

2008-2009 BUDGET  
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### IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR SENIORS

**Québec, March 13, 2008** – In the wake of her colleague the Minister responsible for Seniors' tour of Québec, Monique Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, Minister of Government Services, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor is pleased to announce major measures to improve the quality of life of seniors in Québec.

"Anyone who has spent their life serving family and homeland may one day need the help of others," stated the Finance Minister in announcing the measures for seniors contained in the 2008-2009 Budget. The government is:

- increasing the rate of the tax credit for home support from 25% to 30%, representing \$35 million a year more for seniors. The tax credit will also be greatly simplified;
- increasing health and social services funding by \$80 million to accelerate the development of home care services.

These additional amounts will permit the development of home nursing services, rehabilitation services and the other services needed so that people losing their autonomy can remain at home. The tax assistance and funding for home support have more than doubled since 2003.

#### **Informal caregivers**

"Informal caregivers play an important role in our society. We have all taken care of a parent at one time or another. We do it out of love, but we know how physically and emotionally draining it can become. The acts performed daily by informal caregivers demonstrate solidarity and compassion. We must recognize their dedication and essential role. We must also support them," stated the Minister.

The Minister pointed out that the idea of setting up a fund to support informal caregivers was raised during the consultation on the living conditions of seniors. To enable the Minister responsible for Seniors to follow through on this idea, the 2008-2009 Budget provides for:

- the creation, in partnership with the Chagnon family, of a \$200-million fund over 10 years to improve and develop services for informal caregivers.

This special fund will support informal caregivers in several ways. Among other things, it will increase the supply of respite services, break the cycle of isolation and solitude, develop emergency services and offer training tailored to the needs of loved ones.

### **Retirement income**

In addition, after introducing retirement income splitting between spouses last year and increasing the maximum amount of the tax credit for retirement income from \$1 000 to \$1 500, the government is announcing:

- that the maximum amount is being raised to \$2 000 over two years. As a result, nearly 400 000 taxpayers will have a higher disposable income.

“The measures I am announcing today will improve the quality of life of our seniors. There is a consensus in Québec on the need to better meet their needs. With this budget, we are giving ourselves the means to provide them with better support,” concluded the Minister.

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