



Press release

CODE 01
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Auditor General of Québec Presents the Fall Volume of its Report to the National Assembly

Québec, November 23, 2017. – In order to foster parliamentary control over public funds and other public property, Ms. Guylaine Leclerc, Auditor General, carried out five audit engagements concerning the sale of immovables, the funding for school boards, the francization of immigrants, the integration of immigrants and the processing of applications to the Régie du logement.

The Auditor General's findings and recommendations in relation to this work and the comments of the audited departments and agencies have been made public today in the Fall volume of the *Report of the Auditor General of Québec to the National Assembly for 2017-2018*.

Quote:

“I am pleased to present to you today the results of five audit engagements that were carried out over the past year. I want to thank the staff and the organizations for their continued contributions. Thanks to them, we have been able to carry out our work and thus pursue our mandate, which is to promote, through audit, parliamentary control over public funds and other public property, for the benefit of all Quebecers.”

Guylaine Leclerc, Auditor General

Highlights:

The Auditor General's observations that were brought to the attention of parliamentarians in this volume revealed findings that include the following:

- In the 2008 sale of three buildings that brought about the motion unanimously adopted by the National Assembly on November 17, 2016, the Société immobilière du Québec did not adequately consider the long-term financial impact of becoming a lessee rather than remaining the owner of the buildings and did not follow basic rules of sound management. In order to close the sale before the end of the 2007-2008 fiscal year and maintain the sale prices high, the Société made an estimated \$18.6 million in financial concessions and agreed to pay for future major repairs. Moreover, the board of directors did not exercise all the care required and authorized the sale based on insufficient or erroneous information.
- The Société still does not have a long-term plan to best meet the space needs of departments and agencies.

- With respect to funding for the school boards, many of the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur's parameters for calculating allocations have not been reviewed and do not necessarily reflect the school boards' current needs. Furthermore, when determining the amounts to allocate, the Department does not take sufficient account of the needs and particularities of the school boards. Moreover, most of the elements that form the basis for calculating school taxes have not been reviewed in two decades, which creates inequities among school boards and among taxpayers.
- With respect to the francization of immigrants, only one third of immigrants admitted to Québec from 2010 to 2013 who reported not knowing French at the time they were admitted participated in the French courses offered by the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion (MIDI). Moreover, the MIDI does not know whether immigrants who are not registered in its courses have taken courses elsewhere. Among people who have participated in the Department's French courses, the vast majority have not achieved the language proficiency threshold for everyday life or work.
- With respect to the integration of immigrants, the MIDI does not conduct any analysis regarding the services that should be offered to them to adequately meet their integration needs. It signs agreements with the same partner organizations year after year, without assessing its clients' needs, and it does not do so in a timely manner. Furthermore, the MIDI has never assessed the Réussir l'intégration program.
- Lastly, the recommendations made to the Régie du logement during the initial audit of December 2016, which concerned application processing, have been applied or have resulted in satisfactory progress.

The Highlights are available at www.vgq.qc.ca. The Auditor General's full report and the videos presenting the work results are available only in French.

The *Auditor General Act* gives the Auditor General all the necessary latitude to carry out the performance audit work with the greatest added value in terms of improvement of public management. The Act specifies that the scope of this work includes, to the extent considered appropriate, control of revenue, control of expenditure and assets and liabilities, economical acquisition and efficient utilization of resources, and implementation of satisfactory procedures to measure and report the effectiveness of measures.

The Auditor General's contribution consists of promoting rigorous and transparent reporting when it comes to financial and performance information.

Links:

Highlights

http://vgq.qc.ca/en/en_publications/en_rapport-annuel/en_index.aspx?Annee=2017

Report (French only)

http://vgq.qc.ca/fr/fr_publications/fr_rapport-annuel/fr_index.aspx?Annee=2017

Videos (French only)

http://vgq.qc.ca/fr/fr_salle-de-presse/fr_Presentations/fr_videos.aspx?Annee=2017

Source:

Lyne Bergeron
 Chef de cabinet
 Auditor General of Québec
 418 691-5900