

A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST POVERTY AND EXCLUSION



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2001-2002 Budget: over \$300 million

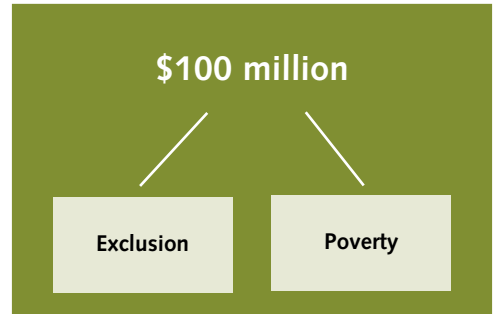
▶ A social solidarity reserve

A \$100-million reserve is set up for measures to fight poverty and exclusion.

This reserve is drawn from the 2000-2001 surplus and will be used to, among other things:

- implement new social solidarity initiatives;
- meet social housing needs.

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY RESERVE



▶ Social assistance benefits to rise in June 2001

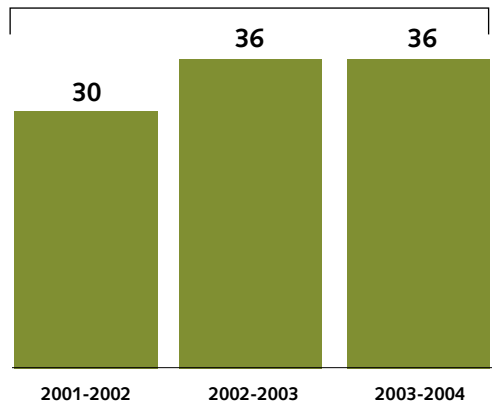
Benefits for individuals able to work will rise by 2.5% next June:

- increase in monthly benefits ranging from \$12 to \$23, depending on household composition;
- \$102 million more over three years.

This will benefit approximately 250 000 households.

INCREASE IN SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS
(in millions of dollars)

\$102 million over three years



▶ \$32 million per year for home care services

Funding for the home help business network:

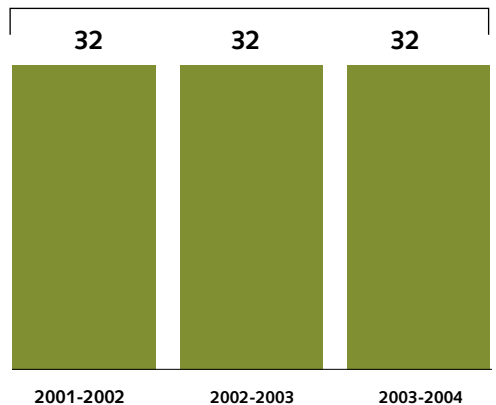
- is now provided on a permanent basis;
- is increased to \$32 million per year.

Since 1997, this support, which is of particular benefit to older persons and the needy, has helped to create:

- 103 businesses in the social economy;
- 3 800 jobs.

INVESTMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY
(in millions of dollars)

\$96 million over three years



Note: Additional funding for the *Programme d'exonération financière pour les services d'aide domestique*

... for the neediest members of society

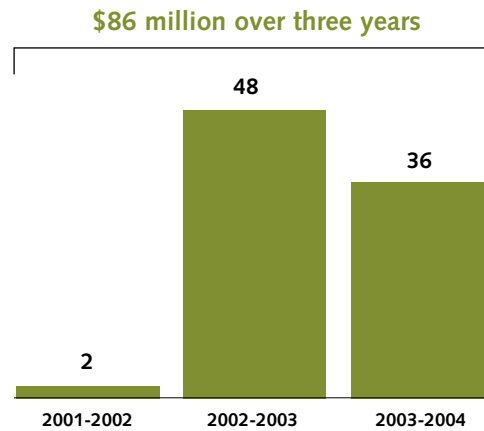
▶ “Action emploi” for social assistance recipients: \$86 million over three years

Creation of a new program, “Action emploi”, to encourage long-term social assistance recipients to find full-time employment.

