

Tabling of the 2019-2020 Expenditure Budget

Acting According to Your Priorities

Québec City, March 21, 2019 – In choosing change, Quebecers elected a Government that is attentive to their concerns and determined to be daring and bold in meeting those needs. The Government is therefore opting for an expenditure management strategy that increases program spending growth by 5.8% in 2019-2020.

By optimizing administrative expenditures, the Government is giving itself the means to give taxpayers a break by putting money back in their pockets, reinvest in the improvement of public services in education and health, as well as increase support to families and seniors.

Investing where it counts

The Government's priority actions, as presented in its expenditure strategy, are the same as the population's: education, health and sustainable economic development.

Thus, **in education and higher education**, the rate of program spending growth is 6.1% from the previous year. This supports the Government's commitment to making education a true priority for Québec. To allow each of our children to reach their full potential, the amounts invested will be used to:

- gradually deploy full-time kindergarten for four-year-olds, universally available, by opening 250 new classes;
- improve measures that foster student retention and success;
- add professionals for early intervention in children's school careers;
- support teachers more.

In health and social services, program spending growth is 5.9% to support improved accessibility and quality of care and services. This budget increase will make it possible to:

- improve home care by providing three million additional hours over 2017-2018 for more than 30,000 supplementary users;
- improve the detection and early treatment of delayed development in children, as part of the "Agir tôt" strategy.

The expenditure budget of the other departments also represents an increase from the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

An effective, transparent and efficient Government Administration

Citizens are entitled to expect an effective, rigorous, transparent and efficient Government Administration that is able to do its utmost for them. To meet these expectations, the new Government plans to optimize the application of the results-based management framework so as to better support the performance of departments and bodies. An action plan will be implemented including, in particular, the creation of a new index to measure the performance of departments and bodies, as well as the distribution of a public dashboard to report results to the population. We also plan to restore the importance of strategic planning by aligning the duration of strategic plans with the electoral cycle and by improving their quality through the use of performance indicators that factor in public expectations.

Optimization of administrative expenses to improve services

Furthermore, since the enhancement of services to the public is made possible by the optimization measures launched in 2019-2020, the Government plans to pursue four major projects that will generate significant savings: improve information technology management, optimize acquisitions, carry out a careful program review and commit to a prudent reduction in the number of administrative employees, by focusing on attrition.

Major changes for information technology and acquisitions management

In the public sector, information technology and acquisitions are central to the development and delivery of public services. These critical areas must therefore benefit from an optimal capacity to act. The current model does not allow for benefits to be maximized across the whole Government. The Government plans to take steps to improve the management of information technology and acquisitions through:

- the creation of a new body, Infrastructures technologiques Québec, which will be tasked with ensuring the development, operation and optimization of shared technological infrastructures. This new body will help accelerate the digital transformation of the departments and bodies by preventing duplicated solutions. It will be supported by the expertise developed by the Centre de services partagés du Québec.
- the creation of the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales, which will be fully dedicated to group purchases in an effort to increase their volume and generate additional savings. Beginning in January 2020, the Centre will be responsible for group purchases for all departments and bodies, including the health and education networks.

Eventually, all the activities of the CSPQ will have been redeployed and it will be dissolved as promised by the new Government.

In addition, the Government will entrust the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor with the governance of a digital transformation plan aimed at simplifying and improving the user experience of citizens and businesses in their interactions with the Government.

Quote:

"Over the last several months, the new Government has worked tirelessly to prepare an expenditure strategy that adheres to its commitments and enables it to respond to the concerns of the population. Our priorities are the priorities of Québec's citizens. We are taking bold action, particularly by making academic success the cornerstone for increasing our collective wealth. This expenditure budget reflects our ambitions for Québec. It is the vision of a Government focused on innovation, efficiency and performance that dares to breathe new life into its internal management in order to focus on the true priorities of any government: putting money back in Quebecers' pockets, as well as improving the quality of public services and the standard of living of the population."

Christian Dubé, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor

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