

Overview

REPORT on PLANS and PRIORITIES 2007-2008

The object of the Agency is to promote the long-term economic development of the regions of Quebec.



Each year, the Agency prepares its *Report on Plans and Priorities* (RPP), which presents and explains its expenditure plan. The report also gives detailed information, for a three year period, on the Agency's main priorities and anticipated results, while establishing links with the resources required.

Over the last year, the Agency has set up new strategic directions and implemented new programs which target the vitality and diversification of communities as well as the competitiveness and growth of SMEs and regions. This constitutes the basis of its long-term strategy for meeting the challenges of regional development in Quebec.





Agency in ACTION

By focussing its intervention and investment on three strategic outcomes and by building on its 14 business offices, the Agency works in conjunction with the regions of Quebec and aims to contribute to their prosperity and to a lasting improvement in Quebecers' quality of life and standard of living.

The Agency targets three long-term strategic outcomes

- **Strategic outcome #1: *Vitality of communities***
Revitalize communities so they enjoy better socio-economic prospects and maintain and develop the economic activity base.
- **Strategic outcome #2: *Competitiveness of SMEs and regions***
Reinforce conditions conducive to sustainable growth and the competitive positioning of SMEs and the regions through the development of SMEs' capabilities, networks, innovation and knowledge.
- **Strategic outcome #3: *Policy, representation and cooperation***
Foster the development and implementation of policies, programs and initiatives which reflect national priorities and the realities of Quebec's regions; reinforcement of the consistency and added value of federal action with respect to regional development; and cooperation with the Government of Quebec and other development agents.

through an integrated regional development approach

- **Global:** take economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions into account in the design of policies, programs and initiatives.
- **Territorial:** establish strategies geared to the type of area defined in terms of similar socio economic issues.
- **Horizontal:** build on cooperation and collaboration with federal partners, the Government of Quebec and Quebec communities.
- **Participatory:** elicit participation by the economic agents concerned.

by eliciting and supporting development through miscellaneous activities

- information and promotional activities concerning Agency programs and services
- guidance, development and consulting activities
- financial assistance activities
- activities associated with the generation and enhancement of knowledge

in relation to several beneficiaries

- enterprises (particularly SMEs)
- non-profit organizations (NPOs)
- communities.



Agency INTERVENTION

The Agency's overall intervention is in line with the Government of Canada's major priorities and responds to the socio-economic development context of Quebec's regions. This intervention contributes to generating tangible results for the sustainable development of SMEs and the regions.

Agency areas of intervention

Planned spending in contributions and grants
and human resources in full-time equivalents (FTE)

(in \$ thousands)	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Examples of outcomes
■ Strategic outcome #1: <i>Vitality of communities</i>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Entrepreneurs carry out their enterprise projects. ■ Target groups participate in initiatives. ■ Communities have assets with attraction potential.
Program activities:				
<i>Development of communities</i>	140,949	100,695	86,866	
<i>Infrastructure</i>	97,358	—	—	
<i>Special intervention measures</i>	6,973	2,703	2,663	
Total	245,280	103,398	89,529	
■ Strategic outcome #2: <i>Competitiveness of SMEs and regions</i>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supported enterprises use their strategic skills. ■ Products and services stemming from R&D are commercialized. ■ Enterprises participate in network or cluster activities.
Program activities:				
<i>Competitiveness of enterprises (SMEs)</i>	63,037	56,663	58,433	
<i>Competitive positioning of regions</i>	38,025	37,772	38,957	
Total	101,062	94,435	97,390	
■ Strategic outcome #3: <i>Policy, representation and cooperation</i>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Knowledge is produced and transferred to economic and regional development stakeholders.
Program activity:				
<i>Policies, programs and initiatives</i>	500	950	950	
Total	500	950	950	
GRAND TOTAL	346,842 409 FTEs	198,783 407 FTEs	187,869 400 FTEs	

The Agency's new PROGRAMS

To bring its action into line with its strategic directions, the Agency developed new programs which are in place since April 1, 2007:

Community Diversification: this program enables Quebec communities to enhance their capacity to make socio-economic adjustment, support the emergence of new entrepreneurs and creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises, attract tourists, and attract and retain skilled individuals.

Business and Regional Growth: on the one hand, this program enables enterprises to perform more effectively and be more competitive while, on the other hand, it enables regions to be more competitive. It builds on the development of strategic skills, networks, innovation, knowledge and the advent of investment so that the conditions favourable to sustainable growth and the competitiveness of regions and SMEs are reinforced.

Regional Development Research: this program contributes to promoting the development and diversification of the economy of the regions of Quebec. Its goal is to generate and disseminate knowledge concerning economic and regional development that is helpful for development stakeholders.



Agency PRIORITIES

In 2007-2008, the Agency has set itself four priorities. The **two program priorities** are in line with those mentioned in the 2006-2007 RPP and with the perspective of the initiatives announced in 2006. The **two management priorities** are aimed at implementing the Agency's new programs, at reinforcing its results-based management capability and at initiating its integrated planning.

Program priorities

Priority #1:

Intensify the economic diversification of regions and communities posting slow economic growth:

- Community Economic Diversification Initiative – Vitality (CEDI Vitality)
- Community Economic Facilities for the Regions support measure
- Venture Capital Fund for Business Startups in the Regions
- Capital Fund for Business Succession
- Special attention to target groups (linguistic minorities, Aboriginals and visible minorities).

Priority #2:

Reinforce the performance of innovative, competitive SMEs in key sectors:

- Reinforcement of enterprises' strategic capability
- Partner in enterprises' commercialization on foreign markets
- Advisory committees for more effective partnership with the regions.

Management priorities

Priority #3:

Implement the Agency's new programs:

- Deployment of programs and their tools
- Development of departmental policy
- Implementation of the territorial approach.

Priority #4:

Reinforce the Agency's results-based management capability and initiate integrated planning:

- Implementation of integrated planning
- Implementation of the performance measurement framework
- Development of information management practices
- Planning of implementation of the government's new evaluation policy.

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