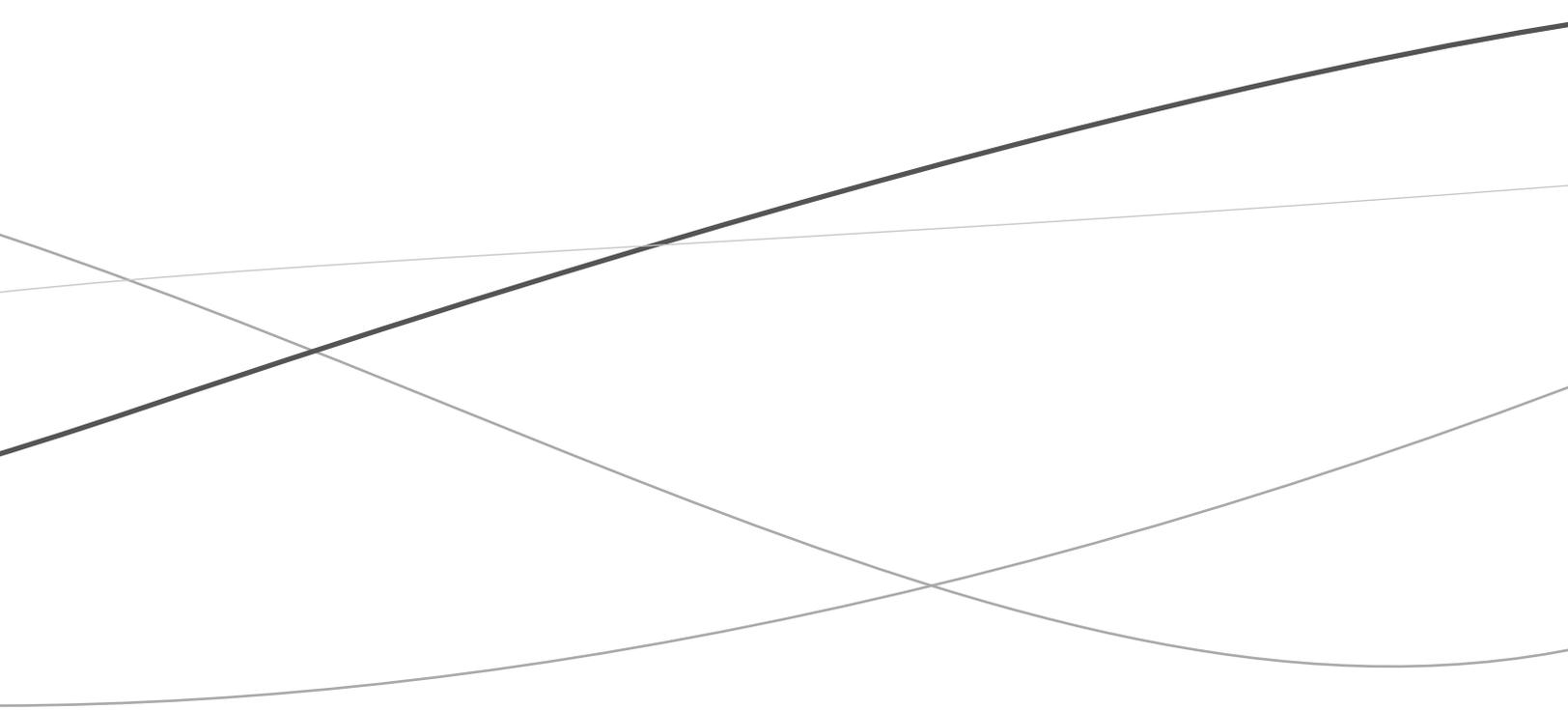


PRESS RELEASES

MARCH 21, 2023





UNDER EMBARGO

*2023-2024 Expenditure Budget*

## **A more agile and efficient Government for quality public services**

**Québec City, March 21, 2023** - The Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Ms. Sonia LeBel, tabled the 2023-2024 Expenditure Budget today, set at \$115.5 billion. In addition to announcing major investments in health, education and higher education, the Government is more committed than ever to optimizing its agility and performance in order to guarantee quality services to the public.

The Expenditure Budget includes several ambitious objectives that will affect various critical sectors, such as:

- making the health care system more efficient and more human, mainly to care for the elderly, informal caregivers and vulnerable individuals;
- encouraging school retention, fostering academic success and increasing the practice of recreation, sports and physical activity;
- promoting access, retention and graduation in higher education;
- increasing the availability of affordable community housing;
- providing educational childcare services adapted to the needs of families;
- spreading Québec culture in all its forms and promoting the French Language;
- protecting the environment, ensuring the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and playing a key role in climate transition;
- accelerating the recognition of the skills of immigrants and promoting their integration.

