

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

# <u>2023–24</u>

Departmental Results Report

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# The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's 2023–24 Departmental Results Report: At a Glance

A departmental results report provides an account of actual accomplishments against plans, priorities and expected results set out in the associated <u>departmental plan</u>.

Raison d'être, mandate, role and operating context

# **Key Priorities**

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's top priorities for 2023–24 were as follows:

- Preparing for the transition to the new electoral map by updating the agency's systems and materials to reflect the new electoral geography; supporting electoral district associations as they close their operations or transfer to new districts; and appointing new returning officers.
- Piloting the use of electronic lists of electors in at least one by-election; and documenting lessons learned to inform the way forward for future general elections.
- Reviewing existing electoral services to identify, and begin to address, participation challenges that are specific to electors with disabilities, students, new electors and Indigenous electors.

# Highlights

In 2023–24, total actual spending (including internal services) for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer was \$249,066,492 and total full-time equivalent staff (including internal services) was 1,208. For complete information on Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's total spending and human resources, read the <u>Spending and Human Resources section</u> of the full report.

The following provides a summary of the department's achievements in 2023–24 according to its approved Departmental Results Framework. A Departmental Results Framework consists of a department's core responsibilities, the results it plans to achieve and the performance indicators that measure progress toward these results.

# **Core Responsibility 1: Electoral Administration**

Actual spending: \$144,091,585

Actual human resources: 651

### **Departmental results achieved:**

Canada has an inclusive, accessible, and reliable electoral process.

More information about <u>Electoral Administration</u> can be found in the "Results achieved for core responsibilities and internal services" section of the full departmental results report.

# **Core Responsibility 2: Regulatory Oversight**

Actual spending: \$29,039,136

### Actual human resources: 179

### **Departmental results achieved:**

Canada has a fair, secure, and transparent electoral process free of undue influence.

More information about <u>Regulatory Oversight</u> can be found in the "Results achieved for core responsibilities and internal services" section of the full departmental results report.

### Core Responsibility 3: Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration

Actual spending: \$1,324,097

#### Actual human resources: 8

#### **Departmental results achieved:**

Independent electoral boundaries commissions can deliver their final report according to legislative requirements.

More information about <u>Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration</u> can be found in the "Results achieved for core responsibilities and internal services" section of the full departmental results report.

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# **From the Chief Electoral Officer**

I am pleased to present the 2023–24 Departmental Results Report of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, detailing the progress against the commitments made in the agency's 2023–24 Departmental Plan. This report contains the results for the entire portfolio, that is, for both Elections Canada and the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections.

During this period, Elections Canada administered six by-elections and focused on preparations for the next general election. In addition to maintaining readiness under the current federal electoral district map, the agency prepared for the possibility of conducting the next election under a new electoral map, after the decennial review of electoral boundaries.

The agency further worked on enhancing and modernizing its



Stéphane Perrault Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

services to meet the evolving needs and expectations of Canadians. Notably, Elections Canada piloted the use of an electronic list of electors at select locations in the Durham (Ontario) by-election. This enabled voters to cast their ballots at any table at these polling places. The agency remains committed to using electronic lists of electors more broadly in 2025.

Elections Canada also actively engaged with various communities to identify and begin to address the unique challenges that some electors face when participating in the electoral process.

Specifically, the agency focused on enabling equitable access to voting for electors with disabilities, students and Indigenous electors.

Finally, throughout the year, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer supported the <u>Foreign</u> <u>Interference Commission</u> by providing contextual information, participating in interviews and sharing valuable insights and expertise. Furthermore, on March 28, 2024, both myself and the Commissioner of Canada Elections personally appeared before the Commission to give public testimony on relevant events related to the 43rd and 44th general elections and the overall nature of our mandates.

Elections Canada's role in Canadian democracy is to strengthen trust, integrity and inclusivity in the electoral process. Looking forward to the next general election, I am confident that the activities and improvements that the agency has prioritized will build a stronger, more resilient democracy for generations to come.

Stéphane Perrault Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

# **Results – What We Achieved**

# **Core Responsibilities and Internal Services:**

- Electoral Administration
- Regulatory Oversight
- Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration
- Internal Services

# **Core Responsibility 1: Electoral Administration**

# In this section:

- Description
- Progress on Results
- Resources Required to Achieve Results
- Program Inventory

# Description

Elections Canada prepares for, delivers, and reports on federal general elections, by-elections, and referendums in accordance with the legislative framework and educates electors, first-time electors, and future electors to enable Canadians' participation in an inclusive electoral process.

# **Progress on Results**

This section presents details on how the department performed to achieve results and meet targets for Electoral Administration. Details are presented by departmental result.

# Table 1: Targets and Results for Electoral Administration

Table 1 provides a summary of the target and actual results for each indicator associated with the results under Electoral Administration.

In the table below, unless otherwise stated, "Not applicable" means that data for the performance indicator could not be gathered, as the correlating event (by-election or general election) did not occur in that fiscal year; and "Not available" means that the performance indicator was not in effect at that time and, therefore, historical data is not available. The 44th general election was held in 2021–22 on September 20, 2021; there was one by-election<sup>1</sup> in 2022–23 and six by-elections<sup>2</sup> in 2023–24.

| Departmental<br>Result<br>Indicators   | Target          | Date to<br>Achieve Target       | Actual Results   |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Percentage of electors satisfied with their overall voting experience in a by-election                           | At least<br>85% | by March 2024                   | 2021–22: Not applicable<br>2022–23: 95%<br>2023–24: 98%            |
| Percentage of polling places in a by-election<br>that meet all 15 mandatory accessibility<br>criteria            | 100%            | by March 2024                   | 2021–22: Not applicable<br>2022–23: 100%<br>2023–24: 98.5%         |
| Percentage of eligible electors included in the National Register of Electors                                    | At least<br>95% | by March 2024                   | 2021–22: 97%<br>2022–23: 95.1%<br>2023–24: 95.2%                   |
| Percentage of young electors (18-24) included in the National Register of Electors                               | At least<br>80% | by March 2024                   | 2021–22: Not available<br>2022–23: 74%<br>2023–24: 69.5%           |
| Percentage of future electors (17 year-olds)<br>in the Register of Future Electors                               | At least<br>25% | by March 2024                   | 2021–22: Not available<br>2022–23: 15.8%<br>2023–24: 16.9%         |
| Percentage of electors satisfied with their<br>overall voting experience in a general<br>election                | At least<br>85% | by the 45th general<br>election | 2021–22: 96%<br>2022–23: Not applicable<br>2023–24: Not applicable |
| Percentage of electors satisfied with the<br>information received from Elections Canada<br>on the voting process | At least<br>90% | by the 45th general<br>election | 2021–22: 94%<br>2022–23: Not applicable<br>2023–24: Not applicable |

### Canada has an inclusive, accessible, and reliable electoral process

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Mississauga–Lakeshore by-election was held on December 12, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Notre-Dame-de-Grâce–Westmount, Oxford, Portage–Lisgar, Winnipeg South Centre by-elections were held on June 19, 2023, the Calgary Heritage by-election was held on July 24, 2023, and the Durham by-election was held on March 4, 2024.

| Departmental<br>Result<br>Indicators  | Target            | Date to<br>Achieve Target    | Actual Results   |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Percentage of candidates satisfied with the<br>overall quality of service received from<br>Elections Canada | At least<br>75%   | by the 45th general election | 2021–22: 86%<br>2022–23: Not applicable<br>2023–24: Not applicable   |
| Percentage of polling places in a general<br>election that meet all 15 mandatory<br>accessibility criteria  | 100%              | by the 45th general election | 2021–22: 94%<br>2022–23: Not applicable<br>2023–24: Not applicable   |
| Percentage of non-voters who did not vote<br>due to reasons related to the electoral<br>process             | 5% or less        | by the 45th general election | 2021–22: Not applicable<br>2022–23: 7.1%<br>2023–24: Not applicable  |
| Number of schools that register to<br>participate in Student Vote   | At least<br>7,500 | by the 45th general election | 2021–22: Not applicable<br>2022–23: 7,628<br>2023–24: Not applicable |

Additional information on <u>the detailed results and performance information</u> for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's program inventory is available on GC InfoBase.

