



Office of the  
Senate Ethics Officer  
Bureau du  
conseiller sénatorial  
en éthique

Financial Statements of  
**OFFICE OF THE SENATE  
ETHICS OFFICER**

Year ended March 31, 2020

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July 2020

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

Table of Contents

Year ended March 31, 2020

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	Page
<b>Statement of Management's Responsibility</b>	
<b>Independent Auditors' Report</b>	
<b>Financial Statements:</b>	
Statement of Financial Position .....	1
Statement of Operations and Net Financial Position .....	2
Statement of Cash Flows .....	3
Notes to Financial Statements .....	4

## STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020, and all information contained in these financial statements rests with the management of the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer. These financial statements have been prepared based on Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the information in these financial statements. Some of the information in the financial statements is based on management's best estimates and judgment, and gives due consideration to materiality. To fulfill its accounting and reporting responsibilities, management maintains a set of accounts that provides a centralized record of the financial transactions of the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer.

Management is also responsible for maintaining an effective system of internal control, over financial reporting designed to provide reasonable assurance that financial information is reliable, that assets are safeguarded and that transactions are properly authorized and recorded in accordance with prescribed regulations and within Parliamentary authorities.

Management seeks to ensure the objectivity and integrity of data in its financial statements through careful selection, training and development of qualified staff; through organizational arrangements that provide appropriate divisions of responsibility; through communication programs aimed at ensuring that regulations, policies, standards, and managerial authorities are understood throughout the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer.

These financial statements have been audited by KPMG LLP, the independent auditors of the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer.



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M<sup>e</sup> Pierre Legault  
Senate Ethics Officer and Chief Financial  
Officer



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Nathalie Charpentier, CPA, CGA  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer

July 21, 2020



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Senate Ethics Officer of the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer

### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of Office of the Senate Ethics Officer (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020
- the statement of operations and net financial position for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at March 31, 2020, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



### ***Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### ***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



Page 3

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*KPMG LLP*

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Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Canada

July 21, 2020

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

## Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	2020	2019
Financial assets:		
Due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund	\$ 99,840	\$ 79,333
Accounts receivable and advances (note 6)	30,666	29,313
Total financial assets	130,506	108,646
Financial liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 7)	125,601	103,741
Vacation pay and compensatory leave	12,809	18,307
Total financial liabilities	138,410	122,048
Net debt	(7,904)	(13,402)
Non-financial assets:		
Tangible capital assets (note 8)	4,144	10,502
Prepaid expenses	–	2,880
Total non-financial assets	4,144	13,382
Net financial position	\$ (3,760)	\$ (20)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

## Statement of Operations and Net Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	Budget 2020	2020	2019
Government funding:			
Net cash provided by the Government of Canada		\$ 1,031,114	\$ 1,148,180
Change in due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund		20,507	(9,886)
Services provided without charge from other federal government departments (note 5(a))		181,865	175,802
		1,233,486	1,314,096
Cost of operations:			
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 947,510	926,017	851,222
Professional and special services	350,000	164,203	304,221
Accommodation	117,702	117,702	117,702
Utilities, materials and supplies	7,500	8,784	12,194
Rentals, repairs and maintenance	12,000	827	715
Printing and communication	15,000	4,369	4,210
Travel	19,000	8,966	7,022
Amortization of tangible capital assets	6,358	6,358	6,358
	1,475,070	1,237,226	1,303,644
Net surplus (cost) of operations after government funding		(3,740)	10,452
Net financial position, beginning of year		(20)	(10,472)
Net financial position, end of year		\$ (3,760)	\$ (20)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	2020	2019
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities:		
Net cost of operations	\$ (1,237,226)	\$ (1,303,644)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization on tangible capital assets	6,358	6,358
Services provided without charge from federal government departments	181,865	175,802
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items:		
Increase in accounts receivable and advances	(1,353)	(9,562)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	21,860	(324)
Decrease in vacation pay and compensatory leave	(5,498)	(13,930)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	2,880	(2,880)
<b>Net cash provided by the Government</b>	<b>\$ (1,031,114)</b>	<b>\$ (1,148,180)</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2020

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## 1. Authority and objectives:

The Office of the Senate Ethics Officer (the "Office") was created by the Parliament of Canada Act and other Acts in consequence. The mandate is to administer and interpret the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Code for Senators, which was adopted by the Senate on May 18, 2005, and amended in 2008, 2012 and 2014.

