



Justice

Fairness

Respect

Impartiality

Transparency

**Brief by the Québec Ombudsman
presented to the
Committee on Public Finance**

concerning Bill 87,
An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings within public bodies

Québec City, January 28, 2016

Summary

The Québec Ombudsman subscribes to the government's will to develop and strengthen probity within public services. In this respect, it supports Bill 87's basic goals and means. However, in this brief, it nonetheless proposes improvements which, in its opinion, are likely to make the process fully effective and sustainable.

Its first comments concern the scope of the Act. Ambitious in the number of bodies subject to it, albeit the absence of some, its span could be broadened for wrongdoings and protection against reprisals for whistleblowers who are not employees of the bodies in question.

Called upon to exercise a central role in processing disclosures of wrongdoings, the Québec Ombudsman also draws the legislator's attention to the Québec Ombudsman's avocation to advise and support these bodies, as well as to the powers that would allow the Act its entire breadth, not only for dissuasion, but also for the promotion of sound administration and good governance.

The Québec Ombudsman also makes several comments and recommendations about issues which do not directly affect it but that are nonetheless important for the proper operation of the disclosure mechanism overall.

Lastly, the brief addresses the question of the implementation of the Act by the Québec Ombudsman, notably from the perspective of the resources required given the extent of its mandate, the particular nature of its investigations and its significant advisory and support role.

This report is being translated and will be posted soon.