

2009-2010 BUDGET
Press Release No. 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CNW CODE 01 + WEEKLIES

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CREATION OF A NEW STOCK SAVINGS PLAN

Québec, March 19, 2009 – The government is announcing the creation of a new stock savings plan, the SSP II, to facilitate financing for medium-sized businesses on public savings markets.

This new stock savings plan will increase the capitalization of exchange-listed Québec public companies. It constitutes an additional source of financing for corporations seeking capital.

“The creation of this new stock savings plan is a way of encouraging Quebecers to become directly involved in the economic recovery and the vitality of our businesses,” declared the Minister of Finance.

The SPP II

The characteristics of the new stock savings plan will be as follows:

- maximum assets of eligible corporations will be set at \$200 million;
- the tax deduction granted to individuals will be set at 150% until December 31, 2010, and 100% thereafter;
- the minimum holding period for eligible shares and securities will be set at two years;
- the procedure regarding the eligibility of shares for coverage purposes will be simplified.

The government thus continues to support the public funding of Québec businesses, for the benefit of more businesses. The improvements will also boost investors' interest for the securities of Québec public companies.

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Source: Catherine Poulin
Press Officer
Office of the Minister of Finance
and Minister responsible for Infrastructure
418 643-5270
514 873-5363
www.finances.gouv.qc.ca