

2007-2008 Budget  
PRESS RELEASE No. 4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CNW CODE 01

## 2007-2008 Budget Speech

### Action Strategy for the Elderly

#### *Improving their living environment and encouraging their participation*

**Québec, February 20, 2007** – The 2007-2008 Budget Speech provided the government with the opportunity to make public its *Action Strategy for the Elderly*. “The strategy is in response to a reality: the elderly occupy a prominent place in our society today and it will become even more so in the coming years,” Minister of Finance, Michel Audet, said.

#### **The government’s objectives**

“The elderly are entitled to enjoy the best living environment possible. They must be able to count on sufficient income to meet their needs. They must have the opportunity to remain in their home environment as long as they want,” the Minister of Finance emphasized.

The government wants to ensure that the elderly have the means to preserve their autonomy and quality of life. It also wants to offer them every opportunity to participate in a constantly changing society.

The *Action Strategy for the Elderly* includes a number of measures and initiatives determined according to four objectives:

- The government intends to increase the disposable income of the elderly.
- The government wants to promote home support.
- The government will adapt services and infrastructures to the needs of seniors.
- The government wants to strengthen the place of the elderly in Québec society, by making it easier for them to exercise their rights, by giving them the means to remain fit, by making phased retirement more attractive and by providing them with the tools to invest in future generations.

**Major initiatives: \$238 million a year**

“Just the tax measures aimed at increasing the disposable income of the elderly will amount to \$143 million. In addition, the government will devote on a yearly basis an additional \$90 million to measures promoting home support,” the Minister of Finance indicated.

Moreover, in the next five years, the government will earmark \$12.5 million for the regional conferences of elected officers, with a view to adapting services and infrastructures to the needs of the elderly.

Lastly, a further \$12.5 million will also be committed, in the next five years, to help seniors fully play their role in society.

**Tax support that has doubled in five years**

“In five years, support for the elderly has doubled. Solely as regards tax measures, annual financial support for seniors will rise from \$303 million to \$661 million between 2003 and 2008. That is another concrete achievement of our government,” Mr. Audet concluded.

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**Source:** Pierre Choquette  
Press Officer  
Office of the Minister of Finance  
(418) 643-5270