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Family

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To empower families to thrive and to give them means to grow is to lay the cornerstone for a promising future for Québec. To counter the effects of rapid greying of the population in Québec, the government must take real steps to support families.

The government factors in the many faces of Québec families and, hence, the many [programs and measures](#) that meet their specific needs.

Among the array of instruments is [Child Assistance](#), a family allowance for the parents of children age 0 to 18. In 2010, the government paid out \$2.124 billion to 866,029 families, with 1.5 million children assisted.

Voir aussi :

[Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés](#)

Great importance is also ascribed to measures for successfully [blending work and family life](#). The government not only provides families with direct assistance, but also enables society as a whole to continue to benefit from a segment of the workforce that is crucial to its development.

Across Québec, [childcare services](#) are developed and no efforts are being spared to increase the number of reduced-contribution places available. In the next few years, the government will develop 15,000 new reduced-contribution places, bringing the total number of available places to 235,000 in 2016.

Québec is the only province in Canada where infertile couples are [covered for assisted reproduction](#), thereby making it possible for them to realize their dream of having a child.

Since 2006, the [Québec Parental Insurance Plan](#) has enabled new parents to enjoy the most generous parental leave conditions in North America. Today, Québec can rightfully be called a truly family-friendly society because the government acted to make it happen.

The government listens to families and it is paying off, a case in point being the rise in the birth rate of late. If the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD) currently recognizes Québec as a leader in family support, it is not without reason.

A few figures

In 2010, 126,268 parents, 57,796 of them fathers, were granted benefits under the Québec Parental Insurance Plan, for \$1.7 billion in support. In addition, over 660 Québec municipalities have a family policy.

Seniors at the heart of the family

Seniors are synonymous with family. In recent years, in particular because of the appointment of the first-ever minister exclusively assigned to be [responsible for seniors](#), the government has stepped up its action to foster the wellbeing of seniors and to respond to their needs.

This was the rationale for the [Stratégie d'action en faveur des aînés](#), the Caregiver Support Fund, [municipalités amies des aînés](#), the [Action Plan to Counter Elder Abuse](#), the [Du cœur à l'action pour les aînés du Québec](#) program, and a panoply of other programs and measures.

Everything is aligned so that all seniors can be reached. The government is making major inroads in improving the quality of life of these citizens, with the intended goal of enabling them to continue playing an active role in society.

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Québec 

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