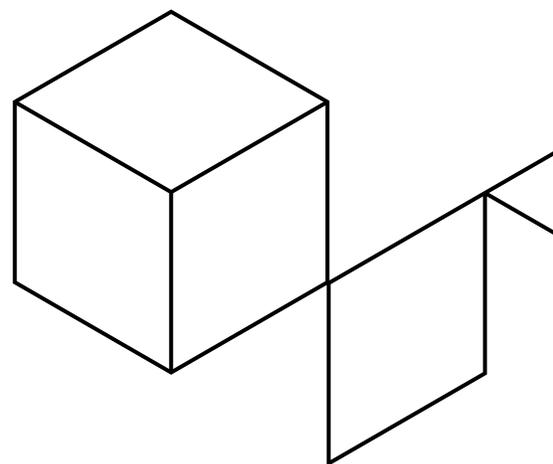


**PRESS RELEASES**

**MARCH 12, 2024**





UNDER EMBARGO

*2024-2025 Expenditure Budget*

**Priority investments in health and social services,  
education and higher education**

**Québec City, March 12, 2024.** – The Minister Responsible for Government Administration and the Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Sonia LeBel, tabled the 2024-2025 Expenditure Budget, which is set at \$124.3 billion and provides for investments in priority sectors such as health and social services, as well as education and higher education.

She highlighted, "We have a duty to honour the priorities of Quebecers and invest in our two major networks to provide them with the services they expect and deserve. We are presenting an efficient and responsible expenditure management strategy that delivers on these priorities, while enabling us to meet our spending targets for this fiscal year. At the same time, we are committed to maintaining government optimization so that every dollar invested by taxpayers reaps the expected rewards."

**Modern management of our human resources**

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Government is focusing on workforce growth that will ensure a level of quality public services in the health care and education networks. This growth in the workforce is in line with governmental priorities and changes in the working population.

In recent months, the Government has been involved in negotiations with public and parapublic sector employees. Agreements have been reached with more than 450,000 employees, and significant progress has been made, notably in work organization to ensure greater stability within school teams and quality health care throughout the network.

The Stratégie de gestion des ressources humaines de la fonction publique 2023-2028 for its part, will enable the Government to meet the challenges of the job market. Attracting and retaining talent is at the heart of this new strategy, which focuses on innovation and the expertise of its workforce.

**Government performance still at the forefront**

The Government is committed to continuous improvement in the performance of its public administration, programs and, ultimately, in the quality of public services. The Stratégie en révision des programmes 2023-2027 seeks to increase the performance of the Government performance, improve the quality of services to the public and help control the growth of government program spending.

For its part, the Tableau de bord de la performance de l'administration publique will continue to serve as a reliable reference to encourage the adoption of best practices within the government apparatus.

### **Public procurement: an important lever for the economy of Québec**

The Stratégie gouvernementale des marchés publics, maximized by the amendments to the Act respecting contracting by public bodies, will continue to be rolled out in 2024-2025 and thus benefit Québec businesses, notably SMEs, which are major drivers of economic development. Thanks to a number of measures, procurement of Québec goods rose by \$330 million in one year. The aim is to achieve an increase of \$1.5 billion.

Furthermore, in the construction sector, the Government will establish a more agile normative framework that will promote the performance of recognized clients in order to address the major challenges facing this sector, such as rising costs and completion delays. In this regard, a major milestone was reached at the beginning of 2024, with the progressive entry into force of the new regulation governing professional architectural and engineering services related to construction work.

### **Expenditure review**

Finally, in 2024-2025, the Government will initiate a comprehensive expenditure review, to be carried out in a structured and orderly fashion. In this respect, particular attention will be paid to maintaining services to the public. The effects of the actions selected will be taken into account when preparing the 2025-2026 Expenditure Budget.

### **Related link**

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

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UNDER EMBARGO

*2024-2034 Québec Infrastructure Plan*

### **Unprecedented Investments of \$153 billion for Québec's Public Infrastructure**

**Québec City, March 12, 2024.** – The 2024-2034 Québec Infrastructure Plan (QIP) is set at an unprecedented level of \$153 billion. This is a \$3 billion increase over the previous plan and a \$52.6 billion increase since the 2018-2028 QIP, or 52% over a six-year period.

The announcement was made today in Québec City by Jonatan Julien, the Minister Responsible for Infrastructure. The key sectors of health and social services, education and higher education, the road network and public transit, as well as social and community housing, top the list of investments planned by the Government. It is an ambitious plan that reflects the needs of the public and demonstrates the importance of renovating many of our infrastructures, as well as building new ones.

#### **Health and social services**

New investments of \$2.9 billion in the health and social services network will enable major hospital construction, reconstruction, expansion and redevelopment projects. The 2024-2034 QIP also plans for the construction of seniors' homes and alternative residences (MDAAs) and the reconstruction of residential and long-term care centres based on the MDAA concept. Additional investments will also enable us to continue converting private facilities not under agreement to private facilities under agreement, as well as carrying out projects under agreements with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

#### **Education and higher education**

In the education sector, which will benefit of an additional \$1.1 billion, projects to add classrooms for training youth are planned for the coming years. More than 1,200 projects will also enable us to carry out priority repair work on components related to the health and safety of individuals and building integrity, as well as replace equipment.

Higher education will receive almost \$500 million more. A number of projects in CEGEPs and universities will be carried out to provide better adapted environments. These investments will be used notably to update programs aimed at tackling the labour shortage in certain priority areas at college and university levels. Other projects will also be launched to provide more student housing.

#### **Road network and public transit**

The 2024-2034 Québec Infrastructure Plan has earmarked an additional \$2 billion to maintaining road infrastructure in good condition. These investments will make it possible to carry out nearly 700 projects in 2024-2025 under the maintenance intervention strategy for roadways, structures and municipal bridges in all regions, with a view to promoting the sustainable mobility of people and goods and, thereby, contributing to Québec's development.

The development of public transit will also continue, with the addition of nearly \$700 million to promote public mobility, improve traffic flow and electrify public transit. New initiatives will

allow certain needs of the Société de transport de Saguenay and the Société de transport de Montréal to be met, as well as the acquisition of various equipment by the public transit corporations, exo and the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain.

### **Social and community housing**

In the social and community housing sector, new investments of nearly \$100 million allocated to the 2024-2034 QIP for the renovation of low-rent housing units will be added to the additional investments of \$900 million announced by the Gouvernement du Québec in the Fall 2023 Economic Update to build new community housing.

### **Quote**

"The sustainability of the infrastructure portfolio has been a key priority of our Government for several years now. It is essential to maintain the public infrastructure needed to deliver government services in good condition. Record investments of \$87.6 billion are earmarked for this purpose over the next ten years, an increase of \$6.7 billion compared to the previous QIP. These investments are part of our strategy of gradually increasing the infrastructure maintenance investments we have implemented. In addition, in order to accelerate project completion and reduce costs to ensure greater efficiency, the Government will unveil a two-year strategy in the near future that will have a lasting effect. The development of this strategy is the result of the meetings I have held with our partners, as well as the priority projects I have implemented in collaboration with my colleagues since my arrival in 2022."

*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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