

Estimates Process



The Minister of Finance brings the budget before the Assembly by tabling the spending estimates and by presenting a message from the Lieutenant Governor that recommends the estimates to the Assembly.

Budget Presentation and Budget Debate

The Minister of Finance delivers the budget speech, and then moves the budget motion. The wording of the budget motion is set out in the rules and is considered a confidence motion.

The budget debate, including the day the budget is presented, can last up to six days. The budget debate is a special order and takes precedence over all other business.

If budget motion is defeated, this is an expression of non-confidence in the government.

Committee Stage

Policy Field Committee

- Estimates are referred by subject area to their policy field committees.

Resolutions are reported back to the Assembly once they are adopted by the committee.

Standing Committee on House Services

- Estimates for the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Assembly are referred to this committee.

Resolutions are reported back to the Assembly once they are adopted by the committee.

Committee of Finance

- Estimates for the Office of the Executive Council, also known as Premier's Estimates, are referred to this committee.

Resolutions are reported back to the Assembly once they are adopted by the committee.

Procedure for Appropriation Bills

Consideration of appropriation resolutions in Committee of Finance. These amounts approved by the committees are included in the appropriation bill.

Introduction and First Reading

The appropriation bill is introduced and first reading is moved as soon as the resolutions are adopted.

If the motion for introduction and first reading is defeated, the bill does not proceed.

Second and Third Reading

Debate cannot exceed two days.

If the motion for second and third reading is defeated, the bill does not proceed.



Royal Assent

The Lieutenant Governor or their representative gives Royal Assent to the Bill which give the government the authority to spend money.