

SUMMARY OF THE
2009-2014
Youth Action
Strategy's

Mid-Term Report



This document was prepared by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse,
in collaboration with ministries and agencies
of the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy.

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Introduction

On March 27, 2009, the government officially launched the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy. Developed following a consultation with partners, youth organizations, and certain ministries, this strategy is a continuation of its predecessor: it updates numerous policy instruments while intensifying the Government's efforts on specific major issues. Coordinated by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse (SAJ), the Strategy features 115 policy instruments and is being successfully implemented through the active participation of nearly 300 partners. The actions involved in the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy fall under six challenges to be addressed. Each of these challenges is divided into strategic choices, which include measures and policy instruments.

From the beginning, this strategy has enabled concrete measures to be taken, having a significant impact on the daily lives of thousands of young people. Thanks to the Youth Action Strategy and its partners, some youth are returning to school while others are obtaining jobs. Some whose paths have been strewn with obstacles are finding confidence in the future again. The 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy reflects the Government's constant commitment to Québec's youth in this regard.

This document presents the key findings of the mid-term report and highlights a number of the most striking accomplishments implemented during the first two years of the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy, i.e. fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. To get a sense of the scope of the Strategy's accomplishments, consult the full version of the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy's mid-term report.

A brief overview of the Youth Action Strategy:

- Investments of more than \$2 billion over a five-year period
- The participation of 14 ministries and government bodies
- Collaboration with nearly 300 partners
- The SAJ is responsible for almost 300 partnership agreements
- The SAJ is responsible for 56 of the Strategy's 115 policy instruments





STATUS OF THE

Education and Employment Challenge

Reminder of the strategic choices

There is general agreement in Québec society on the importance of education: it is a core value that all generations identify with. Each young person has his or her own path to follow. It is essential that youth be provided with adequate support to enhance their chances of persevering and succeeding. In this effort, it is important to work with youth at risk at a very young age and to support them throughout their educational path. The fight against dropping out of school requires the mobilization of all actors in Québec society and the implementation of regional intervention strategies.

A person's career choice is a critical stage in his or her academic trajectory. When the time comes to make decisions that are crucial to their future, young people are often undecided given the multitude of options offered to them. It is important to support them during this process.

In the current economic context, obtaining a first job can also prove to be a challenge for many young people. The Government is thus trying to support young workers when they enter the labour market and to help people with disabilities or mental health problems to enable them to find work.

The Education and Employment Challenge has 40 policy instruments related to five strategic choices.

Completed	In progress	Not started
2	38	0

In 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, these policy instruments reached almost 98 000 young people directly.



Salient facts



- Through the organization Avenir d'enfants, 10 Québec regions are able to count on the mobilization of 759 partners implementing projects targeting the overall development of children 5 years of age and younger living in poverty.
- 789 young people returned to school and 3863 others continued their training thanks to the IDEO 16-17 measure.
- 22 532 students performed in the local finals of Secondaire en spectacle, enabling them to develop skills while spreading their wings and enhancing their success factors.
- Thanks to Academos, over 26 000 young people were paired with e-mentors responsible for providing them with support in their career counselling and choices.
- 23 133 youth were supported through the Jeunes en action and Alternative jeunesse programs as they entered the labour market.
- 163 young artists worked on creative projects thanks to the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec's bursary program for up-and-coming writers and artists, Programme de bourses pour les artistes et les écrivains de la relève.
- 426 disabled students aged 12 to 21 benefited from a monitoring service outside of classroom time, enabling their parents to effectively balance work and family life.
- 8728 young people received bursaries from the Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ) to go on professional internships or pursue their studies abroad. Among them, 813 were from a remote region.



STATUS OF THE

Entrepreneurship Challenge

Reminder of the strategic choices

The development of individual and collective entrepreneurship is of vital importance to Québec's future because it ensures the personal growth of each individual, the creation of new jobs, and the economic vitality of our society.