The Senate Ethics Officer's mandate involves five major areas: opinions and advice, annual disclosure process, inquiries, communication and information and administration of the Office.

For the purposes of these financial statements, all activities mentioned above are included in the activities of the Office.

## 2. Significant accounting policies:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and include the following significant accounting policies:

### (a) Parliamentary authorities:

The Office is financed by the Government of Canada through Parliamentary authorities. Financial reporting of authorities provided to the Office does not parallel financial reporting according to Canadian public sector accounting standards since authorities are primarily based on cash flow requirements. Consequently, items recognized in the statement of operations and net financial position and the statement of financial position are not necessarily the same as those provided through authorities from Parliament. Note 3 provides a reconciliation between the bases of reporting.

### (b) Net cash provided by the Consolidated Revenue Fund:

The Office operates within the Consolidated Revenue Fund ("CRF"), which is administered by the Receiver General for Canada. All cash received by the Office is deposited to the CRF and all cash disbursements made by the Office are paid from the CRF. The net cash provided from the CRF is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements including transactions between departments of all Government of Canada.

### (c) Amount due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund:

The amount due from the CRF is the result of timing differences at year-end between when a transaction affects authorities and when it is processed through the CRF. The amount due from the CRF represents the net amount of cash that the Office is entitled to draw by the CRF without further authorities to discharge its liabilities.

### (d) Accounts receivable and advances:

Accounts receivable and advances are stated at amounts expected to be ultimately realized; a provision is made for receivables where recovery is considered uncertain.

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2020

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (e) Expenses:

Expenses are recorded on the accrual basis:

- (i) Vacation pay and compensatory leave are expensed as the benefits accrued to employees under their respective terms of employment;
- (ii) Services provided without charge by federal government departments for accommodation and the employer's contribution to the health and dental insurance plans are recorded as operating expenses at their estimated cost.

### (f) Employee future benefits:

Eligible employees participate in the Public Service Pension Plan (the "Plan"), which is sponsored and administered by the Government of Canada. Assets and liabilities for pension benefits are not included in the Office's statement of financial position, as this is the responsibility of the Government of Canada. The Office's contributions to the Plan are charged to salaries and employee benefits in the year incurred and represent the total obligation of the Office to the Plan. Current legislation does not require the Office to make contributions for an actuarial deficiency of the Plan. Actuarial surpluses or deficiencies are not recorded in the Office's books as they are recognized in the consolidated financial statements of the Government of Canada.

### (g) Tangible capital assets:

All tangible capital assets having an initial cost of \$2,000 or more are recorded at their acquisition cost. The Office amortizes capital assets on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the capital asset as follows:

Asset	Useful life
Computer hardware	3 years
Leasehold improvements	Over the term of the lease

### (h) Use of estimates:

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets, liabilities and expenses reported in the financial statements. At the time of preparation of these financial statements, management believes the estimates and assumptions to be reasonable. The most significant items where estimates are used are for employee severance benefits and the useful life of tangible capital assets. Actual results could significantly differ from those estimated. Management estimates are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are recorded in the financial statements in the year they become known.

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2020

### 3. Parliamentary authorities:

The Office receives most of its funding through annual Parliamentary authorities. Items recognized in the statement of operations and net financial position in one year may be funded through Parliamentary authorities in prior, current or future years. Accordingly, the net results of the Office differs depending on whether they are presented using the government funding basis or an accrual basis. The differences are reconciled in the following tables:

(a) Reconciliation of net cost of operations to current year authorities used:

	2020	2019
Total expenses and net cost of operations	\$ 1,237,226	\$ 1,303,644
Adjustments for items affecting net cost of operations but not affecting authorities:		
Deduct services provided without charge from federal government departments	(181,865)	(175,802)
Increase in accounts receivable and advances	1,353	9,562
Decrease (increase) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(21,860)	324
Decrease in vacation pay and compensatory leave	5,498	13,930
Amortization of tangible capital assets	(6,358)	(6,358)
	1,033,994	1,145,300
Adjustments for items not affecting total cost of operations but affecting authorities:		
Increase (decrease) in prepaid expenses	(2,880)	2,880
Current year authorities used	\$ 1,031,114	\$ 1,148,180

