



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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1st SESSION • 42nd PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 150 • NUMBER 86

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## **APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 4, 2016-17**

Second Reading of Bill C-35

Speech by:

The Honourable Diane Bellemare

Monday, December 12, 2016

## THE SENATE

Monday, December 12, 2016

[Translation]

### APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 4, 2016-17

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. Diane Bellemare (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate)** moved second reading of Bill C-35, An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the federal public administration for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

She said: Honourable senators, I will be fairly brief because Senator Smith listed and explained most of the votes in Bill C-35. However, Bill C-35, Appropriation Bill No. 4, 2016-17, before us would grant supplementary funds to cover 2016-17 expenditures and seeks Parliament's approval to spend \$3.9 billion in voted expenditures.

Before discussing the details, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, the chair of the committee and the clerk, and of course the staff of the Library of Parliament, who work with us regularly. You may know this already, but this committee has done a great deal of work and sat for countless hours during the year to fulfil its mandate of overseeing national spending, and spending by the government and the executive.

Members will recall that the committee was established in 1919 and that, since its inception, its main mandate has been to analyze government spending. It fulfils its mandate by rigorously examining the Estimates, which are tabled every year by the President of the Treasury Board, at about the same time as the budget is tabled by the Minister of Finance. The Finance Committee is also mandated to study certain bills referred by the Senate.

Let us come back to the estimates. They set out all of the amounts granted to the departments and agencies for the fiscal year, and are basically a budget that is drawn up during the year but that does not take into account the budget that is then tabled

by the Minister of Finance. That is why, after the budget is tabled, we always receive supplementary estimates. Generally, there are three: the Supplementary Estimates (A), (B) and (C).

Today, we received the committee's report on the Supplementary Estimates (B), and we are asking you to pass Bill C-35, which is associated with the estimates and sets out the requested amounts.

The request for authority to spend public funds presented here as a supply bill and tabled in Parliament, the Main Estimates and Supplementary Estimates are tabled in the House of Commons by the President of the Treasury Board, and then examined and passed by the Senate. The purpose of the Supplementary Estimates is to present to Parliament information on the expenses of the Government of Canada that were not adequately defined in the Main Estimates or that were later fine-tuned to take into account changes made to specific programs or services.

The Supplementary Estimates (B), 2016-17, were tabled in the Senate on November 3, 2016, and referred to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. These estimates are the second supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2017.

• (1900)

[English]

Supplementary Estimate (B) 2016-17 reflect an increase of \$4.3 billion in budgetary spending, which consists of an increase of \$3.9 billion in voted appropriation and \$4 billion in statutory spending. Statutory spending was previously authorized by Parliament and the detailed forecasts are provided for information purposes only.

[Translation]

I will stop there because Senator Smith has already covered the details of the spending. I therefore ask you to support Bill C-35.