# **Details on Results**

The following section describes the results for Electoral Administration in 2023–24 compared with the planned results set out in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's departmental plan for the year.

# Canada has an inclusive, accessible, and reliable electoral process

Throughout 2023–24, Elections Canada successfully administered six by-elections. Being prepared to deliver federal electoral events is an integral part of the agency's mandate. As part of its preparations for the next general election, the agency focused on initiatives in support of programs and services that enabled Canadians to vote and be a candidate.

**Results Achieved:** 

- Began updating systems and field operations to conduct a general election under the newly established electoral boundaries. In accordance with legislative requirements, the agency is maintaining maps for both the existing and new boundaries until the dissolution of the House. Ongoing efforts are focused on completing the necessary updates to ensure a seamless transition and support future elections under the new boundaries.
- Piloted an electronic list of electors<sup>3</sup> during the by-election in Durham, Ontario, which enabled electors to vote at any table in their designated polling location. This pilot also supported the optimization of available resources. For example, in one polling location, 30 polling divisions were consolidated into a single site with 17 tables.
- Initiated the development of assistive technology to enable blind or partially sighted electors to independently make and verify the mark on their ballot at advance and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Current procedures include the use of a paper list of electors that contains the names of those who are registered to vote in each polling division.

election day polling locations. The objective of this technology will be to help remove barriers to voting and ensure that these electors can exercise their right to vote with confidence and autonomy.

- Improved advance voting services in remote communities by updating the generation process for the voter information card to allow for customizable advance poll dates and times based on each community's unique needs. This improvement enables Elections Canada to better adapt to the distinct challenges in remote areas, ultimately increasing accessibility and convenience for voters in these communities.
- Before obtaining the required authorities from parliamentarians to pilot a ballot that reflects the Indigenous linguistic reality of Nunavut electors, Elections Canada proactively drafted an implementation plan for the pilot project. The plan was developed with valuable input from Inuktut consulting services by <u>ilinniapaa Skills Development</u> <u>Centre</u>.
- Collaborated with Indigenous Peoples to improve election services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis electors by reviewing existing services and identifying opportunities for improvement. This effort also included building capacity to maintain relationships with Indigenous partners; and conducting consultations that informed recommendations to address identified issues.
- Established a <u>Vote on Campus</u> working group to increase accessibility and representation in the next general election by providing special ballot voting offices at participating<sup>4</sup> post-secondary institutions. In the next general election, 120 campuses across Canada are set to host the program.
- Updated the agency's Inspire Democracy toolkits and workshops that are designed to educate individuals on <u>becoming a candidate</u>, <u>working in an election</u> and <u>registering and</u> <u>voting</u> in a federal election. The primary objective was to facilitate electoral participation among groups that typically face barriers to voting.<sup>5</sup> The Inspire Democracy network was expanded to include 183 Indigenous organizations, communities, governments and friendship centres, with seven contracted partnerships to further strengthen this outreach effort.
- Continued to ensure that public-facing communication products met accessibility standards and used plain language. The agency also produced videos in American Sign Language and Langue des signes québécoise and products in alternate formats in preparation for the next general election, included closed captioning or video descriptions in public videos and used accessibility features on social media platforms.
- Streamlined the technology used at local Elections Canada offices and developed supporting procedures to enable returning officers to be operational as quickly as possible after an election is called. This included the deployment of new equipment and digital productivity and collaboration tools.

To remain on the leading edge of trends and issues in election management, Elections Canada engaged in various international collaborations and events alongside other electoral management bodies and key partners. In 2023–24, Elections Canada:

Co-hosted two major events: the <u>16th Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management</u> <u>Bodies</u> with the Organization of American States and the Canadian Chief Electoral Officers' Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence with Elections Ontario.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Post-secondary institutions that meet specific criteria, including prior participation, student enrollment and service to Indigenous students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Electors with disabilities, students, new electors and Indigenous electors.

- Participated in 20 international events, covering a range of topics, such as preserving information integrity and public trust in elections, political advertising regulation, social media monitoring and voting methods.
- Engaged in bilateral discussions with key international and national electoral management bodies to share knowledge and expertise. The agency also hosted delegations from Singapore, the United Kingdom and South Korea to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration.
- Attended virtual visitors' programs from Australia and New Zealand to expand the agency's global network.
- Maintained involvement with electoral administrations in the United States through the winter conference of the <u>National Association of State Election Directors</u>.
- Successfully completed the handover to <u>The Carter Center</u> as incoming coordinator for the <u>ACE Electoral Knowledge Network</u>, while continuing to provide support for this partnership.

# **Resources Required to Achieve Results**

# Table 2: Snapshot of Resources Required for Electoral Administration

Table 2 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents (FTEs) required to achieve results.

| Resource              | Planned     | Actual      |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Spending              | 115,109,165 | 144,091,585 |
| Full-time equivalents | 554         | 651         |

Complete <u>financial</u> and <u>human resources</u> information for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's program inventory is available on GC InfoBase.

# **Program Inventory**

Electoral Administration is supported by the following programs:

- Voting Services
- Field Management
- Electoral Data Services
- Public Education and Information

Additional information related to the program inventory for Electoral Administration is available on the <u>Results page on GC InfoBase</u>.

# **Core Responsibility 2: Regulatory Oversight**

In this section:

- Description
- Progress on Results
- Resources Required to Achieve Results
- Program Inventory

# Description

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer works to ensure integrity throughout the electoral process through two separate organizational components: Elections Canada (EC) and Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections (OCCE). EC administers the political financing regime in the <u>Canada Elections Act</u> (CEA), ensures the policies, advice, and guidance are in place to facilitate election administration in accordance with the CEA, and monitors compliance of political entities with the political financing requirements in the CEA. The OCCE ensures compliance with, and enforcement of, the CEA and the <u>Referendum Act</u>.

# **Progress on Results**

This section presents details on how the department performed to achieve results and meet targets for Regulatory Oversight. Details are presented by departmental result.

# Table 3: Indicators, Results and Targets for Regulatory Oversight

Table 3 provides a summary of the target and actual results for each indicator associated with the results under Regulatory Oversight.

In the table below, unless otherwise stated, "Not applicable" means that data for the performance indicator could not be gathered, as the correlating event (by-election or general election) did not occur in that fiscal year; and "Not available" means that the performance indicator was not in effect at that time and, therefore, historical data is not available. The 44th general election was held in 2021–22 on September 20, 2021; there was one by-election<sup>6</sup> in 2022–23 and six by-elections<sup>7</sup> in 2023–24.

