

*The 2019-2029 Québec Infrastructure Plan***Substantial investments in response to Quebecers' concerns**

Québec City, March 21, 2019 – The condition of public infrastructure requires major reinvestment, especially because of the deteriorating state of Québec's schools, which has accelerated in recent years. The *2019-2029 Québec Infrastructure Plan* calls for \$15 billion in new investments. It reflects the government's bold determination to act to provide Québec with infrastructure adapted to Quebecers' concerns and fostering Québec's economic prosperity. In addition to responding to the aging of numerous assets, the accelerated pace of investment also takes into account its impact on the debt and public expenditures.

A marked increased of investments in Education

In compliance with its province-wide priority, the government is announcing a \$6.1-billion increase, that is, the largest portion of additional investments, for the Education sector. Without this major increasement, the proportion of schools in poor condition would continue to rise significantly in the coming years. This increase will allow, among other things, to add 1,000 classrooms to the 50,000 existing throughout Québec, to renovate elementary and secondary schools, to gradually introduce kindergarten for 4-year-olds and to construct secondary schools essential in certain regions of Québec, including the Greater Montréal area.

Investments in Health and Social Services

To broaden access to health care, the government plans to invest an additional \$2.2 billion in the Health and social services network. Of this amount, \$1 billion is reserved for the gradual introduction of seniors' homes, a key commitment of the government, which will create 2,600 new spaces out of more than 40,000 spaces for seniors or for individuals benefiting from long-term care. This model of establishment seeks to be more human, more modern and better adapted to long-term care offerings for an ageing population. The \$2.2-billion increase will also cover major hospital modernization, refitting and construction projects throughout Québec.

Substantial investments to promote sustainable development and combating climate change

From the standpoint of public transit, the *2019-2029 Québec Infrastructure Plan* provides for \$1.3 billion in additional funding to support the implementation of the sustainable mobility policy and fund the acquisition of hybrid and electric buses with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. All told, \$16.6 billion under the QIP will be earmarked for sustainable development. The government also plans to examine several projects within the framework of the metropolitan area decongestion plan, such as the establishment of reserved public transit lanes on autoroutes 13, 20, 25, 440 and 640 and on Route 116, and the development of a structuring mode of public transit in the east end of Montréal and on boulevard Taschereau in Longueuil. Such funding is added to the investments already announced, in particular to optimize travel in the heavy traffic corridor on Autoroute 30 to facilitate smooth access to the REM.

Transportation infrastructure

Nearly \$4.3 billion in additional funding will cover major new road infrastructure projects and the rehabilitation of the existing network, especially for major repairs on the Autoroute Métropolitaine and the Ville-Marie and Viger tunnels in Montréal and the deck of the Québec City Bridge.

Moreover, it should be noted that the proposed establishment of a new connection in the east between Québec City and Lévis, which has advanced to the planning stage, is receiving an additional \$325 million to cover the elaboration of studies and drawings and specifications. The project will establish an interconnection between the South Shore public transit system and Québec City's proposed structuring mass transit network.

Quote

"The bold but rigorous plan that we are proposing today reflects our ambition for Québec and is the response of a government that dares to act to concretely satisfy Quebecers' concerns. We have witnessed in recent years the deterioration of Québec's schools. The time has come to halt this phenomenon and give our children attractive schools to enable them to achieve their potential. This plan gives concrete expression to several of our commitments, geared to increasing wealth and establishing winning conditions for sustainable mobility and the betterment of Quebecers. This is how our government is working to satisfy the needs and aspirations of a modern Québec, by putting Quebecers' interests at the forefront of its initiatives."

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

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