



2011-2012 BUDGET PRESS RELEASE No. 5

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A Plan for Our Young People

Québec, March 17, 2011 – “There is no doubt as to the connection between level of schooling, productivity and wealth creation. Improving education must be a constant concern of the government, from elementary school on to higher learning,” declared Minister of Finance Raymond Bachand today in tabling the 2011-2012 Budget.

He pointed out that Premier Charest, in his inaugural address, made education a top priority for Québec society. Therefore, the 2011-2012 Budget takes new action in that regard.

Giving our youth a better window on the world

“The elementary school experience is decisive in determining whether young Quebecers will stay in school. We must provide them with cutting-edge tools that reflect their life habits and hold their interest,” the Minister said.

He announced that, to that end, \$240 million would be invested as of the start of the 2011 school year to equip schools with new digital teaching tools, such as touch screens, educational software and laptop computers. He said that teachers will be trained so that they can take full advantage of the possibilities afforded by these tools.

The Minister went on to say that a working knowledge of English is essential. “Therefore, as of this year, we will invest amounts that will reach more than \$25 million a year in 2016-2017, in order to gradually add 400 hours of intensive English instruction in Grade 6. This measure means that students will spend half of Grade 6 in intensive English instruction.”

A sports culture

“Team sports develop qualities that are useful throughout life. They are a source of motivation and develop a sense of belonging at school. The government will allocate \$13 million over three years to a new program to support sports teams in Québec’s public secondary schools.”

An additional \$50 million will also be allocated to the sports infrastructure support program, which funds, for example, projects to build or upgrade soccer fields, sports

centres and pools. This funding will make it possible to set up sports and recreational facilities in Québec municipalities.

“Education is not subordinate to the economy. It is justified in and of itself by the human development it enables one and all to achieve. Our true wealth lies in the heads of our youth, in their desire to learn and in our determination to give them an education commensurate with their immense potential,” the Minister concluded.

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