

**THE QUÉBEC
ECONOMIC PLAN**

March 2018

Young People

BUDGET 2018-2019

The Future of Québec

Québec 



Budget 2018-2019
Young People: The Future of Québec

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HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018 Québec Economic Plan continues the efforts to help Québec young people aged 15 to 29 fulfill themselves, take over from preceding generations and participate fully in Québec's future development.

The investments for young people will enable the implementation of a series of measures aligned with the strategic priorities adopted in the 2030 Québec Youth Policy. They come in addition to the investments aimed at young people announced in recent years.

- The March 2018 Québec Economic Plan provides for investments totalling \$920 million for young people from fiscal 2017-2018 to 2022-2023.
- These investments come in addition to investments of nearly \$1.8 billion announced in the March 2017 Québec Economic Plan and its November 2017 update, as well as more than \$200 million announced in the 2016-2021 Youth Action Strategy in December 2016.

In total, more than \$2.9 billion will therefore have been devoted to support for young people on their path to success from 2016-2017 to 2022-2023.

The government is thus devoting substantial means to supporting Québec young people in their life path so that they can assume their rightful place and fully realize their potential.

TABLE 1

Financial impact of all measures for young people (millions of dollars)

	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	Total
March 2018 Québec Economic Plan	—	-30.1	-111.1	-139.2	-168.2	-218.2	-253.6	-920.4
Measures already announced								
— Québec Economic Plan – November 2017 update	—	-7.0	-20.0	-20.0	-20.0	-20.0	-20.0	-107.0
— March 2017 Québec Economic Plan	-19.5	-158.0	-279.7	-363.5	-429.6	-429.9	—	-1 680.2
— 2016-2021 Youth Action Strategy	-40.1	-42.3	-41.7	-40.8	-40.8	—	—	-205.7
Subtotal	-59.6	-207.3	-341.4	-424.3	-490.4	-449.9	-20.0	-1 992.9
TOTAL	-59.6	-237.4	-452.5	-563.5	-658.6	-668.1	-273.6	-2 913.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

1. \$920 MILLION MORE FOR QUÉBEC YOUNG PEOPLE

The March 2018 Québec Economic Plan is providing additional investments of \$920 million to support Québec young people in their path to success.

These investments will be aligned with the five strategic priorities of the 2030 Québec Youth Policy:

- \$5.5 million will be invested to stimulate the entrepreneurial capacity of young people;
- \$165 million will be used to fund measures aimed at enhancing the employability and encouraging the hiring of young people;
- \$719.5 million will be invested in education to continue the efforts made over recent years to encourage educational success, facilitate social integration and enhance the employability of young people;
- \$27.9 million will be used to carry out projects proposed by young people seeking to become involved in their community and to bring young people in contact with culture;
- \$2.5 million will be devoted to young people's health to set up a fund to promote healthy lifestyles.

TABLE 2

Financial impact of measures to support Québec young people (millions of dollars)

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	Total
First strategic priority: Health							
Supporting initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles	—	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	—	—	-2.5
Second strategic priority: Education							
Banking on the educational success of young people	—	-85.5	-106.0	-131.0	-181.0	-216.0	-719.5
Third strategic priority: Citizenship							
Supporting implementation of citizen projects and culture	—	-5.4	-5.7	-5.6	-5.6	-5.6	-27.9
Fourth strategic priority: Employment and training							
Maximizing opportunities for young people to enter the labour market	-30.1	-18.3	-25.6	-29.6	-30.5	-30.9	-165.0
Fifth strategic priority: Entrepreneurship and the new generation of entrepreneurs							
Stimulating entrepreneurial capacity	—	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-5.5
TOTAL	-30.1	-111.1	-139.2	-168.2	-218.2	-253.6	-920.4

1.1 Stimulating young people’s entrepreneurial capacity

Young people possess numerous advantages for going into business. They are better educated and show an evident intent to create new businesses or take over existing businesses.