The program will offer an employment income supplement for recipients who:

- have received social assistance benefits for at least 36 consecutive months;
- stop receiving social assistance benefits in 2002 to return to full-time employment.

INVESTMENT IN “ACTION EMPLOI”
(in millions of dollars)



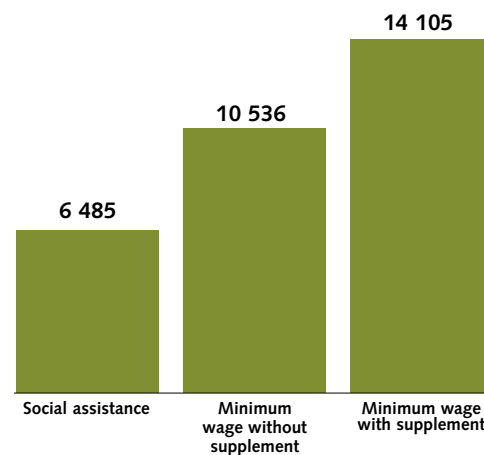
▶ “Action emploi” – an incentive to return to work

An “Action emploi” recipient will receive a supplement of:

- \$390 per month the first year (about \$3 an hour);
- \$260 per month the second year (about \$2 an hour);
- \$130 per month the third year (about \$1 an hour).

With this supplement, the disposable income of a recipient working for minimum wage will be \$14 105 rather than \$10 536 without the supplement.

IMPACT ON A RECIPIENT’S DISPOSABLE INCOME
FIRST YEAR, 2002
(in dollars)



Note: Working 30 hours per week, \$7 an hour, \$52 weeks per year.

▶ Other social solidarity measures

More than \$4 million for the following measures:

- \$2.6 million to support the development of businesses in the social economy through RISQ*;
- \$1.5 million for the *Fonds pour l’investissement local et l’approvisionnement de fonds communautaires* (Filaction).

OTHER MEASURES TO FOSTER SOCIAL SOLIDARITY
(in millions of dollars)

RISQ*	2.6
Filaction	1.5
Total	4.1

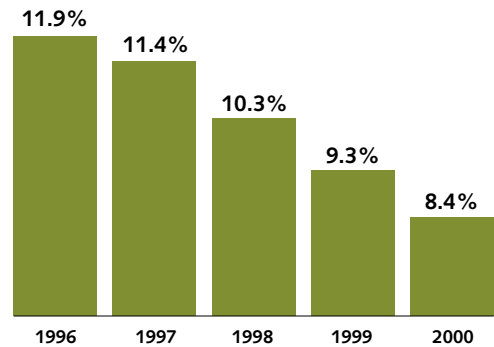
* Réseau d’investissement social du Québec.

Economic growth benefits the neediest in society

Substantial drop in the unemployment rate.

- It is now the lowest it has been in 25 years.
- Nearly 300 000 more people are working now than in 1996.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(seasonally-adjusted annual rate)

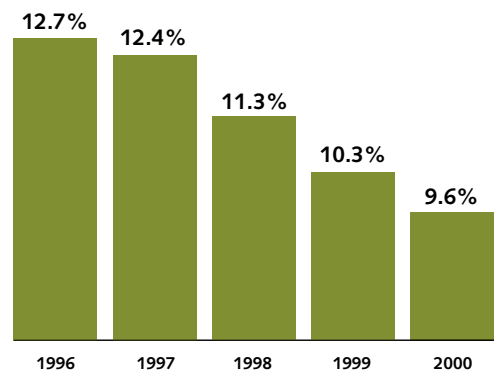


The number of social assistance recipients is down.

In 1996, 12.7% of the population received social assistance. In 2000, this proportion had fallen to 9.6%.

Compared to 1996, there are now 140 000 fewer adults and 100 000 fewer children on social assistance.

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
(number of recipients as a percentage of the population under 65 years of age)




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