

2000-2001 BUDGET

ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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 Québec government will increase the support it gives culture. Considerable resources will be allocated to cultural facilities and international events. In addition, a new refundable tax credit for book publishing is introduced.

Resources to support culture

Additional resources of \$29.5 million will allow for the improvement of conditions for artistic creation and increased support for arts organizations, including major institutions such as Les Grands Ballets canadiens de Montréal, and the Orchestre symphonique de Québec in Québec's national capital.

The government is also investing a further amount of \$30 million in assistance programs for cultural facilities and the restoration of cultural heritage property. These resources will go toward areas requiring urgent action to maintain assets and upgrade to current standards facilities that promote reading, the performing arts and museology. Action will also be taken to preserve and enhance exceptional testaments to Québec's heritage.

Refundable tax credit for book publishing

The government is introducing a new refundable tax credit for book publishing, thereby fulfilling a commitment made by the Premier during the Sommet sur la lecture et le livre. Effective immediately, this refundable tax credit will cover up to 40% of the labour costs of preparing a book and 30% of the labour costs of printing it.

Investments in cultural facilities

In the field of television broadcasting, the government is providing increased funding for the TV5 television station. An additional amount of \$8 million has been slated for the development of TV5, the only French-language television station broadcast the world over. Furthermore, another \$4 million in funding has been earmarked for the reinforcement of Télé-Québec's cultural mandate.

Mr. Landry announced that additional funding would be granted to ensure the preservation of our architectural heritage. This new amount will be used to renovate the buildings of the Séminaire de Nicolet and Montréal's Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie, among other projects.

Support for international events

Over the years, Québec has spawned a large number of entertainment events, several of which have achieved an international reputation. With a view to supporting the enterprises behind these events, the government is giving financial assistance of \$30 million to the Société des événements majeurs internationaux du Québec. Details concerning this grant will be made public by the Minister for Tourism.

Mr. Landry said, "Even in the darkest hours of our struggle with the deficit, the resources intended to enhance the development and exposure of Québec culture were preserved and even increased". He also emphasized that Quebecers are proud of their culture and support their artists with love, admiration and pocketbook, thus enabling Québec culture to make itself felt throughout the world.

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