

2000-2001 BUDGET

\$2.7 BILLION INVESTED IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Québec City, March 14, 2000 – Deputy Premier and Minister of State for the Economy and Finance Bernard Landry announced in the 2000-2001 Budget Speech that the health and social services network will receive additional funding of \$2.7 billion, an investment made possible by the rewards of sound management of public finances.

More funding for the network

Network institutions will receive \$862 million to ensure adequate funding and maintain balanced budgets. In addition, \$877 million is being allocated to help these institutions cover the rising costs of the services they offer to the public.

Increase and develop services for the public

Additional funding of \$747 million is being allocated to increase health care services and develop new ones. Of this amount, \$539 million is allocated, in particular, to fund the increased costs of the prescription drug insurance plan, the development of Héma-Québec services, and the tracing and compensating of victims of hepatitis C. Furthermore, \$200 million is being allocated to increase and develop services with a view to reducing waiting lists, improving access and enhancing the services offered.

Enable the acquisition of new medical equipment

Advances in technology oblige institutions to invest in new equipment. Network institutions will receive an additional \$200 million to purchase specialized, high-technology medical equipment, allowing them to treat more patients and improve the quality of care.

A more efficient network

The substantial investments by the government are accompanied by a review of management methods that will henceforth be focused on achieving results objectives and the implementation of genuine accountability. In this respect, the Minister of Health and Social Services will announce the details of an action plan involving several legislative and administrative measures designed to ensure the institutions have balanced budgets, to promote performance-based management and the achievement of results, and to clarify the division of responsibilities between the department and the network.

Fulfilling the wishes of the people

Today's Budget fulfils the wishes of the people, who have made it clear they want to see a substantial increase in the monies earmarked for health care. The rewards of our sound economic and financial management in recent years and the efforts made by the population mean that we can now invest massive amounts in this key sector. These additional resources will ensure universal access to health care without compromising its quality.

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