

2001-2002 BUDGET

**TO PRESERVE AND DEVELOP THE VITALITY OF OUR
CULTURE**

Québec City, March 29, 2001 – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for the Economy and Finance Pauline Marois reiterated today in her **Budget Speech** how vitally important it is to support the creation, production and dissemination of Québec culture. To that end, a number of initiatives were unveiled. One of these is an additional \$33 million over four years for the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

\$23 million for cultural development

The cultural sector receives \$23 million in assistance aimed exclusively at the implementation of initiatives fostering cultural development in all regions of Québec. This assistance will improve training for the next generation of artists and enable continued implementation of the museum policy and the book and reading policy.

\$12 million for reinforcement of Télé-Québec's cultural mandate

Additional funding of \$12 million over five years is granted to Télé-Québec for the purpose of reinforcing its cultural mandate. This initiative will contribute to the enrichment and diversification of its cultural and educational programming. In promoting the Québec television production industry, this initiative will lead to wider dissemination of its products.

\$30 million for the preservation of cultural facilities and the enhancement of our cultural heritage

An additional \$30 million is added to the resources already allocated for the implementation of programs to preserve cultural facilities and restore cultural property. Thus, the maintenance of certain assets is ensured, and facilities for the dissemination of reading, performing arts facilities and museums will be brought up to standard.

\$16 million for two new museum repositories

Montréal and the National Capital will each be home to a new museum repository of our collective memory. The Québec government is allocating \$16 million for the implementation of these two major projects. In announcing these initiatives, the Minister of State for the Economy and Finance recalled the release of the museum policy last May, which reiterated the urgency of taking action to preserve the collective memory of Québec—this memory that constitutes an essential link in our cultural expansion. The initiatives unveiled today are in response to that urgency.

Other tax measures to promote cultural development

Lastly, a number of tax breaks will foster cultural development. The improvement of the tax deduction authors can claim for copyright income is one such example.

In her **2001-2002 Budget Speech**, Ms. Marois paid tribute to the merits and talents of Québec: “Québec culture reveals us to ourselves and to the world at large”, declared the Deputy Prime Minister. “It bears witness to a nation’s irreplaceable originality, which is resolutely rooted in the modern world, capable of enriching the cultural mosaic of humanity. That is why our government will continue to support the creation, production and dissemination of Québec culture”.

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