

2006-2007 Expenditure Budget

HIGHLIGHTS

- The government is maintaining the budget control it introduced upon taking office. Program spending in 2005-2006 amounts to \$48,940 million, or 2.7% higher than in 2004-2005.
- Again this year, Québec is doing better than most other Canadian provinces in the area of budget control. In fact, in 2005-2006 only Prince Edward Island reported a lower rate of growth in program spending than Québec.
- The government is maintaining its budgetary discipline, with spending growth in 2006-2007 limited to 3.9%.
- A \$457-million provision has been posted as an expenditure in 2006-2007, bringing the reserve earmarked since 2004-2005 for a pay equity settlement to \$1.5 billion.
- Health and social services along with education remain priorities.
 - The budgets for health and education go up by 6.3% (\$1,303 million) and 5.4% (\$660 million) respectively.
 - The increase in the health and social services budget represents 67% of the total growth in program spending in 2006-2007.
 - Since April 2003 the budget for the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux has grown by a record amount of \$4.2 billion.

- Funding for the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport has increased by \$1.6 billion from 2003-2004 to 2006-2007. The growth in the past four years is greater than the total increase in the education budget in the nine years prior to election of the current government.
- The budgets of other departments remain essentially stable in 2006-2007 with a marginal 0.2% decline.
 - The budget for the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications is 8.5% higher, mainly to fund the Grande Bibliothèque and assist museums in financial difficulty.
 - The budget for the Ministère des Transports is up by 8.0% as part of the substantial investments in Québec roads that began three years ago.
 - The budget for the Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine is increased by 6.8%, mainly to fund 200,000 reduced-contribution childcare places.
 - The budget for the Affaires municipales et des Régions portfolio climbs by 4.8%, which includes \$29 million to renew the fiscal pact with municipalities with full indexation.
 - The budget for the Immigration et Communautés culturelles portfolio grows by 5.7% to allow for the accreditation of foreign diplomas as well as francization and integration of immigrants.
- The 2006-2007 Expenditure Budget brings no cuts in programs or public services.
- Substantial amounts are allocated to upgrade public infrastructures and preserve Québec's heritage.
 - For the first time in Québec, a government is making asset maintenance its priority.
 - Spending on asset maintenance will rise from \$706 million in 2004-2005 to almost \$1.2 billion in 2007-2008, or almost double the \$645 million spent in 2002-2003.
 - The government is budgeting roadwork on a three-year basis with \$1.3 billion earmarked for 2006-2007, \$100 million more than last year. Investments will amount to \$1.4 billion both in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

- Almost \$1.5 billion in new investments will go towards public transportation in the years ahead. This includes renovating the Montréal Métro and improving commuter train service, particularly through construction of the “East Train” between Mascouche and Montréal.
- \$485 million will be spent in 2006-2007 in priority projects at health and social services establishments.
- A total of \$302 million in new projects involving educational facilities will get underway this year.
- The government is pursuing and intensifying its modernization efforts.
 - Introduction of a new management framework for major public projects.
 - Attainment of the objectives for reducing the size of government.
 - Goal of 1,110 staff positions attained in 2005-2006 and new reduction target of 1,211 for 2006-2007.
 - Cumulative reduction of 3,721 positions since May 2004, or nearly 5% of the government staff level.
 - New steps towards setting up Services Québec.
 - Continuation of the work on developing e-government.

The 2006-2007 Expenditure Budget documents will be published online, after tabling in the National Assembly, at the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor website under *Expenditure Budget* [www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/budget].

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