Investing in Youth
Empowering Québec's Future
Youth Action Strategy 2009-2014

I'm discovering the world!

Making our way, an enriching and stimulating experience!

Québec
Transitions to independence

Education is a source of freedom—the freedom to make choices and carve a path through life based on one’s dreams and aspirations. All young people must be able to benefit from guidance adapted to their realities and intended to help them be successful throughout their studies. They must also be able to flourish in a stimulating environment that promotes effort and the pursuit of knowledge.

In order to foster the success of young people, the government will continue the fight against dropping out, which is one of its priorities. We must mobilize regional and national actors to provide a response that meets the particular needs of each region.

The strategic choices of the Education and Employment Challenge

- Fight against dropping out
- Facilitate career choices
- Promote the transition to working life and employee retention
- Promote the reconciliation of family life, work and school
- Prepare young people for the new global context
For our collective well-being

By improving youngQuebeckers’ overall physical, psychological and social health, we are giving them the opportunity to develop their full potential. Consequently, our young people will be better ambassadors for the Québecc of tomorrow.

Making young people aware of the importance of healthy lifestyles and the prevention of risk behaviour will promote the integration of young people into the workforce. This initiative has a particular focus on young people facing difficulties.

The strategic choices of the Health Challenge

- Promote the acquisition of healthy lifestyles
- Prevent and respond to risk behaviour

"I’m taking charge!"
In the spirit of the quote by young Québec poet Fred Pellerin: “Il faut des enfants pour faire grandir un village” (“It takes children to raise a village”), we must get young people behind the wheel of regional development. It is an essential condition for Québec’s economic, social and cultural development. As new sources of knowledge and know-how, young Québécois, young immigrants and Native youth add significant value to their communities. The challenge before us is to make the regions more attractive to youth and to instill a feeling of belonging in these young people.

The strategic choices of the Regional Challenge

- **Promote presence of young people in Québec’s regions**
- **Encourage community involvement**
- **Support the involvement of young Native people in their community and Québec society**
Diversity Challenge

For an inclusive society

Diversity is a source of wealth and added-value for Québec. Ignorance and prejudice are obstacles to civic involvement and personal growth for young people who come from cultural communities. The acquisition of the values of tolerance and community is important if young people of every origin are to fully participate in Québec’s social, economic, political and cultural life. Our society must thus be inclusive to ensure that all young people can contribute to the prosperity of Québec society.

The strategic choices of the Diversity Challenge

- Promote respect for diversity
- Encourage the participation of young immigrants

After two exploratory stays with the Place aux Jeunes program in the Dolbeau-Mistassini region, I found a job as an integration officer for Portes Ouvertes sur le Lac, an organization that ensures the welcoming and integration of immigrants in Lac-Saint-Jean. Place aux Jeunes helped me develop a good contact network.

— Raphaël Kinvi Gbadoé, native of Togo —
Young people working for a greener Québec

Québec youth have demonstrated increasing interest and involvement in environmental protection. This generation has been environmentally aware from a very young age and they do not want to watch from the sidelines—young people want to make a difference. Increasing know-how in the subject of resource preservation as well as the promotion of jobs related to the sector will help improve the quality of life of future generations.

The strategic choice of the Environmental Challenge
- Develop environmental expertise
Entrepreneurship Challenge

For an enterprising Québec

The development of individual and social entrepreneurship is of critical importance to Québec’s future. We must ensure the personal growth of citizens, the creation of new jobs and the economic vitality of our society. When the Québec government launched the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in 2004, it announced its vision of the future through the framework of a strategy focused entirely on the development of entrepreneurial culture among young people. By promoting values such as creativity, responsibility, solidarity, perseverance, self-confidence and initiative, we are making a solid contribution to individual and societal enrichment.

Entrepreneurship is at the core of school life, which is why students enjoy coming to school each morning. Different projects help them develop previously undiscovered skills and values. Believe me—once you get introduced to entrepreneurship, you’ll never turn back!

Denise Arsenault, Grade 6 teacher, École des Pins-Orléans, Québec

The strategic choices of the Entrepreneurship Challenge

- Intensify the development of an entrepreneurial culture
- Foster the success of young entrepreneurs
- Introduce young people to the global realities of entrepreneurship
We have a vision for the young people of Québec and it is a vision of the future.

We have a vision for our society, and it is a vision of growth and prosperity.

That is why we dream of empowering youth for tomorrow's Québec.

The Youth Action Strategy unites all government policy designed for young people. The Youth Action Strategy is a way to empower young people with the means for personal growth, so that they can reach their full potential.