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Restoring financial health

## Weathering the storm and ensuring recovery

Québec has just experienced one of the worst economic crises in recent history. And it has emerged more intact than most States around the world.

During the downturn, the government held a steady course in terms of jobs. No efforts were spared to protect workers from the consequences of a recession. Major programs were deployed for workers and businesses.

The <u>Plan québécois des infrastructures</u> alone represents investments of \$41.8 billion for the period from 2008 to 2013, and for this year only, has meant the creation of thousands of jobs and major investments in energy and infrastructure. These investments stimulate the economy in every region of Québec and help to build and repair roads, schools, hospitals, and other collective assets.

The government's action at this time of crisis positioned Québec for recovery. On the strength of its record, it continues to move ahead.

## Creation of wealth, the vision of a prosperous Québec

To ensure Québec's prosperity, wealth must be created. Québec's future hinges on the economic vitality of all of its regions.

The enormous energy potential of our resources is the driving force of Québec's sustainable development. With the <u>Plan Nord</u> and the <u>Québec Energy Strategy 2006-2015</u>, the government banks on Québec's resources and bolsters the resource economy.

Development also depends on innovation, which provides the traction needed to achieve economic diversification, which is crucial to maintaining a strong economy. This is why the government launched the <u>Québec Research and Innovation Strategy</u> to support new ideas and prospects.

Creating a <u>Québec's new economic space</u>, one that will ensure the participation and development of our businesses here and abroad, is another government focus. The quality and competitive capability of Québec workers must be fostered in a new economic space, along with the mobility of workers from around the world whose expertise and experience enrich Québec.

Québec has a global reach and knows how to make the most of its strengths at home and abroad thanks to its partnerships and agreements with other States. Now it is setting its sights even farther.

## Restoring financial health

A long-term vision of the economy necessarily means returning to a balanced budget, better control of spending and reduced spending. The 2012-2013 Budget has built-in measures for restoring financial health.

To make economic development a priority is to create wealth for Québec and Quebecers, and to work today for the Québec of tomorrow, a fair and prosperous Québec for future generations.

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