

Original : Français

Québec, January 20, 2012

Mr. Claude Blouin
President and Director General
Centre de services partagés
875, Grande Allée Est, 4^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5W5

Subject: Draft Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the *Gazette officielle du Québec*

Dear Mr. Blouin:

The Québec Ombudsman reviews all draft regulations published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. When it deems necessary, it intervenes under section 27.3 of its constituting act, which empowers it to call the attention of the government to legislative, regulatory or administrative reforms it deems to be in the public interest.

I therefore read the draft Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on December 14, 2011. The purpose of the draft regulation is to abolish the annual subscription price for the electronic versions of Parts 1 and 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* posted on the Publications du Québec website.

As early as 2006, the Québec began examining the question of the accessibility of laws and regulations. At the time, it felt that the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, where draft regulations are published for all citizens to comment on, should be as widely available as possible free of charge, and numerous discussions took place with the government authorities assigned to the file. Insofar as Internet access is increasingly prevalent throughout Québec, whether at home or via public agency, paragonovernmental or municipal networks, or even through commercial establishments (cafés, restaurants and other places), the proposed regulation seems to satisfy this requirement of accessibility.

Considering that with a view to sustainable development the use of electronic versions should be encouraged, the increase in the subscription price for paper versions does not seem unreasonable to me.

In my opinion, this future regulation is opportune and will have positive effects for citizens who want to contribute to the government's decisional process by expressing themselves on the draft regulations that affect them. The Québec Ombudsman also endorses the new provisions.

Yours respectfully,

[French version signed]

Raymonde Saint-Germain
Ombudsperson

c.c.: Ms. Michelle Courchesne, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor
Ms. Émilie Bevan, Clerk of the Committee on Public Finance
Ms. Catherine Gréas, Clerk of the Committee on Institutions