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Section 1 - Overview

The *Quarterly Financial Report* is presented to the Board of Internal Economy (Board) in support of the effective oversight of public funds. It compares the year-to-date financial information of the current fiscal year with that of the previous fiscal year.

This current report, covering the nine-month period ended December 31, 2024, is prepared on an accrual basis and includes reasonable estimates.

Section 2 – Executive summary

The year-to-date net cost of operations totalled \$551M, up \$25.8M (4.9%) from the same period last year. This is primarily due to

- higher salaries and benefits due to cost-of-living adjustments for Members, House Officers, and some House Administration employees, alongside additional staffing for Member support projects, the transformation of parliamentary proceedings, and security;
- increased IT licences for the Long-Term Vision and Plan (LTVP) and for the disaster recovery data centre, and constituency office rental fees;
- increased revenue from earlier invoicing for services provided to federal departments; and
- increased employer contributions to health and dental plans primarily driven by a change in methodology, as well as higher salaries and contribution rate.

These increases are offset by

- a decrease in IT equipment purchases for LTVP projects, including the disaster recovery data centre; and
- reduced LTVP-related costs due to the reclassification of repair and maintenance costs as assets under construction instead of regular expenses.

The House of Commons' budget for 2024-2025 is \$772.1M, up \$21.1M (2.8%) from 2023-2024.

The total budget includes

- \$623.7M from the Main Estimates;
- \$41.4M from the Supplementary Estimates (B) for
 - o \$21.2M for the 2023-2024 operating budget carry-forward;
 - \$7.7M for sustained and enhanced security support for Members;
 - \$10.7M for economic increases for certain House Administration employees
 (a \$0.8M reduction from original submissions);
 - o \$1.8M for employee benefit plans; and
- \$107M for services received without charge.

As of December 31, 2024, the funding available in the corporate reserve, including the operating budget carry-forward, has been allocated for specific initiatives such as the transformation of parliamentary proceedings, the replacement of the Members' Financial Portal, and the implementation of initiatives that are part of the House's *Accessibility Plan 2023-2025*. A portion of the costs for the transformation of parliamentary proceedings will be absorbed by surpluses under the Members and House Officers program. The House Administration will continue to monitor the current environment, and when feasible, mitigate risks through strong financial planning and management practices that support strategic priorities and effective resource utilization.

The House is operating within its approved authorities and there are no other material items of concern to bring to the Board's attention.

Section 3 – Comparative financial information

Financial results of operations by program

The net cost of operations as of December 31, 2024 totals **\$551M** compared to **\$525.2M** in the same period last year, resulting in an overall increase of **\$25.8M** or **4.9%**. The following table shows a breakdown of net cost of operations by program as of December 31 of fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2023-2024.

Table 1. Year-over-year net cost of operations by program as of December 31

(in thousands of dollars)

YTD December 31			
2024-2025	2023-2024	\$	%
Actuals	Actuals	Variance	Variance
250,036	236,800	13,235	5.6
4.274	F 44F	(744)	(4.4.5)
4,371	5,115	(744)	(14.5)
254,406	241,915	12,491	5.2
209,201	205,173	4,029	2.0
463,608	447,088	16,520	3.7
87,364	78,095	9,269	11.9
550,972	525,183	25,789	4.9
	2024-2025 Actuals 250,036 4,371 254,406 209,201 463,608 87,364	2024-2025 2023-2024 Actuals Actuals 250,036 236,800 4,371 5,115 254,406 241,915 209,201 205,173 463,608 447,088 87,364 78,095	2024-2025 2023-2024 \$ Actuals Actuals Variance 250,036 236,800 13,235 4,371 5,115 (744) 254,406 241,915 12,491 209,201 205,173 4,029 463,608 447,088 16,520 87,364 78,095 9,269

¹ For details on services received without charge, see Table 2.

Financial results of operations by expense and revenue category

The following table presents the net cost of operations by expense and revenue category as of December 31 of fiscal year 2024-2025.