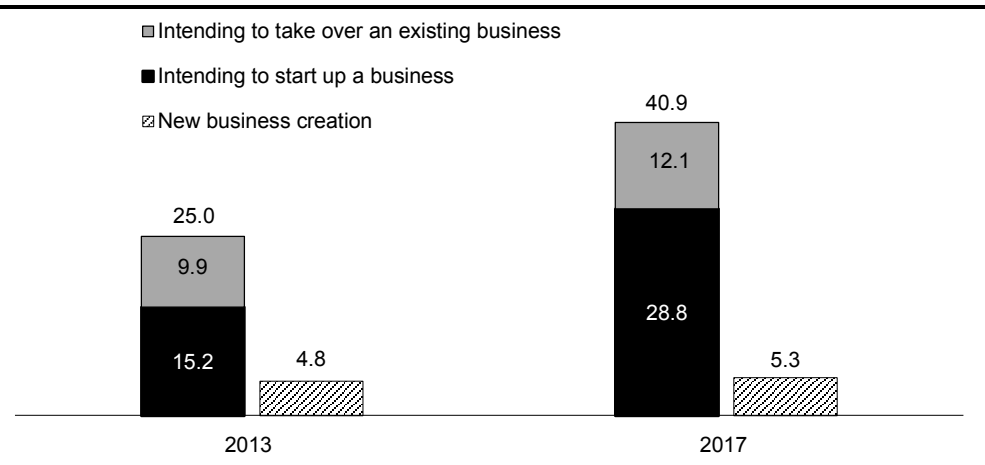
- In recent years, the percentage of young people aged 18 to 34 intending to become entrepreneurs has risen considerably, reaching 40.9% in 2017.
- Nearly 29% of young people were intending to start a new business and more than 12% were intending to take over a business.

❑ Spurring young people to action

Even though the number of young people intending to go into business is on the rise, actions are not always on a par with intentions. The rate of new business creation has progressed slightly since 2013.

CHART 1

Number of young people aged 18 to 34 intending to take over or start up a business and new business creation
(per cent)



Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Sources: Réseau M de la Fondation de l'entrepreneuriat and Ministère des Finances du Québec.

❑ \$5.5 million in investments to stimulate young people’s entrepreneurial capacity

As a further incentive for young people to start up a business, the government must provide them with a maximum of tools and support. For this purpose, \$5.5 million will be invested over the next five years to stimulate young people’s entrepreneurial capacity.

TABLE 3

Financial impact of measures aimed at stimulating entrepreneurial capacity
(millions of dollars)

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	Total
Support for young entrepreneurs with the Chantier de l'économie sociale	—	−0.9	−0.9	−0.9	−0.9	−0.9	−4.5
Funding for the Semaine des entrepreneurs à l'école	—	−0.2	−0.2	−0.2	−0.2	−0.2	−1.0
TOTAL	—	−1.1	−1.1	−1.1	−1.1	−1.1	−5.5

1.1.1 Support for young entrepreneurs with the Chantier de l'économie sociale

Social economy enterprises, particularly those piloted by young people, are faced with numerous challenges.

The realities facing a social economy enterprise at the time of its creation (type of legal entity, governance, transition to a digital environment, funding, etc.) are very different.

To stimulate business creation by young people and introduce an entrepreneurial culture into the social economy, the Chantier de l'économie sociale will set up an incubator program, in cooperation with higher education institutions in Québec.

The government will devote \$4.5 million over five years to support the Chantier de l'économie sociale in implementing this program. This initiative will, in particular, help:

- support business start-ups by young people;
- foster innovation in the social economy.

1.1.2 Funding for the Semaine des entrepreneurs à l'école

Developing the entrepreneurial capacity of young people relies on the manifestation of an interest in entrepreneurship. It is therefore important to foster an entrepreneurial culture and to educate young people in the entrepreneurial spirit from early in life.

For this purpose, the Semaine des entrepreneurs à l'école, launched by OSEntreprendre in 2016, provides a series of activities that help bring together students and entrepreneurs and motivate young people to become involved in a business creation project.

— Entrepreneurial experimentation in the schools helps provide a meaning to the learning acquired by young people, build up their identity and develop self-confidence, while also encouraging young people to become involved in their community.

The Semaine des entrepreneurs à l'école has as its goal to increase the number of young people who are aware of the options offered by an entrepreneurial orientation, while also diversifying extracurricular activities in order to reduce the school drop-out rate.

In view of the success achieved by this activity, the government is planning to contribute \$1 million to its funding over the next five years.

This support for entrepreneurship in the schools comes in addition to the announced investments of \$10 million over five years announced in the March 2017 Québec Economic Plan. These sums are used to fund an entrepreneurship experimentation program in the schools designed, in particular, to offer young people practical experience in start-up and management of micro-enterprises.

OSEntreprendre
OSEntreprendre is an organization officially created in 2015. Its mission is to mobilize a broad network of partners in all regions of Québec in promoting entrepreneurial initiatives to inspire a greater number of individuals to believe in themselves and take up the entrepreneurial challenge. Seconded by its broad network of collaborators, OSEntreprendre publicizes inspiring personalities and projects in order to foster the entrepreneurial spirit, particularly among young people from primary school to university. This is the purpose behind its main activity: coordinating a competition at the local, regional and national levels, the Défi OSEntreprendre. OSEntreprise also pursues related initiatives, such as the Semaine des entrepreneurs à l'école. Semaine des entrepreneurs à l'école The Semaine des entrepreneurs à l'école is an initiative that brings together students and entrepreneurs by means of conferences offered to schools free of charge. This is an awareness-raising activity that supports the development of an entrepreneurial culture among young people, in addition to spurring them to action. In November 2017, more than 10 000 students aged 12 to 17 attended presentations given by about one hundred volunteers eager to share their passion.

