

Fact Sheet 2 An increase of 3.6% actually intended for services to the population**1. More than half of the programme expenditures is dedicated to Health and Social Services**

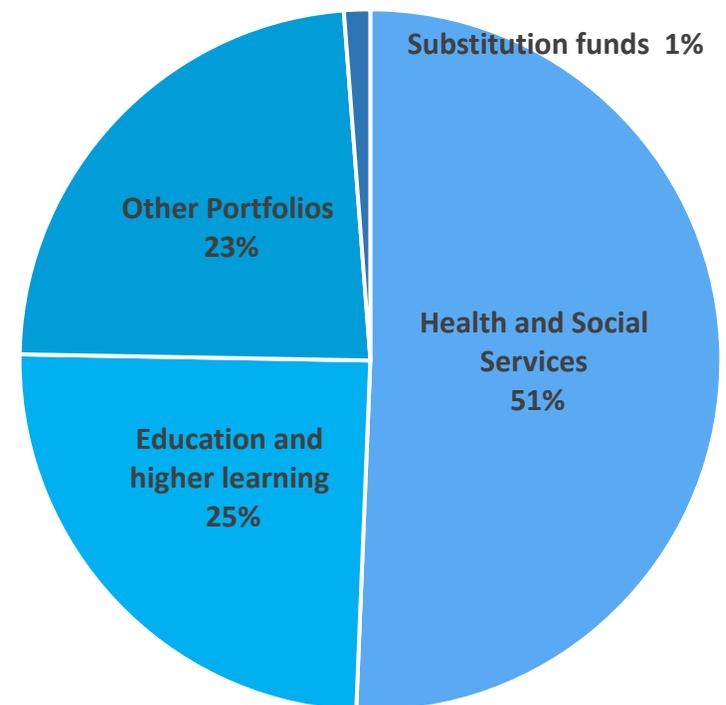
The programme expenditures of the Government of Québec for 2017-2018 are nearly \$72.6 billion and repaying the debt \$7.8 billion¹. The vote on the funds by the members of the National Assembly is done by programme. A programme has the funds for implementing a set of consistent activities aimed at attaining the objectives. The progress can be followed and the programme is accountable. In health, the programme expenditures include the amounts allotted to the operating of the ministry, paying the physicians, the *Régime public d'assurance-médicament* and to services delivered to the population.

As Graph 1 shows, health and social services constitute 51% of the programme expenditures of the government.

In 2017-2018:

- The overall increase in the health and social services portfolio was evaluated at \$1.5 billion¹.
- In Education and higher learning, it is \$637 million in addition to what has been added to the programmes¹.
- The other portfolios share an increase of \$382 million¹.

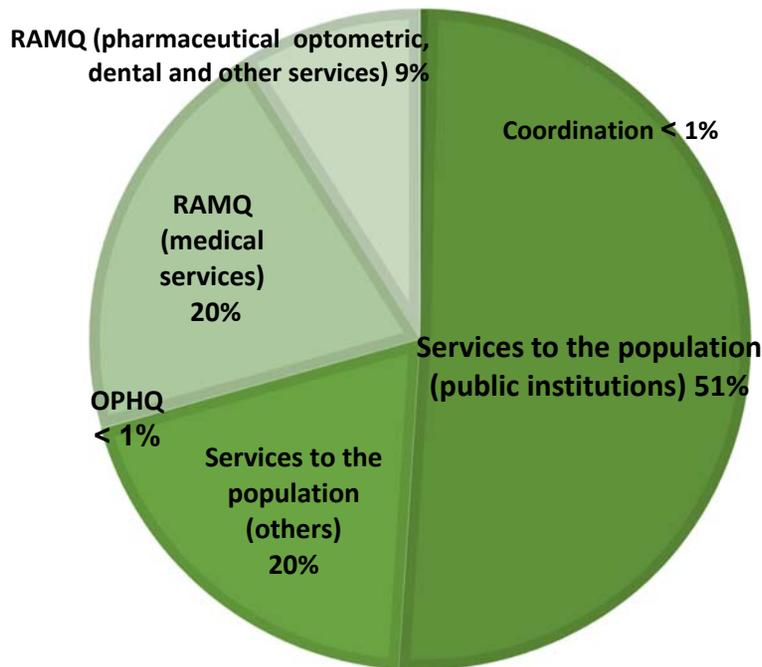
GRAPH 1: DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PORTFOLIO, 2017-2018



2. The budget associated with the compensation of physicians increased more quickly than the others

Services to the population make up 71% of expenditures in Health and Social Services while medical services amount to 20%. (Graph 2)². Medical services include almost exclusively the compensation of the physicians.

GRAPH 2: DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EXPENDITURES, BY SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES, 2017-2018



In 2017-2018:

- \$905M more is actually invested in the services to the population. This is an increase of 3.6%².
- The budget granted to the compensation of physicians is increased by 6% or \$419M².
- The public health and social services institutions saw their budgets increase by 3.1% or \$564M².

3. Issues for the healthcare professionals

Even if the budget seems to include good news, the increase of 3.6% announced does not compensate for the cuts over the last few years. Between 2014 and 2017, a little more than \$1.3 billion was cut from the budgets of the public institutions, solely in line with the optimization projects³.

In addition, even if Minister Barrette has announced a plan to control the growth in the compensation of the physicians, that group benefits just the same from a supplemental amount of \$419M in 2017-2018. In comparison, between 2014 and 2017, the average annual increase for physician compensation was only \$223M².

The future will tell us if the latter investment has been done to the detriment of the population.

References

¹Ministère des Finances, *Le Plan économique du Québec – March 2017*,

²Conseil du Trésor, *Budget des dépenses, Crédits des ministères et des organismes, 2014-2015 to 2017-2018*

³Conseil du Trésor, *Budget des dépenses, Plan annuel de gestion des dépenses des ministères et organismes, 2014-2015 to 2017-2018*