# Canada has a fair, secure, and transparent electoral process free of undue influence

| Departmental<br>Result<br>Indicators   | Target  | Date to<br>Achieve Target | Actual Result  |
|--|---|---------------------------|--|
| Percentage of electors who have a positive<br>perception of the administration of<br>by-elections  | At least<br>90%   | by March 2024             | 2021–22: Not applicable<br>2022–23: 89%<br>2023–24: 91%  |
| Election officers' level of compliance with procedures at the polls in a by-election   | Deviation under 2% for<br>key controls at by-<br>elections and deviation<br>under 11% for secondary<br>controls at by-elections | by March 2024             | 2021–22: Not applicable<br>2022–23: Within<br>tolerance<br>2023–24: Within<br>tolerance for key<br>controls.<br>Outside tolerance for<br>secondary controls <sup>1</sup> |
| Percentage of political party and electoral<br>district association financial returns (filed<br>with all mandatory documents) that are<br>published on Elections Canada's website<br>within 10 business days of filing | 100%  | by March 2024             | 2021–22: Not available<br>2022–23: 58.6% <sup>2</sup><br>2023–24:91.2% <sup>3</sup>  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Mississauga–Lakeshore by-election was held on December 12, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Notre-Dame-de-Grâce–Westmount, Oxford, Portage–Lisgar, Winnipeg South Centre by-elections were held on June 19, 2023, the Calgary Heritage by-election was held on July 24, 2023, and the Durham by-election was held on March 4, 2024.

| Departmental<br>Result<br>Indicators   | Target  | Date to<br>Achieve Target                   | Actual Result   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Number of security incidents <sup>4</sup> with a<br>demonstrable effect <sup>5</sup> on the electoral<br>process   | 0   | by March 2024                               | 2021–22: 0<br>2022–23: 0<br>2023–24: 0  |
| Percentage of Office of the Commissioner<br>of Canada Elections files closed within<br>18 months   | At least<br>80%   | by March 2024                               | 2021–22: Not available<br>2022–23: 88.9%<br>2023–24: 96%  |
| Percentage of electors who have a positive<br>perception of the administration of a general<br>election  | At least<br>90%   | by the 45th general election                | 2021–22: 90%<br>2022–23: Not applicable<br>2023–24: Not applicable  |
| Election officers' level of compliance with procedures at the polls in a general election  | Deviation under 2% for<br>key controls at a general<br>election and deviation<br>under 11% for secondary<br>controls at a general<br>election | by the 45th general election                | 2021–22: Within<br>tolerance for key<br>controls.<br>Outside tolerance for<br>secondary controls <sup>6</sup><br>2022–23: Not applicable<br>2023–24: Not applicable |
| Percentage of candidate financial returns<br>(filed with all mandatory documents) that<br>are published on Elections Canada's<br>website within 10 business days of filing | 100%  | by the 45th general election                | 2021–22: Not available<br>2022–23: 47%<br>2023–24: 98.7%  |
| Percentage of candidate financial returns<br>for which the audit is completed within<br>12 months of the statutory or extended<br>submission deadline                      | 100%  | by the 45 <sup>th</sup> general<br>election | 2021–22: Not available<br>2022–23: 100% <sup>7</sup><br>2023–24: 100% <sup>8</sup>  |

Table Note 1: Controls are within tolerance if they do not lead to a major finding or pervasive observation. One pervasive observation was made relating to a single secondary control. Details regarding this pervasive observation are included in the <u>Independent audit</u> report on the performance of the duties and functions of election officers – June 19, 2023 by-elections and the <u>Independent audit</u> report on the performance of the duties and functions of election officers – July 24, 2023 by-election.

Table Note 2: 16 of 18 political party annual financial returns were published on Election Canada's website within 10 business days of filing. 824 of 1,416 electoral district association financial returns were published on Election Canada's website within 10 business days of filing.

Table Note 3: 15 of 18 political party annual financial returns were published on Election Canada's website within 10 business days of filing. 1,192 of 1,305 electoral district association financial returns were published on Election Canada's website within 10 business days of filing.

Table Note 4: A "security incident" is an event that affects the availability, confidentiality, or integrity of the electoral process.

Table Note 5: A "demonstrable effect" is the interruption or suspension of electoral services in one or more electoral districts.

Table Note 6: Controls are within tolerance if they do not lead to a major finding or pervasive observation. One pervasive observation was made relating to a single secondary control. Details regarding this pervasive observation are included in the <u>Independent audit</u> report on the performance of the duties and functions of election officers – 44th General Election.

Table Note 7: These results are related to the 44th general election.

Table Note 8: These results are related to the 2022 by-election in Mississauga–Lakeshore, Ontario.

Additional information on <u>the detailed results and performance information</u> for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's program inventory is available on GC InfoBase.

# **Details on Results**

The following section describes the results for Regulatory Oversight in 2023–24 compared with the planned results set out in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's departmental plan for the year.

# Canada has a fair, secure, and transparent electoral process free of undue influence

In 2023–24, Elections Canada continued activities to close out the 44th general election while maintaining readiness to administer the 45th general election. The agency focused on initiatives that supported the implementation of its multi-year audit plan for political entities, enabled a sound political financing regime and strengthened trust in the electoral process.

Results Achieved:

- Facilitated the mandatory audit of poll officials for by-elections held during the fiscal year and published <u>final reports</u> for the five by-elections held in 2023.<sup>8</sup> This independent audit examines whether election officers properly perform their duties as per the <u>Canada</u> <u>Elections Act</u>.
- Modernized the political financing program by introducing self-paced training modules for candidates and electoral district associations in Elections Canada's <u>Virtual Training</u> <u>Centre</u>. The agency also facilitated compliance with the *Canada Elections Act* by implementing reminders for financial agents upon their registration; providing third parties, leadership contestants and electoral district associations with an overview of their responsibilities and upcoming deadlines; and highlighting key milestones via infographics and timelines for all users.
- Conducted a post-mortem of the audit process for political entities to identify opportunities for improving its efficiency. Elections Canada also analyzed the audit results of candidate returns from the 44th general election to identify potential enhancements to the audit methodology for use in the next general election.
- Strengthened the political financing compliance program for political entities by updating all political financing handbooks with accessible tools and information on electoral redistribution. Elections Canada also provided online training for newly appointed financial agents to inform them of available tools and support them in accomplishing their duties.
- Implemented a comprehensive communication plan to inform political parties and affiliated entities about the electoral redistribution process. This included developing online content, hosting information sessions and providing individualized guidance on electoral map changes and reporting obligations.
- Ensured Elections Canada remained the authoritative source of information about the federal electoral process by continually monitoring the information environment, responding to misinformation and producing regular reports to inform communication strategies. This work also included the development of Web and social media content, such as the <u>ElectoFacts webpage</u>, to correct inaccurate narratives.
- Developed and published six <u>regulatory policy instruments</u> to increase predictability and transparency in electoral services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> As the Durham by-election was held on March 6, 2024, the final report has not yet been published.

Throughout 2023–24, the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections (OCCE) ensured compliance with, and enforcement of, the <u>Canada Elections Act</u> by continuing to review and investigate referrals<sup>9</sup> and complaints related to the 43rd and 44th general elections.

