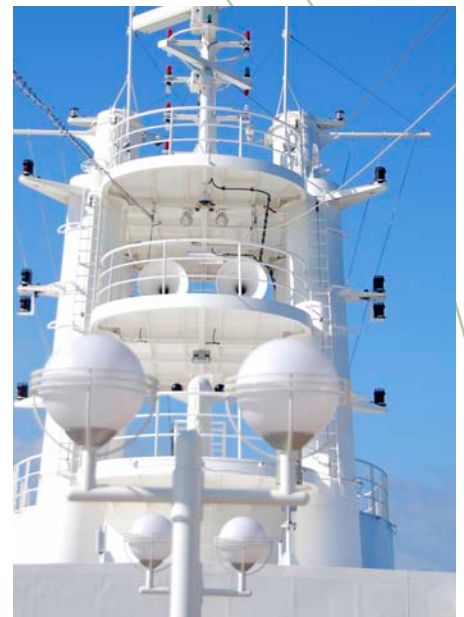




OVERVIEW

REPORT on PLANS and PRIORITIES 2010-2011



Each year, the Agency prepares its *Report on Plans and Priorities* (RPP), which presents 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.

The Agency will continue its support for economic development and thus participate in enhancing the vitality of Quebec communities and the competitiveness of its enterprises.

In the context of an anticipated moderate economic recovery, the Agency intends to pursue actions that reflect the actual situation as experienced in all regions of Quebec. To that end, it will continue to implement two measures announced in *Canada's Economic Action Plan*: the *Community Adjustment Fund* and the *Recreational Infrastructure Canada* program.

The Agency will strengthen its support for the implementation of projects whose ripple effects will be beneficial for the development of regional economies.

The object of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec is to promote the long-term economic development of the regions of Quebec by giving special attention to those where slow economic growth is prevalent or opportunities for productive employment are inadequate. In carrying out its object, the Agency shall take such measures as will promote cooperation and complementarity with Quebec and communities of Quebec.





Agency in ACTION

In the long term, the Agency targets the following strategic outcome:
a competitive and diversified economy for the regions of Quebec.

The Agency takes an integrated approach to regional development

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

The Agency elicits and supports development by means of miscellaneous activities, namely:

- consulting services
- information services
- financial assistance

vis-à-vis several beneficiaries, primarily comprising:

- enterprises (especially SMEs)
- non-profit organizations (NPOs).

Agency PLANNING

The Agency's priorities, as well as its overall intervention, are in line with the Government of Canada's major priorities; they respond to the context of socio-economic development of Quebec regions; and they meet management challenges. The Agency's intervention contributes to tangible results to encourage the sustainable development of SMEs and the regions.

However, regional economic development largely depends, on the one hand, on local and regional enterprises and economic stakeholders who design and execute the projects it supports and, on the other hand, on the strength of the anticipated economic recovery. The resulting business opportunities will influence the quantity, scale, timetable and success rate of the projects the Agency supports.

Canada's Economic Action Plan

The 2009 federal budget gave the Agency \$312.8 million in additional funding for fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, under *Canada's Economic Action Plan*. Among other things, this Plan provides for two short-term economic stimulus measures—the *Community Adjustment Fund* and the *Recreational Infrastructure Canada* program—which are intended to create job opportunities and support adjustment measures in communities hit by the economic downturn.

A competitive and diversified economy for the regions of Quebec

Agency areas of intervention Planned spending and human resources

Program activities¹

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
<i>Community development</i>	143,219	136,811	133,323	121,640
<i>Infrastructure</i>	46,611	82,486	339	342
<i>Special intervention measures</i>	100,651	110,171	–	–
<i>Enterprise competitiveness</i>	75,733	73,759	68,008	62,167
<i>Competitive positioning of sectors and regions</i>	32,055	33,541	23,648	21,698
<i>Policies, programs and initiatives</i>	5,228	5,271	5,233	5,224
<i>Internal services</i>	22,477	21,311	20,962	20,931
Total planned spending	425,974	463,350	251,513	232,002
Human resources in full-time equivalents		417	363	361

Note:

- 1 The Agency has set itself results targets for its strategic outcome and each program activity. Section 2 of the RPP 2010-2011 provides details concerning these targets as well as information on performance indicators.

The above table reflects the measures announced in *Canada's Economic Action Plan*, whose funds are aimed, in the short term, at reducing the impact of the economic downturn and supporting community recreational infrastructure projects.





Agency PRIORITIES

In 2010-2011, the Agency set itself seven priorities that are in line with those indicated in the *Report on Plans and Priorities 2009-2010* and with *Canada's Economic Action Plan*.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Priority #1: *Facilitate communities' adjustment to economic shocks*

- reduction of socio-economic difficulties for devitalized communities
- support for communities affected by the economic downturn.

Priority #3: *Support communities' development*

- creation and development of local and regional SMEs
- enhancement of regional assets.

Priority #2: *Support the economy of tomorrow by strengthening SMEs' productivity and performance*

- commercialization of innovation
- value chain management
- creation of innovative enterprises.

Priority #4: *Support regional economic development stakeholders' decision-making processes*

- The Agency is continuing its efforts to achieve the results of the *Policies, programs and initiatives* program activity.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Priority #5: *Increase analysis and sharing of performance information*

New information products on program performance will be developed and shared this year, so as for instance to:

- contribute to the reflection that will be taking place concerning the renewal of the Agency's policy directions
- support the establishment of strategic and operational results targets.

Priority #6: *Continue integrating risk management into decision-making*

Action will be taken on two levels:

- At the corporate level, where departmental risk management will be integrated in particular with activity planning, decision-making and reports to Parliament.
- At the operational level, business processes will incorporate the new requirements of the *Policy on Transfer Payments* in connection with risk management, and this will have the effect, in some cases, of lightening promoters' administrative burden.

Priority #7: *Renew the Agency's policy directions*

- The Agency will initiate the process of reviewing its policy directions. This process involves rigorous analysis of the trends and development context of the next few years. These policy directions will serve as the basis for the program renewal scheduled for 2012.

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