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Gun-registry program costs drop

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OTTAWA - Facing opponents to the gun registry that are upset over wasted public money, Auditor General Sheila Fraser says that her last audit showed that the program's cost had lessened.

Speaking in front of a Parliamentary committee studying Bill C-391, which deals with abolishing the gun registry, Fraser said that the cost of the program dropped from \$117 million during the 2002-2003 fiscal year to \$71 million in 2004-2005.

Her last review dates back to 2006 and was a follow-up to a review done in

2002 where the justice minister at the time said that he had devoted \$688 million to the program and said that the cost would reach \$1 billion in 2004-2005.

"We are generally satisfied with the progress that was made," said Fraser.

Fraser also said that while she had no intention of conducting a new audit of the program, if she was asked to do so, such a review would take up to two-and-a-half years to complete.

Quebec Minister of Public Security Jacques Dupuis also appeared before the committee to defend the gun registry.

"The abolition of the registry would affect Canada's reputation at the international level," he said, adding that Canada is a leader when it comes to gun control.