Results Achieved:

- Closed 6,125 files<sup>10</sup> related to both the 43rd and 44th general elections. The OCCE continued to receive referrals from Elections Canada related to the 43rd and 44th general elections and addressed them on a priority basis throughout the reporting period.
- Received 6,340 new files, including 1,383 referrals from Elections Canada. Each file was reviewed and, as appropriate, investigated.
- Initiated preparations for the 45th general election to proactively address the anticipated influx of complaints and issues that typically arise during an election period. This involved enhancing the OCCE's capacity to effectively respond to a high volume and complexity of complaints, as well as developing strategies to navigate emerging challenges, such as open-source research, tracing funds and identifying manipulated imagery or videos.
- Issued notices of violation, leading to the imposition of an administrative monetary penalty, to 90 individuals and accepted 2 undertakings.<sup>11</sup>
- Sent 503 caution letters and 22 information letters. A total of 7 press releases announcing these measures were issued by the OCCE during the reporting period.

# **Resources Required to Achieve Results**

### Table 4: Snapshot of Resources Required for Regulatory Oversight

Table 4 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents (FTEs) required to achieve results.

| Resource              | Planned    | Actual     |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Spending              | 27,183,202 | 29,039,136 |
| Full-time equivalents | 196        | 179        |

Complete <u>financial</u> and <u>human resources</u> information for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's program inventory is available on GC InfoBase.

# **Program Inventory**

Regulatory Oversight is supported by the following programs:

- Political Entities Regulatory Compliance
- Electoral Integrity and Regulatory Policy
- Office of the Commission of Canada Elections

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Referrals are received from Elections Canada, including those relating to the financial returns of candidates, registered parties and third parties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Including files that were subject to compliance and enforcement measures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> An undertaking is a formal pledge that is voluntarily signed by a person or entity and accepted by the Commissioner. It may include the terms and conditions that the Commissioner considers appropriate, including the payment of an amount by the person or entity.

Additional information related to the program inventory for Regulatory Oversight is available on the <u>Results page on GC InfoBase</u>.

# Core Responsibility 3: Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration

In this section:

- Description
- Progress on Results
- <u>Resources Required to Achieve Results</u>
- Program Inventory

# Description

Elections Canada provides independent provincial commissions with financial and administrative services to support the readjustment of the federal electoral boundaries and enable the commissions to carry out their obligations under the <u>Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act</u>.

# **Progress on Results**

This section presents details on how the department performed to achieve results and meet targets for Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration. Details are presented by departmental result.

# Table 5: Indicators, Results and Targets for Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration

Table 5 provides a summary of the target and actual results for each indicator associated with the results under Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration.

In the table below, unless otherwise stated, "Not available" means that the performance indicator was not in effect at that time and, therefore, historical data is not available.

# Independent electoral boundaries commissions can deliver their final report according to legislative requirements

| Departmental<br>Result<br>Indicator  | Target | Date to<br>Achieve Target | Actual Results  |
|--|--------|---------------------------|---|
| Percentage of commissioners w<br>satisfied with the services and sup<br>received |        | by March 2024             | 2021–22: Not available<br>2022–23: Not available <sup>1</sup><br>2023–24: 80.7% |

Table Note 1: Since four electoral commissions and the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (PROC) requested extensions, the survey to measure satisfaction was completed in summer 2023 and the results will be reported in 2023–24.

Additional information related to the program inventory for Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration is available on the <u>Results page on GC InfoBase</u>.

# **Details on Results**

The following section describes the results for Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration in 2023–24 compared with the planned results set out in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's departmental plan for the year.

# Independent electoral boundaries commissions can deliver their final report according to legislative requirements

Both the <u>Constitution Act, 1867</u> and the <u>Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act</u> require that the number of seats in the House of Commons and the boundaries of federal electoral districts be reviewed after each decennial census in order to reflect changes and movements in Canada's population. This work is led by 10 independent electoral boundaries commissions, which receive financial and administrative support from Elections Canada.

The most recent iteration of this work concluded on September 22, 2023, when the Governor in Council proclaimed into law the new Representation Orders, which define and name Canada's future federal electoral districts. As a result, the final reports outlining the new electoral districts in each province are now available on the <u>2022 Redistribution website</u>.

The new boundary limits will come into effect on the first dissolution of Parliament that occurs after April 22, 2024. Following this milestone, this core responsibility will remain dormant until the agency begins to prepare to support the work of the commissions in the next decennial census.

Results Achieved:

- Coordinated and planned for the successful completion of the redistribution of federal electoral districts, ensuring a timely and efficient outcome.
- Provided the necessary tools and resources to enable the electoral boundaries commissions to fulfill their responsibilities under the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.
- Served as the liaison between the Speaker of the House of Commons and the 10 electoral boundaries commissions, facilitating effective communication and collaboration.
- Managed the financial aspects of the redistribution by processing payment of expenses, and provided equipment, technical and administrative support as needed.
- Facilitated the tabling of the final reports by the commissions in the House of Commons, followed by preparing the Representation Orders<sup>12</sup> that included detailed descriptions of the boundaries and the names of all 343 federal electoral districts.
- Appointed new returning officers in each of the 343 federal electoral districts, as outlined in the new electoral map, while maintaining the existing 338 returning officers in their positions until the new map took effect.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Exceptionally, this decennial redistribution required two representation orders, one for Quebec and another for the other nine provinces. Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut each constitute one federal electoral district; as a result, no boundary changes are required in the territories. On June 23, 2022, Parliament amended the representation formula, which determines the number of members of Parliament (MPs) to be assigned to each province. The new legislation ensures that every province retains, at a minimum, the same number of MPs that it had assigned during the 43rd Parliament, elected in 2019. As a result, the province of Quebec will have 78 MPs, instead of the 77 calculated under the previous representation formula in October 2021. Due to this change, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec was published separately from the other provinces.

- Updated the agency's systems and materials to reflect the changes to electoral district boundaries, ensuring a seamless transition and alignment with both the existing and new boundaries and polling divisions until the new map is fully in effect.
- Worked with returning officers to establish new polling divisions<sup>13</sup> and identify potential polling locations that meet the needs of each electoral district.
- Organized a closing conference from October 2 to 4, 2023, which served as a platform for key stakeholders to convene and share their experiences and best practices. During the conference, attendees engaged in discussions about common challenges and provided recommendations for improving future redistribution processes.

# **Resources Required to Achieve Results**

# Table 6: Snapshot of Resources Required for Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration

Table 6 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents (FTEs) required to achieve results.

| Resource              | Planned   | Actual    |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Spending              | 1,037,393 | 1,324,097 |
| Full-time equivalents | 6         | 8         |

Complete <u>financial</u> and <u>human resources</u> information for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's program inventory is available on GC InfoBase.

# **Program Inventory**

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration is supported by the following programs:

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration

Additional information related to the program inventory for Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration is available on the <u>Results page on GC InfoBase</u>.

# **Internal Services**

In this section:

- Description
- Progress on Results
- Resources Required to Achieve Results
- Contracts Awarded to Indigenous Businesses

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> A polling division is a small geographic section of an electoral district for which a list of electors is prepared and a polling station, set up on election day. There are roughly 180 polling divisions per electoral district and each polling division has roughly 375 electors. In rural areas, one polling division may cover an entire town; in urban settings, there may be one polling division for a high-rise building.