Table 2. Year-over-year net cost of operations by expense and revenue category as of December 31

(in thousands of dollars)

	YTD December 31			
	2024-2025	2023-2024	\$	%
Expense and revenue category	Actuals	Actuals	Variance	Variance
Operating expenses				
Salaries and benefits	364,911	343,312	21,599	6.3
Transportation and telecommunications	35,759	36,338	(579)	(1.6)
Professional and special services	16,678	16,907	(230)	(1.4)
Rentals and licences	23,807	21,414	2,393	11.2
Computer and office equipment, furniture and fixtures	9,262	11,559	(2,297)	(19.9)
Utilities, materials and supplies	8,468	8,006	461	5.8
Advertising and printing services	9,524	8,680	843	9.7
Amortization of tangible capital assets	7,007	7,441	(434)	(5.8)
Repairs and maintenance	4,220	7,470	(3,250)	(43.5)
Transfer payments to international associations	1,019	1,178	(159)	(13.5)
Net loss (gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	71	26	45	171.1
Other	761	417	345	82.8
Total operating expenses	481,487	462,749	18,738	4.0
Revenues				
Cost recoveries	(14,568)	(12,312)	(2,256)	18.3
Food Services sales	(3,157)	(3,155)	(2)	0.1
Other	(155)	(195)	40	(20.5)
Total revenues	(17,880)	(15,661)	(2,218)	14.2
Total net operating expenses	463,608	447,088	16,520	3.7
Other expenses: services received without charge				
Accommodations	58,950	58,107	842	1.4
Employer's contribution to health and dental insurance	20.222	10.040	0.402	42.0
plans	28,322	19,840	8,482	42.8
Workers' compensation payments	92	148	(56)	(37.7)
Total other expenses	87,364	78,095	9,269	11.9
Total net cost of operations	550,972	525,183	25,789	4.9

The year-over-year variances of \$25.8M are mainly due to the following items:

- Salaries and benefits: The increase is primarily due to cost-of-living adjustments and a higher number of employees for Members and House Officers, and a statutory increase in Members' sessional allowance and additional salaries under the *Parliament of Canada Act*. For the House Administration, the rise is attributed to cost-of-living adjustments for employees, additional staffing for security and the transformation of parliamentary proceedings, and support for Member-focused projects.
- **Rentals and licences:** The increase is mainly due to IT licences for the LTVP and for systems supporting Members such as the disaster recovery data centre, and constituency office rental fees.
- Computer and office equipment, furniture and fixtures: The decrease is primarily due to last year's purchase of equipment for LTVP projects including the lifecycling of the data centre.
- **Repairs and maintenance:** The decrease is mainly due to the LTVP-related repair and maintenance costs for the office refit at 131 Queen Street that have been reclassified as assets under construction instead of regular expenses.
- **Revenues:** The increase is primarily due to the timing of invoicing of recoveries for services provided to federal departments such as Public Services and Procurement Canada. The rise is also attributable to higher recoveries for licence costs from parliamentary precinct partners.
- **Services received without charge:** The increase in the employer's contributions to health and dental insurance plans is primarily driven by a change in methodology, as well as higher salaries and contribution rate.

Total annual budget (authorities)

The House's 2024-2025 approved budget is **\$772.1M**, up **\$21.1M (2.8%)** from last year, primarily due to

- \$7.7M for sustained and enhanced security support for Members;
- \$5.6M for cost-of-living increases in Members' and House Officers' budgets, including allocations for travel and constituency office leases;
- \$4.7M for economic increases for certain House Administration employees;
- \$3.6M for lifecycle and maintenance of disaster recovery technologies and facilities; and
- \$1.8M for Members' sessional allowance and additional salaries.

For more details on the year-over-year changes by program and by initiative, see appendices A and B respectively.

Important events and current operating environment

Impacts on spending trends

Inflation: Although the adjusted consumer price index (CPI)¹ dropped from 2.6% in December 2023 to 1.8% in December 2024, the cost of living has risen but at a slightly lower pace than in the previous year. The House Administration does not factor in non-salary inflationary adjustments in the Main Estimates. The House Administration continues to monitor and assess these impacts and will seek additional funding if required.

Prorogation: The prorogation of the first session of the 44th Parliament was announced on January 6, 2025. This formal process brings an end to the current session and temporarily suspends parliamentary proceedings in the Chamber and in committees, including ongoing proceedings and scheduled committee meetings. A new session is set to begin on March 24, 2025, marking the return of legislative activities, including the introduction of bills and initiatives. Prorogation will impact the planning and scheduling of parliamentary functions, and the House will experience its effects in the fourth quarter. The impact will be monitored for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Business transformation initiatives

Accessibility: The House officially published its <u>Accessibility Plan 2023-2025</u> in December 2022. Prepared in accordance with the <u>Accessible Canada Act</u>, this plan outlines the steps the House will take to identify, remove and prevent barriers that limit the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities. The House recognizes that every person has their own strengths and challenges, and it values this diversity.