1.2 Maximizing opportunities for young people to enter the labour market

The efforts by the Québec government to enhance the employability and encourage the hiring of young people, combined with strong economic growth, contribute positively to the favorable situation in the labour market for young people. There are far fewer young people in Québec who are inactive or unemployed than in past years.

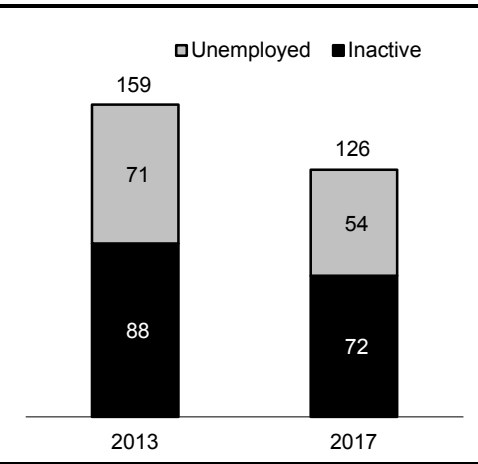
— The number of young people who were neither in school nor employed declined significantly by 33 000 over the last four years, dropping from 159 000 in 2013 to 126 000 in 2017.

For young people, the strength of the economy represents an incentive to enter the labour market. The unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 29 has declined significantly in recent years. With an 8.6% unemployment rate in 2017, compared to 6.1% for the population aged 15 and over for the same year, the opportunities for finding a job remain good for young people.

However, despite the improvement in the situation, the government intends to pursue its efforts to enable young people who are inactive or unemployed to participate in Québec's economic growth by finding a job.

CHART 2

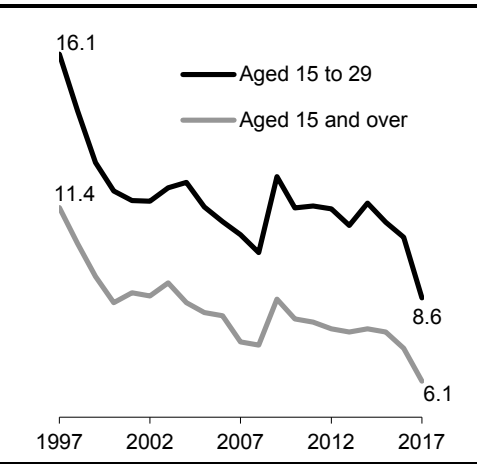
Number of young people aged 15 to 29 neither in school nor employed (thousands)



Sources: Statistics Canada and Ministère des Finances du Québec.

CHART 3

Unemployment rate in Québec for certain cohorts (per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada.

❑ Investments of \$165 million to maximize opportunities for entering the labour market

The March 2018 Québec Economic Plan proposes several measures to enhance the employability and encourage the hiring of young people, in particular, measures to help businesses satisfy their workforce needs.

Overall, these initiatives represent investments of \$165 million over six years to encourage more young people to enter the labour market and contribute to Québec's economic growth and prosperity.

TABLE 4

Financial impact of measures to maximize opportunities to enter the labour market (millions of dollars)

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	Total
Promoting and showcasing high-demand trades	—	−0.5	−0.5	−0.5	−0.5	−0.5	−2.5
Expediting recognition of skills and experience	—	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−0.1	−0.5
Partnerships with Montréal International and Québec International	−10.1	—	—	—	—	—	−10.1
Better adapting the training supply to the needs of the labour market	−20.0	−16.5	−19.7	−19.7	−19.7	−19.7	−115.3
Enhancing the tax credit for on-the-job training periods	—	−1.2	−5.3	−9.3	−10.2	−10.6	−36.6
TOTAL	−30.1	−18.3	−25.6	−29.6	−30.5	−30.9	−165.0

1.2.1 Promoting and showcasing high-demand trades

Workers, current and future, are often poorly informed about career opportunities in cutting-edge sectors. Trades in these sectors must be promoted in a more targeted manner and showcased in order to produce a better match between workforce supply and demand.

The Carrefour will provide, in a single place:

- an “Employment” space for workers and employers that will provide, in particular, information on employment measures and services offered;
- a new informational tool concerning the labour market and the training supply that will help guide young people toward high-demand trades.