# Description

Internal services are the services that are provided within a department so that it can meet its corporate obligations and deliver its programs. There are 10 categories of internal services:

- Management and Oversight Services
- Communications Services
- Legal Services
- Human Resources Management Services
- Financial Management Services
- Information Management Services
- Information Technology Services
- Real Property Management Services
- Materiel Management Services
- Acquisition Management Services

# **Progress on Results**

This section presents details on how the agency performed to achieve results and meet targets for internal services.

Internal Services played a crucial role in supporting the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's operational programs and activities, ensuring that they had the necessary resources to provide services to Canadians.

As part of these efforts, Elections Canada took steps to modernize its payroll system for election workers by awarding a contract for a new fully integrated solution and engaging with stakeholders to ensure it meets the agency's needs.

In addition, Internal Services implemented an Indigenous procurement strategy aimed at increasing the participation of Indigenous suppliers in Elections Canada's procurement activities. This involved proactively identifying opportunities for Indigenous supplier procurement, thereby promoting diversity and inclusivity in the agency's business and procurement practices.

As part of the agency's ongoing efforts to modernize and streamline processes, Elections Canada enabled the use of electronic signatures for election administrators so that they can securely sign digital documents. To guide future expansion plans, the agency also conducted a feasibility analysis to assess the potential benefits and challenges of extending the use of electronic signatures to third parties.

To better serve Canadians, Elections Canada continued to modernize the agency's digital infrastructure and services. A notable achievement in this area was the development of a new data architecture for addresses, which will serve as the agency's new standard for collecting and administering this type of information. Though the agency had hoped to make more progress on migrating its information and applications to the cloud, this work was postponed due to changes to the Government of Canada's <u>cloud adoption strategy</u> and competing digital priorities related to the 45th general election. The agency will reassess these plans after the next general election.

Though not originally planned for 2023–24, Elections Canada began preparations to move IT resources to a new data centre with a service model more compatible with the electoral cycle. This relocation was prompted by a technical requirement to vacate the King Edward Data Centre,

which hosts Elections Canada's current systems. To support this work, the agency began inventorying and preparing for the migration of several tools, applications and services.

Following directions from the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat in December 2022, the agency implemented a common hybrid work model that mandated employees to work on site at least two days per week, or 40% of their regular schedule. To facilitate this transition, employees were equipped with workstation booking tools, updated travel standards, enhanced IT equipment and videoconferencing technology. Furthermore, an accommodation strategy was implemented to optimize office spaces by eliminating unused areas and adjusting existing spaces in alignment with fluctuating employee presence.

In pursuit of a more representative workforce, Elections Canada prioritized activities that promoted equity, diversity and inclusion. The agency implemented measures to remove employment barriers and ensure representation from designated groups<sup>14</sup> of the <u>Employment</u> <u>Equity Act</u> and other equity-seeking groups. Key initiatives included launching a recruitment strategy and development programs aimed at promoting inclusiveness. Additionally, learning events and training sessions were conducted to help employees recognize unconscious bias and promote equitable recruitment practices. The agency also recognized commemorative dates related to marginalized groups to raise awareness and improve workplace inclusivity.

Complementing this work, Elections Canada began the implementation of its <u>Accessibility Plan</u>. In 2023–24, the agency made progress in the following areas to promote inclusivity for people with disabilities both within and outside of the agency:

- Worked toward increasing accessibility literacy within the agency by developing training and support tools and sharing resources on best practices.
- Created new processes and tools to support the agency in developing accessible communication materials, including a new policy on creating and publishing digital products in alternate formats.
- Expanded consultations with members of the disability community to solicit input on programs and services that are internal to Elections Canada.

To further improve internal communications and facilitate access to information, Elections Canada continued to enhance its intranet. The agency took several steps to ensure the website's content was accessible, accurate, concise and available in both English and French. This included updating some of the existing content and developing new templates to standardize document uploads, thereby improving accessibility for all users.

Finally, Internal Services supported the agency in developing an official languages action plan, which aims to provide tools and procedures to support employees in meeting their official language obligations and delivering services in both English and French.

# **Resources Required to Achieve Results**

### Table 7: Snapshot of Resources Required for Internal Services

Table 7 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents (FTEs) required to achieve results.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities.

| Resource              | Planned    | Actual     |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Spending              | 61,524,450 | 74,611,674 |
| Full-time equivalents | 303        | 370        |

The <u>complete financial and human resources information</u> for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's Program Inventory is available in the GC InfoBase.

# **Contracts Awarded to Indigenous Businesses**

Government of Canada departments are to meet a target of awarding at least 5% of the total value of contracts to Indigenous businesses each year. This commitment is to be fully implemented by the end of 2024–25.

# The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's result for 2023–24:

### Table 8: Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses<sup>1</sup>

As shown in the Table 8, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer awarded 17.6% of the total value of all contracts to Indigenous businesses for the fiscal year.

| Contracting performance indicators  | 2023–24 Results |
|---|-----------------|
| Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses <sup>2</sup> (A)                    | 18,446,537      |
| Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses <sup>3</sup> (B) | 104,931,236     |
| Value of exceptions approved by deputy head (C)   | 0               |
| Proportion of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses [A / (B-C) × 100]                    | 17.6%           |

Table Note 1: For the purposes of measuring performance against the minimum 5% target for fiscal year 2023–24, the data in this table is based on how Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) defines "Indigenous business", which is one that is owned and operated by Elders, band and tribal councils; registered in the <u>Indigenous Business Directory</u>; or registered on a modern treaty beneficiary business list.

Table Note 2: Includes contract amendments with Indigenous businesses and contracts that were entered into with Indigenous businesses by means of acquisition cards above \$10,000 and may include subcontracts with Indigenous businesses.

Table Note 3: Includes contract amendments and contracts that were entered into by means of acquisition cards above \$10,000.

Throughout 2023–24, Elections Canada promoted diversity and inclusion in its procurement practices by increasing opportunities for Indigenous businesses. The agency's achievements included:

- Increasing the total proportion of contracts and amendments awarded to Indigenous businesses from 3.4% in 2022–23 to 17.6% in 2023–24, representing a growth of \$13.9 million.
- Leveraging set-aside contracts for Indigenous businesses with IT professional services requirements.
- Using social media to raise awareness of procurement and engagement opportunities among Indigenous suppliers.

- Leveraging a standing offer<sup>15</sup> for investigation services with an Indigenous business.
- Modifying submission forms for products and services shared with returning officers to allow suppliers to self-identify as Indigenous.
- Proactively contacting business owners to identify opportunities for Indigenous contracts.
- Implementing mandatory training on Indigenous considerations for the Elections Canada procurement team.

In its 2024–25 Departmental Plan, the agency forecasted that, by the end of 2023–24, it would award 6% of the total value of its contracts to Indigenous businesses.

# **Spending and Human Resources**

### In this section:

- Spending
- Funding
- Financial Statement Highlights
- Human Resources

# Spending

This section provides an overview of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's actual and planned expenditures from 2021–22 to 2026–27.

# **Financial Framework**

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's unique dual-funding mechanism and planning practices are part of its mandate. The agency is partly funded by an annual appropriation that covers the salaries of its indeterminate positions and is not affected by the electoral cycle. Both Elections Canada and the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections also have statutory authorities that allow them to draw directly from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for all other expenses. These statutory authorities ensure that both entities within the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer have access to the funds required to deliver their mandates while respecting their independence from the government. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer continues its efforts to replace and modernize IT systems and adopts financial management practices and oversight mechanisms to ensure sound stewardship, prudent use of resources and value for money across all its activities.