The <u>2024 Progress Report</u>, released in December 2024, highlights several significant accomplishments such as

- Significant improvements to website accessibility and to training for Members, their staff and House Administration managers to provide them with the necessary tools to support employees with disabilities.
- The introduction of a policy to better support employees with disabilities.
- The creation of a group for employees with disabilities and their supportive colleagues to promote a more inclusive organization.

Additional details on these initiatives are available in the 2024 Progress Report.

Enhancements to the security environment: Continued advancement on various initiatives regarding security enhancements for Members, which began in 2020-2021, will continue into 2024-2025 and beyond. Those initiatives are to provide a safe and secure environment to Members and their staff when they are in the parliamentary precinct, their residences and their constituencies.

Infrastructure investment: The investment needed to modernize and rehabilitate Centre Block (now known as the Parliament Building) through its LTVP continued this year. The objective is to provide parliamentarians with modernized accommodations to meet their needs in terms of technology, broadcasting and videoconferencing, physical security, cybersecurity, as well as accessibility and sustainability.

¹ The adjusted CPI excludes volatile components like fruits and vegetables, gasoline, mortgage interest rates, and tobacco products.

Strategic Internal Assessment of Operations framework: The House of Commons, under the leadership of the Clerk and with support from the Clerk's Management Group, has developed a Strategic Internal Assessment of Operations (SIAO) framework to enhance efficiency and sustainability. Approved by the Board on December 5, 2024, this framework focuses on efficiencies and improving service delivery through decision-support tools such as service catalogues and performance measures.

The SIAO aligns with the House Administration's *Strategic Plan 2023–2027* and is structured around four key pillars: governance, stewardship, operational efficiency, and risk management.

Section 4 – Appendices

Appendix A. Annual budget (authorities) by program

The table below reflects the total budget in the amount of \$772.1M for 2024-2025.

(in thousands of dollars)

	2024-2025	2023-2024	\$	%
Program	Budget	Budget	Variance	Variance
Members and House Officers	375,976	360,500	15,476	4.3
Committees, Parliamentary Associations and Parliamentary Exchanges	10,047	9,280	767	8.3
Members and House Officers program	386,023	369,781	16,243	4.4
House Administration program	279,058	271,444	7,613	2.8
Authorities approved by the Board	665,081	641,225	23,856	3.7
Services received without charge	107,042 ¹	109,836	(2,794)	(2.5)
Total budget	772,123	751,061	21,062	2.8

 $^{^{1}\!\}text{This}$ amount is an estimate and will be adjusted to reflect the actuals at year-end.

Appendix B. Year-over-year changes to total budget by initiative as of December 31

(in thousands of dollars)

Description	\$ Budget
2023-2024 Board-approved authorities (incl. Supplementary Estimates 2023-2024)	641,225
Economic increases approved for certain House Administration employees	15,180
Cost-of-living increases for Members' and House Officers' budgets, including allocations for travel and constituency office leases	5,632
Lifecycling and maintenance of disaster recovery technologies and facilities	3,637
Members' sessional allowance and additional salaries	1,770
Conferences and assemblies (OSCE, APF, NATO) ¹	779
Members' pensions plans (MPRA and MPRCA accounts) ²	400
Accessibility Plan 2023-2025	(458)
Employee benefit plans (EBPs)	(380)
Supplementary Estimates 2024-2025 vs. 2023-2024 ³	(2,702)
Total approved budget	665,081
Services received without charge ⁴	107,042
Total budget	772,123

¹ OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, APF: Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie, NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

² MPRA: Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances, MPRCA: Members of Parliament Retirement Compensation Arrangements

³ The amount reflects a reduction of \$10.5M in economic increases for certain House Administration employees, a \$1.4M decrease for EBPs, and an increase of \$7.7M for sustained and enhanced security support for Members.

 $^{^4\}mbox{This}$ amount is an estimate and will be adjusted to reflect the actuals at year-end.