### **A more efficient public administration**

In order to improve the Government's performance and thus enhance public services, the Government will continue to optimize its processes. With the Tableau de bord de la performance de l'administration publique, which is accessible to the public, departments and public bodies will be able to continue to share best practices and improve their processes. In addition, the program review will also help to make departments more efficient mainly by sharing resources and expertise as well as using more digital technology.

### **A modern and efficient public service**

In order to adapt to the realities of the labour market as well as the economic and demographic contexts, a new human resources management strategy will be rolled out starting in the fall of 2023. The Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor (SCT) will also continue its efforts concerning the Politique-cadre en matière de télétravail, which is designed to provide greater flexibility, the regionalization of 5,000 public sector jobs (nearly 3,400 of which have already been regionalized as at January 31, 2023) and the implementation of an equal access to employment program.

### **Negotiation in the public and parapublic sectors**

As part of negotiations for the renewal of collective agreements for more than 600,000 employees in the public and parapublic sectors, the Government tabled attractive offers last December. These offers reflect the Government's desire to address issues regarding work organization and expertise recognition for public and parapublic sector employees.

### **Public contracts that are resolutely Québec-based**

The use of public contracts as a driving force for economic development has been enshrined in the Act respecting contracting by public bodies. Thus, without compromising the integrity of public contracts and in compliance with liberalization agreements, the Government will continue its efforts to promote purchasing in Québec, sustainable development and innovation. This will prioritize purchasing in Québec by reserving public tendering for small Québec businesses, granting them an advantage based on the added value in Québec or requiring products, services and construction work from Québec.

Moreover, the establishment of a list of suppliers will allow local businesses to benefit from greater visibility when awarding public contracts and help the Government in achieving its objective of increasing the acquisition of goods from Québec.

The SCT is also working to eliminate a major inconvenience for businesses in the construction sector. It will soon propose a regulation on payment terms and dispute resolution in this industry.

### **Quote**

"This Program spending budget reflects our ambition to deliver better public services while optimizing the way our Government works. This can be achieved through improved Government performance and rigorous expenditure management. Our Government's message and actions are both clear: every dollar invested must have significant, visible and concrete benefits for the public."

*Sonia LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor*

### **Related link**

[www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/en/](http://www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/en/)

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UNDER EMBARGO

*2023-2033 Québec Infrastructure Plan*

## **Record investments of \$150 billion to increase the quality of infrastructure in Québec**

**Québec City, March 21, 2023** – The 2023-2033 Québec Infrastructure Plan (QIP) has been set at \$150 billion, an increase of \$7.5 billion from last year's plan and \$49.6 billion from the 2018-2028 plan. This increase will allow the Government to continue to fulfill its commitments and support the growth of the Québec economy.

This ambitious plan was presented today by the Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, Jonatan Julien, at the tabling of the Expenditure Budget. The appointment of a Minister Responsible for Infrastructure reflects the Government's strong desire to provide Québec with quality, sustainable infrastructure that meets current needs and those of future generations. In the 2023-2033 QIP, the education, higher education, community housing, healthcare and transportation sectors will be prioritized, in line with the needs expressed by Quebecers. In total, nearly \$81 billion will be spent on infrastructure maintenance to ensure the sustainability of the public infrastructure portfolio.

### **Education and higher education**

Investments of \$2.4 billion in education will support more than 1,000 classroom additions and school renewal projects. In addition, \$466 million will be allocated to various expansion and renovation projects in CEGEPs and universities. These investments will promote quality educational environments and assist in carrying out Opération main-d'œuvre to address labour shortages in certain priority sectors.

### **Community housing**

The Government is spending \$652 million this year on building and rehabilitating affordable community housing. In addition to planned investments to support the construction of 1,000 new units under the Québec Affordable Housing Program, 500 additional units will be built in collaboration of the private sector. Additional funds will also be allocated to continue supporting initiatives to improve housing conditions in Nunavik and to roll out a pilot project to address the needs of healthcare workers in remote areas.

### **Other priority sectors**

The healthcare sector will also receive major support, with \$2.3 billion in new investments. In addition to hospital expansions and redevelopments to modernize our facilities, the Government continues to work on infrastructure projects to improve quality of life for seniors.

While keeping the road network in good condition, the Government plans to invest \$1.9 billion to improve mobility and the electrification of public transit. In addition, \$1.1 billion will be allocated to infrastructure associated with other transportation modes, such as marine and rail transportation.

Finally, to support Québec families, \$649 million will be used to continue offering educational childcare services.

**Quote**

"Infrastructure needs are growing. We strive to improve our efficiency in order to lower the cost and hasten the pace of realization of our projects. It is important to have an infrastructure park that meets current needs and to maintain it in good condition for future generations. I am certain that the 2023-2033 Québec Infrastructure Plan reflects the priorities of Quebecers, and that it is a source of pride for all."

*Jonatan Julien, Minister Responsible for Infrastructure*

**Related link**

[www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/en/](http://www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/en/)

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**Source:** Mona Lechasseur  
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