

2007-2008 Budget
PRESS RELEASE No. 3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CNW CODE 01

2007-2008 Budget Speech

Strategy for the Development of Every Region

Greater resources, stronger autonomy

“With the Strategy for the Development of Every Region, the government has taken a new step. Major resources are being marshalled for every region in Québec, particularly Montréal and the national capital.”

- Michel Audet

Québec, February 20, 2007 – In the course of the 2007-2008 Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance announced an ambitious strategy designed to make every region of Québec more autonomous and more prosperous. “The Québec government is committed to ensuring the development of every region of Québec. In particular, we have defined new governance by creating regional conferences of elected officers. Regions, municipalities and communities have received new financial resources, with the signing of a new fiscal and financial partnership with the municipalities, the publication of the *National Policy on Rurality* and the implementation of regional economic intervention funds (FIER),” Mr. Audet stated.

The *Strategy for the Development of Every Region* represents a new phase in the support extended to the regions. The government will allocate \$825 million over the next five years for the benefit of every region in Québec. At the same time, the government is defining new ways to do things under which the regions will have more power for their development.

Concerning the specific components regarding Montréal and the national capital, the measures deployed in the *Strategy for the Development of Every Region*, totalling \$140 million for Montréal and \$25 million for Québec City, are in addition to initiatives previously announced.

Québec City has received \$110 million for the festivities celebrating the 400th anniversary of its founding. It will also receive close to \$300 million in additional revenue during the period 2007-2013 on account of the agreement on a new fiscal and financial partnership with the municipalities.

Under the same agreement, Montréal will receive close to \$900 million in supplementary revenue over the next seven years.

A strategy adapted to the needs of each region

This strategy gives effect to the government's commitments by taking into consideration the needs expressed by the resource regions and specifically identified RCMs of the central regions. It acknowledges the need to return to them part of the royalties collected on the development of natural resources, by enhancing many of the initiatives announced for their benefit.

A strategy that is an integral part of the government's economic policy

The *Strategy for the Development of Every Region* is a major component and an integral part of the government's economic policy. Accordingly, the strategy confirms the essential position of regional policies in the government's overall economic action.

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