

**2000-2001 BUDGET**

**ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTING  
INITIATIVE AND EXCELLENCE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE**

**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 major investments will be made in the education and youth sector.

**Ensuring quality education**

The Budget presented today fulfils the government's commitment, made at the end of the Québec Youth Summit, to invest an additional \$1 billion in the education sector. The education networks will receive additional funding of \$200 million in 2000-2001, \$300 million the year after, and \$500 million for each subsequent year.

Indeed, the Budget goes well beyond the commitment made at the Summit by proposing an initiative, effective immediately, whereby \$100 million will be granted to help restore the financial situation of Québec's universities. In addition, \$40 million is being allocated to school boards and \$10 million to CEGEPs in order to encourage them and enhance their financial health.

**Promoting excellence in education and sports**

To encourage young people to pursue graduate studies and persevere until they obtain their diploma, the bursaries administered by the Fonds pour la formation de chercheurs et l'aide à la recherche (FCAR) will be increased from \$11 000 to \$15 000 at the master's level, from \$13 000 to \$20 000 at the doctoral level, and from \$22 000 to \$30 000 at the post-doctoral level.

Two new provisions are being implemented to support the next generation of university researchers: the non-taxable portion of bursaries is raised from \$500 to \$3 000, and the scholarships granted to graduate students become entirely tax-free.

This Budget also encourages excellence in sports by introducing a tax credit for the 2 000 high-performance athletes who are the pride of Québec. This credit will vary between \$1 000 and \$4 000.

### **Supporting employment and fostering the integration of young people**

The government confirms its investment of \$120 million in the Youth Fund, a contribution that will be matched by its business partners. These resources will be used to fund initiatives designed to promote greater economic, social and community integration of young people.

Yet again, the Budget goes beyond its commitments by setting aside an additional \$95 million for other measures to help young people. These measures will be announced by the Minister of State for Education and Youth.

### **Encouraging entrepreneurship and internships**

Mr. Landry announced several measures aimed at facilitating young people's access to the labour market and enabling them to hone their entrepreneurial skills.

The creation of a loan guarantee program for small businesses will facilitate young Québec entrepreneurs' access to the capital they require to start up their businesses.

To offer young people on-the-job experience, the Budget is providing, over the coming year, additional estimates of \$11.4 million for the creation of internships and summer jobs.

In the same vein, the government of Québec and the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec (FTQ) will each invest \$10 million to finance student internships.

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