

Fact Sheet 3 Reinvestment? Far from meeting the needs of the population!

1. Health Prevention

The new amounts *invested in prevention* are probably only a continuation of the amounts already allotted by Québec for the *Fonds pour la promotion des saines habitudes de vie* over the last 10 years. Now that the partnership with the *Fondation Chagnon* has ended, what will happen with the initiatives that were already funded? What will be the outcomes for the 200 million dollars invested by Québec in this adventure?

2. Home Care

To increase the support for home care for seniors, in response to the growing needs in long-term care and the increase in the prevalence of disabilities and loss of autonomy, an additional amount of 69 million dollars has been planned for the next two years¹. In comparison, in the 2016-2017 Budget, there was 60 million dollars more that was dedicated to home care².

3. Accommodations

The government is also planning additional investments of 65 million dollars over the next two years to enhance the accommodation standards and the care in the CHSLDs¹. According to the MSSS, this investment represents 1,150 more beneficiary attendants, licensed practical nurses and nurses on the job².

To reduce waiting times in the hospitals, 100 million dollars has been planned for the creation of 2,100 places for the people waiting for accommodations, rehabilitation and convalescence, as well as in mental health².

Additional investments for Health and Social Services
(in millions of dollars)

	2017-2018	2018-2019
Additional funding for the healthcare institutions	328	738
Reduction of waiting times in the hospitals	100	100
Increase of priority services in health and social services	100	100
Support of autonomy for seniors	69	69
Residential and long-term care centres (CHSLD)	65	65
Diagnostic and surgical services	41	41
Support of people with autism spectrum disorder	29	29
Focus on health prevention	20	20
Specialty nurse practitioners	10	10
Support programme for community organizations	10	10
Total – Additional investments	772	1,182
Projected amount à même le Fonds de suppléance	-30	---
TOTAL INCREASES	742	1,182

4. Specialty nurse practitioners (SNP)

An additional investment of 10 million dollars for the next two years has been planned for the SNPs. Moreover, the budget documents do not include any details on concrete measures that will accompany this investment, namely for facilitating the attribution of internships or the introduction of the SNPs on the job. The funding of nursing clinics was not addressed either.

5. Health and Welfare Commissioner

The Health and Welfare Commissioner is still part of the bodies of the MSSS, the same as the *Office des personnes handicapées du Québec*. Even if his personnel has faded over the last year, this body still has a budget of 2.8 million dollars in 2017-2018². This is an increase of 1.5% in relation to 2016-2017².

6. Other measures

Amounts of 328 million dollars in 2017-2018 and of 738 million dollars in 2018-2019 are planned in order to bring the expenditure growth of the healthcare institutions to a level that will allow an improvement in access to care and its quality². A part of these amounts must serve to fund the normal increase in the budgets resulting namely from the salary adjustments scheduled for April 1, 2017 and the increase in the repayment of the debt. The government also plans an additional investment totalling 80 million dollars over five years to consolidate the funding of the community organizations, including 10 million dollars in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019¹.

References

¹Conseil du Trésor, *Budget des dépenses, Plan annuel de gestion des dépenses des ministères et organismes*, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

²Ministère des Finances, *Le Plan économique du Québec – March 2017*

Summary:

- New amounts have been added retroactively to the 2016-2017 health budget in line with a project for the distribution of snacks of fruit and vegetables in schools (\$5M) and the development of a digital strategy in suicide prevention (\$5M)¹.
- 12 million dollars more is also planned for increasing access to youth prevention services and psychosocial services².
- No amount or measure specifically dedicated to end-of-life care has been integrated into the Budget.

7. Issues for the healthcare professionals

It must be admitted that with each budget it is always difficult to see concrete results linked to the new announcements in the field.

And, if the new budgets are not enough to renew the services currently provided by the healthcare professionals, it is unlikely that the growing needs of the population will be better met.