Investments of \$2.5 million over five years will be devoted to establishing this gathering and guidance space for employment.

1.2.2 Expediting recognition of skills and experience

Recognition of skills and experience is a process that enables an individual to obtain official certification of his or her skills in reference to a program of studies, particularly in vocational or technical training.

- It is thus a major tool intended to accelerate the educational trajectory, particularly for immigrants, and their integration into the labour market.

The government is providing \$0.5 million over five years to improve experience recognition mechanisms in vocational training. This sum will be used to make improvements in the skills and experience recognition initiatives announced in the March 2017 Québec Economic Plan.

1.2.3 Partnerships with Montréal International and Québec International

Recruiting, attracting and retaining immigrants, including students, results, in particular, from the efforts of Québec organizations that are active abroad. This is true, in particular, of Montréal International and Québec International, which, over a number of years, have set up tried-and-tested programs and initiatives to attract and retain immigrants.

To continue the work already begun, the government intends to extend and enhance its partnership with these organizations.

The partnerships with Montréal International and Québec International will make it possible, in particular, to organize new initiatives for recruitment, attraction, networking and mentoring. They will be aimed at increasing the number of persons selected to meet the needs of businesses.

For this purpose, the March 2018 Québec Economic Plan provides support of \$10.1 million for these organizations: \$6.6 million for Montréal International and \$3.5 million for Québec International.

Supporting the labour market by immigration of young people

Each year, Québec attracts numerous immigrants whose potential and know-how are a valuable resource. From 2011 to 2016, the total number of young people aged 15 to 29 who settled in Québec increased to nearly 47 000.

- Approximately 23 000 of these newcomers were economic immigrants, that is, individuals who stood out because of their capacity to satisfy Québec's workforce and entrepreneurial needs.

Educated young immigrants entering the labour market

By settling in Québec, young immigrants support demographic growth and stimulate wealth creation. They are highly educated, which represents an advantage for their integration into the labour market. Thus, from 2011 to 2016, among newcomers aged 20 to 29:

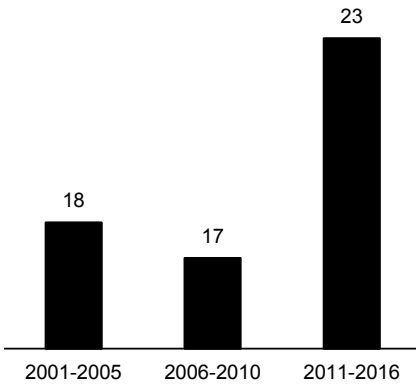
- 42% had a university degree;
- 23% had a vocational or college degree.

Yet the employment rate for young economic immigrants aged 20 to 29 is lower than the average for Québec young people, excluding those who have a university degree.

- Thus, young immigrants require additional support so that they can satisfy workforce needs and realize their full potential within Québec society.

Number of economic immigrants aged 15 to 29, in Québec

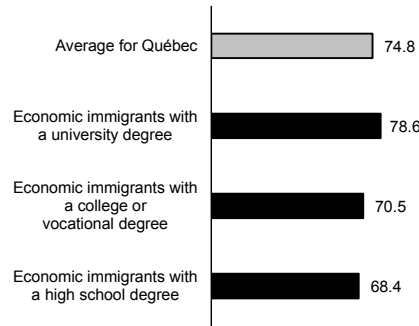
(thousands of individuals)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

Employment rate of individuals aged 20 to 29 in Québec from 2011 to 2016, by status and educational level

(per cent)



Note: Economic immigrants are the principal applicants for permanent residence.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

1.2.4 Better adapting the training supply to the needs of the labour market

The sectoral or territorial realities of the Québec labour market demand greater flexibility in adapting government training programs.

Also, many employers have difficulty recruiting new candidates. Some vocational fields have long-term imbalances between the number of job positions to be filled and the number of graduates from programs of study leading to these jobs.

A better balance between the demand for labour and the supply of employment requires, in particular, a training supply that better meets the needs of the labour market.

Overall, the measures to help businesses satisfy their workforce needs will total \$115.3 million over six years.

❑ Increasing the graduation rate in high-demand fields

For certain high-demand fields, such as the sciences and engineering, the gap between graduation rates in recent years and future needs could mean that employers will not be able to satisfy their workforce needs.

Likewise, a better supply of bridges between vocational, technical and university studies is thus required to make it easier for students to pursue their academic path.

Thus, the government will devote an additional \$46 million over five years to ensure sufficient annual growth in the graduation rate by focusing, for example, on promoting high-demand programs of study and providing incentives to attract students and ensure their success all the way to graduation.