Under Canada's parliamentary system, general elections are scheduled to take place on fixed dates but can still be called in advance, particularly during a minority government. By-elections, which take place whenever seats in the House of Commons become vacant, are also unpredictable, as Elections Canada has no control over their frequency and timing. Legislative changes and market forces for procured goods and services can also significantly impact a general election. For these reasons, Elections Canada does not forecast planned spending in its Main Estimates related to election delivery activities until the fiscal year of a fixed-date election.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> A standing offer is an offer from a potential supplier to provide goods and/or services at pre-arranged prices, under set terms and conditions, when and if required.

# **Budgetary Performance Summary**

# Table 9: Actual three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

Table 9 presents how much money the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer spent over the past three years to carry out its core responsibilities and for internal services.

| Core Responsibilities and Internal Services                      | 2023–24<br>Main Estimates | 2023–24<br>total authorities<br>available for use <sup>1</sup> | Actual spending<br>over three years<br>(authorities used)            |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Electoral Administration and Oversight <sup>2</sup>              | N/A                       | N/A  | 2021–22: 555,990,903<br>2022–23: N/A<br>2023–24: N/A                 |
| Electoral Compliance and Enforcement <sup>2</sup>                | N/A                       | N/A  | 2021–22: 7,267,285<br>2022–23: N/A<br>2023–24: N/A                   |
| Electoral Administration <sup>3</sup>                            | 115,109,165               | 145,129,677  | 2021–22: N/A<br>2022–23: 104,296,960<br>2023–24: 144,091,585         |
| Regulatory Oversight <sup>4</sup>                                | 27,183,202                | 29,575,523   | 2021–22: N/A<br>2022–23: 30,602,013<br>2023–24: 29,039,136           |
| Electoral Boundaries Readjustment<br>Administration <sup>5</sup> | 1,037,393                 | 1,324,097  | 2021–22: N/A<br>2022–23: 10,119,937<br>2023–24: 1,324,097            |
| Subtotal   | 143,329,760               | 176,029,298  | 2021–22: 563,258,188<br>2022–23: 145,018,910<br>2023–24: 174,454,818 |
| Internal Services <sup>6</sup>                                   | 61,524,450                | 75,480,132   | 2021–22: 64,029,660<br>2022–23: 68,114,464<br>2023–24: 74,611,674    |
| Total  | 204,854,210               | 251,509,429  | 2021–22: 627,287,848<br>2022–23: 213,133,374<br>2023–24: 249,066,492 |

Table Note 1: Total authorities available for use refer to the authorities available for spending in a given fiscal year, including those granted after Main Estimates and adjustments for statutory spending.

Table Note 2: These core responsibilities will no longer be reported on after 2021–22 due to a renewal of the agency's Departmental Results Framework.

Table Note 3: Core responsibility applicable starting in 2022–23, replaces the "Electoral Administration and Oversight" core responsibility used in previous years.

Table Note 4: Core responsibility applicable starting in 2022–23, replaces the "Electoral Compliance and Enforcement" core responsibility used in previous years.

Table Note 5: Before fiscal year 2022–23, expenditures for the decennial electoral boundaries redistribution exercise were under the "Electoral Administration and Oversight" core responsibility.

Table Note 6: The annual spending for Internal Services as a proportion of the agency's total spending varies significantly by fiscal year. This variation is mostly due to the election cycle and digital transformation priorities supporting internal services. On a four-year cycle ending in 2023–24, it ranged between 10% and 32%, with an average of 20% over the period.

# Analysis of the past three years of spending

The actual spending shows the year-to-year fluctuation in resources. The agency's spending pattern generally reflects the election cycle: spending increases in the fiscal year before a general election, peaks in the fiscal year of an election, and sharply decreases in the fiscal year following an election.

During the period presented in the table, Elections Canada delivered the 44th general election in 2021–22. In the years following an election, the agency's expenditures generally decrease. However, in the context of a minority government, Elections Canada had to return to a state of readiness immediately after the 44th general election. As a result, expenditures did not decrease to their typical post-event levels. In 2022–23, the agency also started a new cycle of investments in digital transformation priorities, which serve to ensure that a secure and reliable infrastructure supports the electoral process in a way that will meet the expectations of Canadians. These investments are linked to areas such as voting services, registration of electors, the election delivery platform, data management, and shared platform services. Lastly, the decennial redistribution of federal electoral boundaries began in 2020–21 and had its peak expenditures in 2022–23. These variations affect only the statutory portion of the funding.

The variance of \$44 million between the 2023–24 Main Estimates and Actual Spending is mostly due to the increased preparations for the 45th general election on a longer period, to the conduct of six by-elections and to the implementation of new collective bargaining agreements, including the issuance of retroactive payments.

More financial information from previous years is available on the <u>Finances section of GC</u> <u>Infobase</u>.

# Table 10: Planned three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

| Core Responsibilities and Internal<br>Services      | 2024–25<br>Planned Spending <sup>1</sup> | 2025–26<br>Planned Spending <sup>1</sup> | 2026–27<br>Planned Spending <sup>1</sup> |
|---|--|--|--|
| Electoral Administration                            | 140,011,295                              | 102,224,758                              | 67,745,710                               |
| Regulatory Oversight                                | 27,036,727                               | 26,526,729                               | 24,139,350                               |
| Electoral Boundaries Readjustment<br>Administration | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Subtotal  | 167,048,022                              | 128,751,487                              | 91,885,060                               |
| Internal Services                                   | 92,240,266                               | 67,081,803                               | 60,285,482                               |
| Total   | 259,288,288                              | 195,833,290                              | 152,170,542                              |

Table 10 presents how much money the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer plans to spend over the next three years to carry out its core responsibilities and for internal services.

Table Note 1: Planned spending is the amount the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer planned to spend in a given fiscal year, as set out in the Main Estimates and in the Departmental Plan for that year.

# Analysis of the next three years of spending

As noted in Table 9, the agency's planned spending generally reflects the election cycle.

During the period presented in Table 10, the agency will be getting ready to deliver an election under the new representation order in 343 electoral districts; and maintaining a high level of readiness in a minority government context until the latest date that the 45th general election can be called (fall 2025). Investments in digital transformation priorities will also continue. These variations affect only the statutory portion of the funding. As noted in the Financial Framework section, Elections Canada does not forecast planned spending in its Main Estimates that is related to election delivery activities until the fiscal year of a fixed-date election.

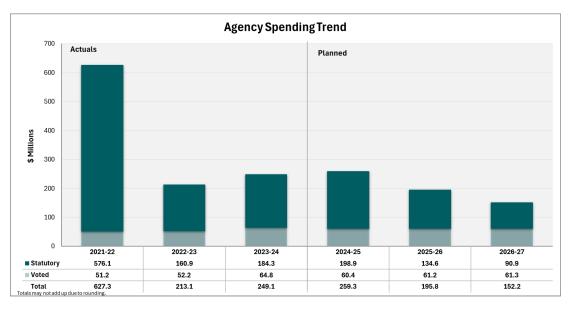
More detailed financial information from previous years is available on the <u>Finances section of</u> <u>GC Infobase</u>.

