

Fact Sheet 4 Status of Women: resources which continue to fade away

1. A sustained decline in the programme spending linked to the status of women

While the budget of the *ministère de l'Économie, Sciences et Innovation* has increased nearly 12%, the budget granted to the Status of Women component has decreased nearly 10% to be about \$8.5 million in 2017-2018².

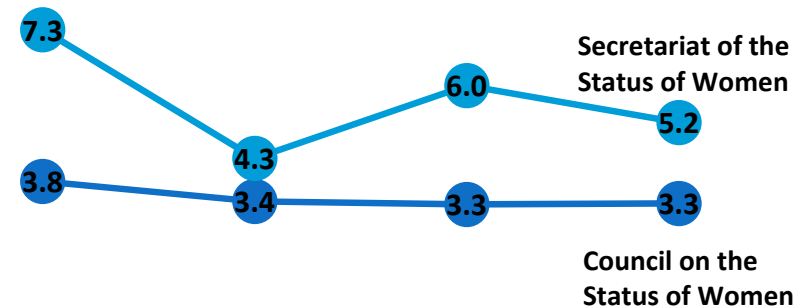
Yet, this programme merely seeks to promote equality and the respect of the rights and the status of women and to ensure the coordination of the government actions in gender equality, in collaboration with the ministries and bodies concerned.

From this amount, the Council on the Status of Women has a budget of \$3.3 million and the Secretariat of the Status of Women of \$5.2 million². As Graph 1 shows, the budget granted to these two bodies has fallen over the last 4 years.

Between 2014 and 2018:

- The budget for the Secretariat of the Status of Women has decreased by 41%².
- The budget for the Council of the Status of Women has decreased by 15%².
- The programme spending linked to the status of women has incurred cumulative cuts of \$7.9 million².

Graph 1: Distribution of programme spending for the status of women, millions of \$, 2014 to 2018



2014-2015 (JUSTICE) 2015-2016 (JUSTICE) 2016-2017 (ÉCONOMIE, SCIENCE ET INNOVATION) 2017-2018 (ÉCONOMIE, SCIENCE ET INNOVATION)

In a nutshell:

- For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, an additional amount has been reserved in the *Fonds de suppléance pour la Stratégie gouvernementale* for gender equality 2016-2021.
- The proposed actions by the *ministère Économie, Science et Innovation* to support the development and consistency of the government actions for gender equality lack scale and scope:
 - Publish the Government Strategy for Gender Equality and ensure a follow-up of its implementation
 - Follow up the implementation of the Government Strategy to prevent and combat sexual violence 2016-2021
 - Carry out work on the development of a new government Action Plan on Conjugal Violence

2. Issues for the healthcare professionals

The status of women file was not very visible in the 2017-2018 budget. However, as the Trudeau government showed with their budget statement regarding the sexes, promising initiatives can be introduced, even by the Ministry of Finance.

References

¹Ministère des Finances, Le Plan économique du Québec – Mars 2017

²Conseil du Trésor, Budget des dépenses, Crédits des ministères et des organismes, 2014-2015 à 2017-2018

³Conseil du Trésor, Budget des dépenses, Plan annuel de gestion des dépenses des ministères et organismes, 2014-2015 à 2017-2018