❑ Enhanced support for the CCTT, in particular, for the purpose of applying the “trial” training approach

The college centres for technology transfer (CCTTs) support businesses and organizations in regard to innovation, in particular, by technical support, technology development and training.

The government is providing \$20 million, in particular, to enable CCTTs to apply a new training approach, the so-called “trial” approach.

For this purpose, the “trial” training approach developed by the CCTTs integrates students simultaneously into the labour market and the research community by offering them the opportunity to work with the CCTTs’ client businesses.

- Offering applied training activities in which students work directly with research centres can be a winning strategy for both students and the host organization.
- The presence of CCTTs in Québec’s regions ensures that this training approach will be accessible.

Moreover, this practice accords with one of the recommendations made by the Conseil consultatif sur l’économie et l’innovation aimed at creating college level training programs alternating work and study.

□ Greater flexibility in the training supply in the regions

Overall, the training supply satisfies the needs of participants, workers and employers. Yet certain training needs remain unsatisfied in certain regions, in particular because the number of persons signing up for training is too low to justify launching cohorts.

To adapt the training supply to the realities of the regions, the government is providing \$24.3 million to introduce:

- new ways of deploying the training supply in response to regional needs;
- measures aimed at greater interregional mobility for students in training.

Also, persons trained for trades involving vocational and technical training will be able to start a job as early as possible while still in training.

- For this purpose, the March 2015 Québec Economic Plan had announced the launching of pilot projects with an on-the-job training component. Since the 2015-2016 school year, 14 programs of technical studies have been or are in the process of being adapted to promote workplace learning under these projects. In vocational training, there are 26 projects currently under way.

The March 2018 Québec Economic Plan enhances this initiative.

For this purpose, additional appropriations will be granted to the Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur.

❑ **Enhancing the CPMT's short-term training program focusing on internships**

The short-term training program focusing on internships in the professions prioritized by the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail (CPMT) was launched in February 2017.

- This program is aimed at providing a skilled workforce and meeting the needs of businesses facing training-related problems by offering a subsidy so that their employees can receive vocational or technical training recognized by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur.
- It can also be used to adapt an existing program of studies to better meet the needs of businesses and their workers.

Since the start of the short-term training program focusing on internships, nearly a score of projects have been accepted. These projects will allow 700 workers employed by 200 businesses to receive training leading to a recognized diploma.

In this context, the government will devote \$25 million to fund more projects by enhancing the short-term training program focusing on internships.

1.2.5 Enhancing the tax credit for on-the-job training periods

On-the-job training periods offer numerous advantages for both the employer and the trainee. In offering employers a refundable tax credit for on-the-job training periods, the government's objectives are, in particular, to:

- encourage businesses to contribute to developing trainee skills;
- make it easier for students and apprentices to enter the labour market.

The tax assistance helps in supporting the additional costs incurred by a business that accept a trainee. However, since 2006, the maximum hourly rates and the weekly caps on expenses eligible for the tax credit for on-the-job training periods have remained unchanged.

Also, the exodus of young people to major urban centres is a matter of concern for more remote regions and for businesses whose growth relies on the availability of a qualified workforce.

In this context, the March 2018 Québec Economic Plan provides for an increase in the tax credit for on-the-job training periods to:

- raise the maximum hourly rates and the weekly caps on expenses to reflect the impact of inflation since 2006;
- raise the tax credit rates in respect of:
 - businesses operating in remote resource regions to encourage young people to acquire work experience in their field of study in these regions;
 - Aboriginal persons to encourage Québec businesses to facilitate their integration into a job.

This improvement in the tax credit for on-the-job training periods will apply in respect of a training period beginning after the day of Budget Speech 2018-2019.

This initiative will represent additional assistance of more than \$10 million per year, once the measure is fully implemented, and will benefit nearly 6 000 businesses accepting approximately 15 000 trainees annually.

1.3 Banking on the educational success of young people

Education is the best investment to foster society's prosperity and well-being, from both an individual as well as a social and collective standpoint.

- Education is a powerful lever that enables young people of all origins to acquire general knowledge, develop their full potential and become responsible, committed citizens who are well integrated into the labour market.
- Having a solid, diversified education system covering all of Québec and focused on student needs is an essential lever for Québec's economic and social development.

Also, a financial support measure will be introduced to foster success in the final stage of student teaching.

TABLE 5

Financial impact of measures to promote the educational success of young people
(millions of dollars)

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	Total
Higher education ⁽¹⁾	—	-70.5	-91.0	-116.0	-166.0	-201.0	-644.5
Supporting future teachers ⁽²⁾	—	-15.0	-15.0	-15.0	-15.0	-15.0	-75.0
TOTAL	—	-85.5	-106.0	-131.0	-181.0	-216.0	-719.5

(1) Includes funding for the digital action plan in higher education.