# Funding

This section provides an overview of the department's voted and statutory funding for its core responsibilities and for internal services. For further information on funding authorities, consult the <u>Government of Canada budgets and expenditures</u>.

# Graph 1: Approved Funding (Statutory and Voted) Over a Six-year Period

Graph 1 summarizes the department's approved voted and statutory funding from 2021–22 to 2026–27.



# Text Version of Graph 1

| Year      | 2021–22     | 2022–23     | 2023–24     | 2024–25     | 2025–26     | 2026–27     |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Statutory | 576,110,859 | 160,933,757 | 184,282,609 | 198,925,252 | 134,646,225 | 90,875,008  |
| Voted     | 51,176,989  | 52,199,617  | 64,783,882  | 60,363,036  | 61,187,065  | 61,295,534  |
| Total     | 627,287,848 | 213,133,374 | 249,066,492 | 259,288,288 | 195,833,290 | 152,170,542 |

# Analysis of Statutory and Voted Funding over a Six-year Period

The agency's spending pattern generally reflects the election and redistribution cycles. Additional details are available in the <u>Financial Framework</u> and in the <u>Budgetary Performance Summary</u> sections of this report.

For further information on the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's departmental voted and statutory expenditures, consult the <u>Public Accounts of Canada</u>.

# **Financial Statement Highlights**

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's complete <u>financial statements</u> (audited) for the year ended March 31, 2024, are available online.

The financial statements have been prepared using the accounting policies of the Government of Canada, which are based on the Canadian public sector accounting standards.<sup>16</sup> This method of accounting, known as the accrual basis of accounting, differs from the method used to present the figures in the previous sections; those figures are based on authorities voted by Parliament on a modified cash basis.

# Table 11: Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited) for the year endedMarch 31, 2024 (dollars)

Table 11 summarizes the expenses and revenues for 2023–24 which net to the cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

| Financial Information  | 2023–24<br>Actual Results | 2023–24<br>Planned Results | Difference<br>(Actual Results<br>minus Planned) |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Total expenses   | 270,455,420               | 223,581,605                | 46,873,815                                      |
| Total revenues   | -                         | -                          | -   |
| Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers | 270,455,420               | 223,581,605                | 46,873,815                                      |

The difference in actual versus planned results of \$46.9 million is mainly explained by the increased preparation costs for the 45th general election, the cost of the new collective bargaining agreements, including retroactive payments, and the cost of conducting six by-elections. Elections Canada does not include the costs of by-elections in its planned results, as they only take place when a seat in the House of Commons becomes vacant, and the agency has no control over their timing.

The 2023–24 planned results information is provided in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's <u>Future-Oriented Statement of Operations and Notes 2023–24</u>.

Table 12 summarizes actual expenses and revenues which net to the cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

| Financial information  | 2023–24<br>Actual Results | 2022–23<br>Actual Results | Difference<br>(2023–24 minus 2022–23) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total expenses   | 270,455,420               | 220,020,412               | 50,435,008                            |
| Total revenues   | -                         | -                         | -                                     |
| Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers | 270,455,420               | 220,020,412               | 50,435,008                            |

The increase in total expenses of \$50.4 million in 2023–24 compared with the 2022–23 results is mainly explained by a net increase between post-event activities of the 44th general election and preparations for the 45th general election, the cost of the new collective bargaining agreements, an increase in investments in digital transformation projects and the conduct of five additional by-elections over 2022–23 netted against a decrease in expenses related to the closure of electoral boundaries activities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Any differences between the financial statements and the condensed statements are due to rounding.

# Table 13 Condensed Statement of Financial Position (unaudited) as of March 31,2024 (dollars)

Table 13 provides a brief snapshot of the department's liabilities (what it owes) and assets (what the department owns), which helps to indicate its ability to carry out programs and services.

| Financial information               | Actual Fiscal Year<br>(2023–24) | Previous Fiscal Year<br>(2022–23) | Difference<br>(2023–24 minus 2022–23) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total net liabilities               | 41,991,320                      | 31,972,110                        | 10,019,210                            |
| Total net financial assets          | 31,441,155                      | 24,257,305                        | 7,183,850                             |
| Departmental net debt               | (10,550,165)                    | (7,714,805)                       | (2,835,360)                           |
| Total non-financial assets          | 44,515,474                      | 47,791,655                        | (3,276,181)                           |
| Departmental net financial position | 33,965,309                      | 40,076,850                        | (6,111,540)                           |

For 2023–24, the largest amounts included in the net liabilities are \$19.4 million in accrued liabilities (mostly accounts payable), \$9.0 million in provision for employee vacation leave and severance benefits, and \$9.5 million for accrued employee salaries and benefits. Financial assets include \$28.9 million due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$2.5 million in accounts receivables. Non-financial assets include \$22.1 million in consumable supplies (mostly election material), \$16.6 million in fixed assets, and \$5.8 million in prepaid expenses.

The \$10.0 million increase in total net liabilities for 2023–24, when compared with 2022–23, is mostly explained by the year-end accrued liabilities and accrued employee salaries and benefits. The \$7.2 million increase in total net financial assets is mainly due to the increase in the amount due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which was a result of an increase in the accrued liabilities. The \$3.3 million net decrease in non-financial assets is mainly due to a \$1.9 million decrease in consumable supplies (usage in by-elections and write-off of obsolete items), a \$1.6 million decrease in fixed assets, and an increase of \$0.3 million in prepaid expenses.

# Human Resources

This section presents an overview of the department's actual and planned human resources from 2021–22 to 2026–27.

# Table 14: Actual human resources for core responsibilities and internal services

Table14 shows a summary of human resources, in full-time equivalents (FTEs), for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the previous three fiscal years.

| Core Responsibilities and<br>Internal Services                | 2021–22<br>Actual FTEs | 2022–23<br>Actual FTEs | 2023–24<br>Actual FTEs |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Electoral Administration and Oversight <sup>1</sup>           | 896                    | N/A                    | N/A                    |
| Electoral Compliance and Enforcement <sup>1</sup>             | 43                     | N/A                    | N/A                    |
| Electoral Administration <sup>2</sup>                         | N/A                    | 506                    | 651                    |
| Regulatory Oversight <sup>3</sup>                             | N/A                    | 183                    | 179                    |
| Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration <sup>4</sup> | N/A                    | 28                     | 8                      |
| Subtotal  | 939                    | 717                    | 838                    |

| Core Responsibilities and<br>Internal Services | 2021–22<br>Actual FTEs | 2022–23<br>Actual FTEs | 2023–24<br>Actual FTEs |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Internal Services                              | 311                    | 320                    | 370                    |
| Total  | 1,250                  | 1,037                  | 1,208                  |

Table Note 1: These core responsibilities will no longer be reported on after 2021-22.

Note 2: Core responsibility applicable starting in 2022–23, replaces the "Electoral Administration and Oversight" core responsibility used in previous years.

Note 3: Core responsibility applicable starting in 2022–23, replaces the "Electoral Compliance and Enforcement" core responsibility used in previous years.

Note 4: Before fiscal year 2022–23, full-time equivalents for the decennial electoral boundaries redistribution exercise were under the "Electoral Administration and Oversight" core responsibility.