(b) Authorities provided and used:

	2020	2019
Vote 20 - Operating expenditures	\$ 1,231,278	\$ 1,214,777
Statutory amounts to employee benefits plans	125,732	122,402
	1,357,010	1,337,179
Less lapsed authorities - operating	(325,896)	(188,999)
Current year authorities used	\$ 1,031,114	\$ 1,148,180

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2020

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#### 4. Employee future benefits:

The Office's employees participate in the Plan, which is sponsored and administered by the Government of Canada. Pension benefits accrue up to a maximum period of 35 years at a rate of 2% per year of pensionable service, times the average of the best five consecutive years of earnings. The benefits are integrated with Canada/Québec Pension Plan benefits and they are indexed to inflation.

Both the employees and the Office contribute to the cost of the Public Service Pension Plan. The 2020 expense amounts to \$64,163 (2019 - \$66,719), which represents approximately 1.4 times (2019 - 1.4 times) the contributions by employees.

The Office's responsibility with regards to the Plan is limited to its contributions. Actuarial surpluses or deficiencies are recognized in the financial statements of the Government of Canada.

#### 5. Related party transactions:

The Office is related as a result of common ownership to all Government of Canada departments, agencies, and Crown corporations. The Government has centralized some of its administrative activities for efficiency, cost-effectiveness purposes, and economic delivery of programs to the public. As a result, the government uses central agencies and common service organizations so that one department performs services for all other departments and agencies without charge. The costs of these services, such as the payroll and cheque issuance services provided by Public Services and Procurement Canada are not included in the Office's statement of operations and net financial position.

##### (a) Common services provided without charge by federal government departments:

There are other types of services that are considered to be part of the normal course of operations because they are not consistently provided without charge to all departments. These services include accommodation and certain employee benefits. The costs of these services have been included in the Office's statement of operations and net financial position in the following amounts:

	2020	2019
Accommodation	\$ 117,702	\$ 117,702
Employer's contributions to the health and dental insurance plans	64,163	58,100
	<u>\$ 181,865</u>	<u>\$ 175,802</u>

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2020

## 5. Related party transactions (continued):

(b) Other transactions with related parties:

The Senate of Canada provides services (on a cost-recovery basis) and purchases goods and services on behalf of the Office. The costs of these goods and services are included in these financial statements. The cost of services provided by the Senate of Canada to the Office was \$30,606 (2019 - \$59,176).

The following table discloses amounts in accounts receivable and accounts payable with federal government departments and agencies:

	2020	2019
Accounts receivable	\$ 30,416	\$ 29,063
Accounts payable	7,594	309

## 6. Accounts receivable and advances:

The following table presents details of the Office's accounts receivable and advances balances:

	2020	2019
Accounts receivable - other government departments and agencies	\$ 30,416	\$ 29,063
Advances	250	250
	\$ 30,666	\$ 29,313

## 7. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

The following table presents details of the Office's accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

	2020	2019
Accounts payable - other government departments and agencies	\$ 7,594	\$ 309
Accounts payable - external parties	14,181	29,448
	21,775	29,757
Accrued liabilities	103,826	73,984
	\$ 125,601	\$ 103,741

# OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2020

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## 8. Tangible capital assets:

Tangible capital assets consist of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2020 Net book value	2019 Net book value
Computer hardware	\$ 7,562	\$ 7,562	\$ –	\$ 2,520
Leasehold improvements	15,656	11,512	4,144	7,982
	<u>\$ 23,218</u>	<u>\$ 19,074</u>	<u>\$ 4,144</u>	<u>\$ 10,502</u>

At March 31, 2019, cost and accumulated amortization amounted to \$23,218 and \$12,716, respectively.

## 9. Contractual obligations:

The Office has multi-year leases for its premises with Public Services and Procurement Canada. These leases are provided without charge to the Office. The estimated future leases are as follows:

2021	\$ 114,078
2022	9,507
	<u>\$ 123,585</u>

## 10. Impact of COVID-19:

On March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and has had a significant financial, market and society impact in Canada.

At the date of the approval of these financial statements, the Office has implemented a work from home requirement for its employees. The COVID-19 pandemic is dynamic and the duration and magnitude of the impact on the operating expenditures of the Office is not known at this time.