(2) For 2018-2019, an amount of \$5 million is drawn from the Contingency Fund.

☐ Additional investments for higher education

The March 2018 Québec Economic Plan provides for additional investments of nearly \$645 million between now and 2022-2023 to foster the educational success of young people. Beginning 2018-2019, these investments will be more than \$70 million per year. They will be used, in particular, to:

- increase and modernize the funding of universities and CEGEPs;
- implement the digital action plan in higher education.

The details of these investments are presented in the budget paper *Education: A Plan for Success*.

❑ **Supporting future teachers**

Future teachers play a decisive role in ensuring the success of our young people. This is why they receive training over a period of four years, requiring, in particular, a minimum of 700 hours of student teaching.

At the end of their training, students in teacher education perform the same tasks as the rest of the teaching staff and must actively contribute to their school committees, extracurricular activities and the life of the school.

— Student teaching helps future teachers become more self-reliant, develop their professional skills, diversify their experience and acquire general skills.

To foster success in the final stage of teacher training, which is mandatory for obtaining a diploma in the Québec school system, the government is investing \$15 million per year as of 2018-2019 for a financial support measure for students.

1.4 Supporting the implementation of citizen projects and culture

Developing the entrepreneurial capacity of young people may be viewed in a larger context than that of business creation. Young people can undertake various social or cultural projects in their community.

Such projects enrich a community and enhance the well-being of its citizens. The implementation of such projects can also foster citizen participation by young people and help bring the generations together.

Moreover, bringing young people into contact with culture promotes the development of young peoples' creativity and their socialization.

□ Nearly \$28 million for the implementation of projects piloted by young people and for culture

The March 2018 Québec Economic Plan intends to provide increased support for the implementation of projects piloted locally by young people for their community. Also, investments will be made over the next five years to encourage greater attendance by young people, in particular, at museums present in all regions of Québec.

Investments of nearly \$28 million will thus be made for the implementation of these actions over the next five years.

TABLE 6

Financial impact of measures to support the implementation of citizen projects and culture
(millions of dollars)

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	Total
Philanthropic funding platform aimed at the private sector	—	-2.3	-2.1	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-10.4
Program for funding local youth projects	—	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-5.0
Emergence of projects to promote intergenerational exchanges	—	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-7.5
Free visits to museums	—	-0.6	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-5.0
TOTAL	—	-5.4	-5.7	-5.6	-5.6	-5.6	-27.9

1.4.1 Philanthropic funding platform aimed at the private sector

Businesses and private foundations can make a financial contribution to various causes and projects likely to have a positive impact on Québec young people and their life environment.

A closer alignment between the government priorities targeted in the 2030 Québec Youth Policy and the priorities of businesses and private foundations could provide effective leverage to help achieve the targets of this policy with regard to health, education, citizenship, employment and entrepreneurship as it affects young people.

For this purpose, the government will establish a new philanthropic funding platform aimed at encouraging such an alignment.

- This forum for exchange will facilitate contacts between potential donors and promoters seeking donations to support the funding of projects aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Québec Youth Policy.
- This funding platform will be modelled after crowdfunding platforms such as Haricot and La Ruche, which are playing an ever more important role in the funding of new projects in Québec.

The government will devote more than \$10 million over the next five years to setting up and operating this exchange portal that will benefit Québec young people.

1.4.2 Program for funding local youth projects

A new program will be set up to provide assistance for developing locally established youth action strategies and contribute to funding the resulting projects, in line with the intention expressed in the 2016-2021 Youth Action Strategy.

These projects will involve various aspects of local life, either in the cultural and artistic field or for the personal and social development of young people. They may also be aimed at facilitating the integration of young immigrants into their host community.

- This may include such projects as those for developing the musical talent of young people from underprivileged neighbourhoods or for improving the life skills and know-how of young people living in underprivileged neighbourhoods to help them assume their place in society.

This measure will ensure funding that can be phased over several years for organizations undertaking such projects in line with local youth strategies.

For this purpose, investments of \$5 million are to be provided over the next five years to set up the program and ensure its operation and funding.

1.4.3 Emergence of projects to promote intergenerational exchanges

Under the 2030 Québec Youth Policy, the government has committed to supporting actions that will promote intergenerational dialogue and harmonious social relations.

The March 2018 Québec Economic Plan builds on this intention and announces the creation of a program to support initiatives enabling the emergence for projects for exchange and mutual help between young people and seniors, such as the “Le cœur n’a pas d’âge” project.

— By providing for match-ups between young people and seniors, “Le cœur n’a pas d’âge” offers activities that promote exchanges and transmission of knowledge between persons of different generations and cultures.