### Analysis of human resources over the last three years

The fluctuation in full-time equivalents is also a result of the election cycle, largely explained by the same reasons stated in the <u>Budgetary Performance Summary</u> section of this report.

# Table 15: Human resources planning summary for core responsibilities andinternal services

Table 15 shows information on human resources, in full-time equivalents (FTEs), for each of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer's core responsibilities and for its internal services planned for the next three years. Human resources for the current fiscal year are forecasted based on year to date.

| Core Responsibilities and<br>Internal Services   | 2024–25<br>Planned FTEs | 2025–26<br>Planned FTEs | 2026–27<br>Planned FTEs |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Electoral Administration                         | 750                     | 580                     | 402                     |
| Regulatory Oversight                             | 198                     | 192                     | 184                     |
| Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration | 0                       | 0                       | 0                       |
| Subtotal   | 948                     | 772                     | 586                     |
| Internal Services                                | 390                     | 372                     | 341                     |
| Total  | 1,338                   | 1,144                   | 927                     |

### Analysis of human resources for the next three years

The fluctuation in full-time equivalents is also a result of the election cycle, largely explained by the same reasons stated in the <u>Budgetary Performance Summary</u> section of this report.

# **Corporate Information**

# **Organizational Profile**

#### **Appropriate Minister:**

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., K.C., M.P. Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs

#### Institutional Head:

Stéphane Perrault, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

### **Organization:**

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

### **Enabling instruments:**

- Canada Elections Act, S.C. 2000, c. 9
- Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. E-3
- Referendum Act, S.C. 1992, c. 30

### Year of incorporation/commencement:

1920

# **Organizational Contact Information**

### Mailing Address

Elections Canada 30 Victoria Street Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M6

### **General enquiries**

### Telephone

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# **Supplementary Information Tables**

The following supplementary information tables are available on Elections Canada's website:

- Details on Transfer Payment Programs
- Gender-based Analysis Plus
- > Response to Parliamentary committees and external audits
- New Legislation
- Judicial Decisions and Proceedings

# Federal Tax Expenditures

The tax system can be used to achieve public policy objectives through the application of special measures such as low tax rates, exemptions, deductions, deferrals and credits. The Department of Finance Canada publishes cost estimates and projections for these measures each year in the <u>Report on Federal Tax Expenditures</u>. This report also provides detailed background information on tax expenditures, including descriptions, objectives, historical information and references to related federal spending programs as well as evaluations and GBA Plus of tax expenditures.

# Definitions

# appropriation (crédit)

Any authority of Parliament to pay money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.ht

### budgetary expenditures (dépenses budgétaires)

Operating and capital expenditures; transfer payments to other levels of government, departments or individuals; and payments to Crown corporations.

### core responsibility (responsabilité essentielle)

An enduring function or role performed by a department. The intentions of the department with respect to a core responsibility are reflected in one or more related departmental results that the department seeks to contribute to or influence.

### Departmental Plan (plan ministériel)

A report on the plans and expected performance of an appropriated department over a 3year period. Departmental Plans are usually tabled in Parliament each spring.

### departmental priority (priorité)

A plan or project that a department has chosen to focus and report on during the planning period. Priorities represent the things that are most important or what must be done first to support the achievement of the desired departmental results.

### departmental result (résultat ministériel)

A consequence or outcome that a department seeks to achieve. A departmental result is often outside departments' immediate control, but it should be influenced by program-level outcomes.

### departmental result indicator (indicateur de résultat ministériel)

A quantitative measure of progress on a departmental result.

### departmental results framework (cadre ministériel des résultats)

A framework that connects the department's core responsibilities to its departmental results and departmental result indicators.

### Departmental Results Report (rapport sur les résultats ministériels)

A report on a department's actual accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results set out in the corresponding Departmental Plan.

### full-time equivalent (équivalent temps plein)

A measure of the extent to which an employee represents a full person-year charge against a departmental budget. For a particular position, the full-time equivalent figure is the ratio of number of hours the person actually works divided by the standard number of hours set out in the person's collective agreement.

### gender-based analysis plus (GBA Plus) (analyse comparative entre les sexes plus [ACS Plus])

An analytical tool used to assess support the development of responsive and inclusive how different groups of women, men and gender-diverse people experience policies, programs and policies, programs, and other initiatives. GBA Plus is a process for understanding who is impacted by the issue or opportunity being addressed by the initiative; identifying how the initiative could be tailored to meet diverse needs of the people most impacted; and anticipating and mitigating any barriers to accessing or benefitting from the initiative. GBA Plus is an intersectional analysis that goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography (including rurality), language, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

### government-wide priorities (priorités pangouvernementales)

For the purpose of the 2023–24 Departmental Results Report, government-wide priorities are the high-level themes outlining the government's agenda in the <u>November 23, 2021, Speech from the Throne</u>: building a healthier today and tomorrow; growing a more resilient economy; bolder climate action; fight harder for safer communities; standing up for diversity and inclusion; moving faster on the path to reconciliation; and fighting for a secure, just and equitable world.

### horizontal initiative (initiative horizontale)

An initiative where two or more federal departments are given funding to pursue a shared outcome, often linked to a government priority.

### Indigenous business (entreprise autochtones)

For the purpose of the *Directive on the Management of Procurement Appendix E: Mandatory Procedures for Contracts Awarded to Indigenous Businesses* and the Government of Canada's commitment that a mandatory minimum target of 5% of the total value of contracts is awarded to Indigenous businesses, a department that meets the definition and requirements as defined by the <u>Indigenous Business Directory</u>.

### non-budgetary expenditures (dépenses non budgétaires)

Net outlays and receipts related to loans, investments and advances, which change the composition of the financial assets of the Government of Canada.

### performance (rendement)

What a department did with its resources to achieve its results, how well those results compare to what the department intended to achieve, and how well lessons learned have been identified.

### performance indicator (indicateur de rendement)

A qualitative or quantitative means of measuring an output or outcome, with the intention of gauging the performance of a department, program, policy or initiative respecting expected results.

# plan (plan)

The articulation of strategic choices, which provides information on how a department intends to achieve its priorities and associated results. Generally, a plan will explain the logic behind the strategies chosen and tend to focus on actions that lead to the expected result.

### planned spending (dépenses prévues)

For Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports, planned spending refers to those amounts presented in Main Estimates.

A department is expected to be aware of the authorities that it has sought and received. The determination of planned spending is a departmental responsibility, and departments must be able to defend the expenditure and accrual numbers presented in their Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports.

### program (programme)

Individual or groups of services, activities or combinations thereof that are managed together within the department and focus on a specific set of outputs, outcomes or service levels.

### program inventory (répertoire des programmes)

Identifies all the department's programs and describes how resources are organized to contribute to the department's core responsibilities and results.

### result (résultat)

A consequence attributed, in part, to a department, policy, program or initiative. Results are not within the control of a single department, policy, program or initiative; instead they are within the area of the department's influence.

### statutory expenditures (dépenses législatives)

Expenditures that Parliament has approved through legislation other than appropriation acts. The legislation sets out the purpose of the expenditures and the terms and conditions under which they may be made.

### target (cible)

A measurable performance or success level that a department, program or initiative plans to achieve within a specified time period. Targets can be either quantitative or qualitative.

### voted expenditures (dépenses votées)

Expenditures that Parliament approves annually through an appropriation act. The vote wording becomes the governing conditions under which these expenditures may be made.