	\$11,407,310
S	<i>The Election Act</i>	-	-	-	\$80,309,953
	Total statutory appropriations	-	-	-	\$80,309,953
	Total operating expense	\$15,981,800	\$15,277,700	\$704,100	\$91,717,263

Standard account by item and sub-items

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Operating expense	
501-1	Election administration	
	Salaries and wages	\$6,546,700
	Employee benefits	\$1,505,800
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$8,052,500
501-2	Election finances administration	
	Salaries and wages	\$1,072,700
	Employee benefits	\$246,700
	Transportation and communication	\$20,400
	Services	\$779,500
	Supplies and equipment	\$39,000
	Other transactions	

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Election expense subsidies under the <i>Election Finances Act</i>	\$5,772,000
	Subtotal	\$7,930,300
	Less: recoveries	\$1,000
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$7,929,300
	Total operating expense for Office of the Chief Electoral Officer Program	\$15,981,800

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Expenditure Estimates Ombudsman Ontario (2016-17)

The Estimates for the Ombudsman of Ontario.

Summary

The Ombudsman is an Officer of the Legislature who submits his reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The Ombudsman's mandate is set out in the *Ombudsman Act*. The Ombudsman publishes an Annual Report as required by the Act, as well as special reports throughout the year on systemic investigations conducted by the Special Ombudsman Response Team.

The Ombudsman investigates complaints about the administration of Ontario's provincial governmental organizations, as well as municipalities, universities and school boards. The Ombudsman makes recommendations to improve public policy, programs and services. The Ombudsman investigates both individual and systemic complaints brought forward by members of the public, Members of Provincial Parliament, and on his own initiative. The Ombudsman also investigates citizens' complaints about closed municipal meetings pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, where no municipal investigator is in place. The Ombudsman's services are free of charge.

In December of 2014, The Public Sector and *MPP Accountability and Transparency Act*, 2014 - known familiarly as "Bill 8" - passed. This legislation expanded the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to include the province's 82 school boards and school authorities (as of September 1, 2015), 444 municipalities and 21 publicly funded universities (as of January 1, 2016). During the 2015-16 fiscal year, the Office of the Ombudsman received 22,118 complaints.

In 2015-16 the Ombudsman received approval from the Board of Internal Economy for an additional 57 FTEs to support its new jurisdiction, for a total of 143 FTEs. Recruitment continues to fill the newly allocated positions.

The Office of the Ombudsman maintains a high social media presence and individuals may contact the Office to lodge a complaint in person, in writing, via toll-free telephone, email, internet or using a mobile web application. The Office provides extensive information about its operations and specific investigations in both English and French, on its website at www.ombudsman.on.ca.

Program Summary

Vote	Program	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016- 17 and 2015- 16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
2301	Ombudsman Ontario Program	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200

Vote	Program	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016- 17 and 2015- 16	Actual 2014-15
	Total operating expense	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200
	Total including consolidation & other adjustments	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200
	Total operating and capital including consolidation and other adjustments (not including assets)	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200

Ombudsman Ontario Program - vote 2301

The Ombudsman's mandate is set out in the *Ombudsman Act*. The Ombudsman publishes an Annual Report as required by the Act, as well as special reports throughout the year on systemic investigations conducted by the Special Ombudsman Response Team.

The Ombudsman investigates complaints about the administration of Ontario's provincial governmental organizations, as well as municipalities, universities and school boards. The Ombudsman makes recommendations to improve public policy, programs and services. The Ombudsman investigates both individual and systemic complaints brought forward by members of the public, Members of Provincial Parliament, and on his own initiative. The Ombudsman also investigates citizens' complaints about closed municipal meetings pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, where no municipal investigator is in place. The Ombudsman's services are free of charge.

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Vote summary

Item number	Item	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Operating expense				
1	The Ombudsman	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200

Item number	Item	Estimates 2016-17	Estimates 2015-16	Difference between 2016-17 and 2015-16	Actual 2014-15
	Total operating expense	\$18,582,200	\$18,582,200	-	\$11,413,200

Standard account by item and sub-items

Vote-item number	Standard account by item and sub-items	Amount
	Operating expense	
2301-1	The Ombudsman	
	Salaries and wages	\$10,496,600
	Employee benefits	\$2,669,200
	Transportation and communication	\$821,100
	Services	\$2,902,900
	Supplies and equipment	\$1,692,400
	Total operating expense to be voted	\$18,582,200
	Total operating expense for Ombudsman Ontario Program	\$18,582,200

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