The program will also be used to fund programs for free housing of post-secondary students in residences for seniors, in exchange for hours of volunteer work with the seniors at the residence.

Also, it will help fund organizations fostering exchanges between generations whose clienteles are facing problems of social isolation or integration, but also major challenges of expertise and business transfer, such as organizations like the Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec.

The government will devote \$7.5 million over five years to this initiative aimed at strengthening ties between Québec young people and seniors. Of this amount, \$4.6 million will be devoted to projects under the measures to encourage active ageing for seniors and \$2.9 million will be granted to the Secrétariat à la jeunesse. The terms and conditions of this program will be spelled out at a later date by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse.

1.4.4 Offering free visits to museums one Sunday a month

Museums, present in all regions of Québec, are places for the conservation, production and dissemination of knowledge, and for research. They are also place for education and transmission of culture, particularly in the fields of art, heritage and history. These institutions encourage everyone to experience, participate in and contribute to culture.

To promote the museums’ cultural riches, particularly among young people everywhere in Québec, the government is providing \$5 million over five years to offer free visits to museums one Sunday a month at museums supported by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

1.5 Supporting initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles among young people

Healthy lifestyles can have a favourable impact on an individual's state of physical and mental health. Several aspects of personal life can be positively affected, such as educational success, vocational success and social integration.

TABLE 7

Financial impact of initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles
(millions of dollars)

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	Total
Creation of the Fonds pour la jeunesse	—	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	—	—	-2.5

❑ Creation of the Fonds pour la jeunesse

To support initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles among young people, an investment fund will be set up.

The Fonds pour la jeunesse will be used to financially support various projects promoting healthy lifestyles among young people, in line with the objectives of the youth policy.

Management of this fund will be entrusted to the Fondation Jasmin Roy, which will administer it and select the projects to be supported.

The government will devote \$2.5 million over three years to funding this intervention tool aimed at young people. Details of the fund's implementation will be announced at a later date by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse.

2. OTHER STRUCTURING MEASURES ANNOUNCED FOR QUÉBEC YOUNG PEOPLE

During recent years, the government has taken other major steps that will contribute to the well-being of young people, including the following:

- the measures to support young people announced in the March 2017 Québec Economic Plan;
- the measures announced in furtherance of the policy directions of the 2030 Québec Youth Policy;
- the historic increase in the minimum wage slated to take effect on May 1, 2018.

2.1 Measures in the March 2017 Québec Economic Plan to support young people

To support the development of Québec young people, the government announced a substantial increase in funding for its interventions aimed at young people, involving an additional sum of:

- nearly \$1.7 billion over six years at the time the March 2017 Québec Economic Plan was presented;
- \$107 million over six years in the November 2017 update.

The sums announced were aimed mainly at increasing financial support for education and the integration of young people into the labour market. These sums will help better prepare young people for the challenges of an economy centred on knowledge, innovation and productivity and help them fill the jobs available on the labour market.

The March 2017 Québec Economic Plan and the November 2017 update provided, in particular, for:

- investments of more than \$1 billion to fund higher education institutions so as to improve the graduation rate and enhance the staff support for students;
- measures aimed at actively promoting trades and professions in high demand on the labour market;
- new educational and sports infrastructures to encourage physical activity and the adoption of healthy lifestyles among young people;
- measures to promote the health of young people and citizen participation by young people.

2.2 Objectives of the 2030 Québec Youth Policy

The 2030 Québec Youth Policy: Working Together for Current and Future Generations, announced in March 2016, lays out the policy directions that will be prioritized in the coming years in regard to government initiatives devoted to young people.

- These policy directions are centred around five strategic priorities related to health, education, citizenship, employment and entrepreneurship with regard to young people aged 15 to 29.

To implement this policy, the government announced investments of more than \$200 million over five years when it unveiled the 2016-2021 Youth Action Strategy in December 2016.

❑ **Measures in the action strategy to support young people on the path to self-sufficiency**

Implementation of the 2016-2021 Youth Action Strategy is already well under way. Several projects are being implemented or soon will be, while several other initiatives will be announced by the government in continuance of its efforts aimed at implementing this first action strategy of the 2030 Québec Youth Policy.

■ **Development of the Créneau Carrefour jeunesse and support for Place aux jeunes en région program**

Among these projects, the development of the Créneau Carrefour jeunesse in Québec's 110 carrefours jeunesse-emploi continued in 2017-2018. Today the full range of services provided by the Créneau is offered by all the carrefours jeunesse-emploi.

Moreover, to promote job mobility and integration of young people in all regions of Québec, the government announced nearly \$11 million over three years to support the action of Place aux jeunes en région and its network of 52 partners, whose goal is to attract and keep young graduates in the regions.

■ **The Chaire de recherche sur la jeunesse du Québec**

So that the issues addressed by the 2030 Québec Youth Policy can be studied and examined within a scientific and multidisciplinary perspective, the government has created the Chaire de recherche sur la jeunesse du Québec in collaboration with the Québec Research Fund–Society and Culture.

- This research chair will take the form of a chair-network, a first in Québec, and will have four components (Health; Education, citizenship and culture; Employment and entrepreneurship; First Nations and Inuit), each one directed by a team of researchers.

■ **10% representation for young people on Québec overseas trade missions**

Export Québec helps business leaders access markets outside Québec, particularly by conducting trade missions. To develop the skills of young entrepreneurs and increase their chances of success internationally, Export Québec now aims to ensure that at least 10% of all participants in trade missions are young entrepreneurs under age 35.

■ **Seats reserved for young people on boards of directors of state-owned enterprise**

To encourage the presence of young people on boards of directors of state-owned enterprises, the government has committed to ensuring that these enterprises appoint to their board of directors at least one member aged 35 or under.

■ **The Mobilité-jeunesse program**

As of November 2017, this program groups together all mobility experiences offered or supported by the Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec, in line with the objectives of the 2030 Québec Youth Policy.

— The Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec thus becomes a single-window provider for internships offered to young people, in line with the intentions expressed in the 2016-2021 Youth Action Strategy.

The Reconnaissances jeunesse prizes
To highlight the contribution of young people to Québec society, the government on December 20, 2017 launched a call for nominations for the Premier of Québec's Reconnaissance jeunesse prizes. Eleven winners will thus be recognized at the first awards ceremony highlighting the accomplishments of young people and the efforts of youth facilitators who, by their actions, have contributed to the promotion of young people and the advancement of Québec society. – Prizes will be awarded for each of the five strategic priorities established in the 2030 Québec Youth Policy. – In addition, an Excellence prize, the Emmett-Johns prize (commemorating "Father Pops"), will highlight the efforts of a personality whose work with young people has been particularly noteworthy. Québec's economic future depends particularly on young people. It is only right that they should be honoured by highlighting and celebrating their success.

2.3 An increase in the minimum wage that will benefit young workers

The Minister responsible for Labour announced in January 2018 that the minimum wage would be raised from \$11.25 per hour to \$12.00 per hour as of May 1, 2018, an increase greater than that announced the previous year. This represents the largest minimum wage increase in the history of Québec.

Minimum wage increase announced in January 2017
In January 2017, the Minister responsible for Labour announced that the general rate of the minimum wage would be raised from \$10.75 per hour to \$11.25 per hour as of May 1, 2017. At the same time, the Minister announced her intention to raise the minimum wage by \$0.50 as of May 1, 2018 and gradually reach a 50% ratio between the minimum wage and the average hourly wage by 2020. – In 2016, the ratio targeted was instead 47%.

Moreover, to reach a minimum wage representing 50% of the average hourly wage, the minimum wage could be increased by \$0.40 and \$0.35 in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

TABLE 8

Increases in the minimum wage for the coming years (dollars per hour, unless otherwise indicated)

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020 ⁽¹⁾	2020-2021 ⁽¹⁾
Minimum wage ⁽²⁾	11.25	12.00	12.40	12.75
Increase in the minimum wage	—	+0.75	+0.40	+0.35
Ratio between the minimum wage and the average hourly wage ⁽³⁾ (%)	47.3	49.2	49.8	50.0

(1) The minimum wage increases for May 1, 2019 and May 1, 2020 are presented only by way of illustration. They will be subject to government decision on an annual basis.

(2) This is the annual average determined for the period from May to April of the following year.

(3) The ratios are determined based on quarterly data from April to March.

Sources: Secrétariat du travail, Statistics Canada and Ministère des Finances du Québec.

❑ A profitable change for young people

Currently, 62% of workers concerned by the minimum wage increase are aged 15 to 24.

Thus, there are 217 740 workers aged 15 to 24 who will benefit from the increase as of May 1, 2018, including those who earn wages of up to \$0.75 above minimum wage.

TABLE 9

Number of workers paid at minimum wage and number of workers who will benefit from the \$0.75 minimum wage increase
(number)

	Workers currently paid at minimum wage	Workers who will benefit from the minimum wage increase
Aged 15 to 24	135 000	217 740
Aged 25 and above	83 800	135 160
TOTAL	218 800	352 900

Sources: Secrétariat du travail, Statistics Canada and Ministère des Finances du Québec.

The increase in the minimum wage will result in an improved quality of life for young workers.