By launching the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in 2004, the Government of Québec adopted a promising vision of the future: a strategy focused on the development of an entrepreneurial culture among young people. This major challenge was then integrated into the 2006-2009 and 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategies. By promoting values such as creativity, responsibility, solidarity, perseverance, self-confidence, and initiative, the Challenge is undeniably helping enrich individuals and society.

To foster a spirit of excellence and innovation among our young entrepreneurs, the Government is providing them with more support. It is thus contributing to the success of young people who are launching or taking over a business, many of whom for the first time. The Government is also working to increase the number of international professional internships to help prepare young Quebecers for international challenges in entrepreneurship.

The Entrepreneurship Challenge has 29 policy instruments related to three strategic choices.

Completed	In progress	Not started
0	28	1

In 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, these policy instruments reached almost 145 000 young people directly.



Salient facts



- 2035 primary school students located in disadvantaged communities carried out 114 entrepreneurship projects in the Valoris project, an initiative of the Québec Entrepreneurship Contest, enabling them to enhance their confidence, autonomy, and perseverance.
- 123 529 young people presented a total of 7367 projects in the Québec Entrepreneurship Contest, which helped them develop their entrepreneurial skills.
- With support from youth entrepreneurship promotion officers, under the coordination of the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité, 3580 young people acquired entrepreneurial and cooperative values while setting up 316 youth-based service cooperatives, as 3604 young people worked in 196 Jeune Coop programs in schools.
- 32 771 young people were assisted in carrying out entrepreneurial projects in schools and communities by youth entrepreneurship awareness officers from Carrefours jeunesse-emploi.
- 857 young people experiencing social and economic exclusion benefited from community credit through the Réseau québécois du crédit communautaire – an opportunity to experience and develop a small business.
- 583 young entrepreneurs were supported by the Canadian Youth Business Foundation and set up a total of 445 business projects.
- 418 young people enhanced their entrepreneurial skills by experiencing internships or missions abroad thanks to support from the Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ) and the Regroupement des jeunes chambres de commerce du Québec (RJCCQ).



STATUS OF THE Health Challenge

Reminder of the strategic choices

The overall well-being of young people in terms of physical, psychological, and social health is a priority for the Government of Québec. Encouraging young people to develop to their full potential will help them become better ambassadors for the Québec of tomorrow.

The 2006-2012 government action plan to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent weight-related problems (Plan d'action gouvernemental de promotion des saines habitudes de vie et de prévention des problèmes reliés au poids) specifically targets the physical well-being of young people by making them aware of the importance of a balanced lifestyle. With the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy, the Government aims to continue creating conditions that foster the acquisition of healthy behaviour.

The prevention of risk behaviour is also a critical issue, especially among adolescents. Their efforts to form their own identity and gain peer approval, characteristic of this stage of life, puts them at risk of adopting behaviours that can compromise their integration into active life.

The Health Challenge has 12 policy instruments related to two strategic choices.

Completed	In progress	Not started
1	11	0

In 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, these policy instruments reached almost 3000 young people directly.



Salient facts



- More than 19 500 people joined the Québec Charter for a Healthy and Diverse Body Image, supported by the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, which aims to fight extreme thinness and promote healthy body images.
- Throughout Québec, young people can count on a network of 5643 support workers in their communities tasked with providing individual support to those with suicidal tendencies or in need of immediate psychological help.
- 577 young people from youth centres benefited from the services of addiction rehabilitation centre workers to address their addictions.
- 23 500 young people were reached through projects organized by community organizations aimed at preventing youth from joining street gangs.



STATUS OF THE

Regional Challenge

Reminder of the strategic choices

Young Quebecers are driving growth in the regions. The vitality and prosperity of the entire province depends on regional development. The Government of Québec has thus given itself the mandate of making the regions more attractive to youth and enhancing their sense of belonging to their communities. This is one way of promoting the presence of young people throughout Québec.

To enhance the dynamic nature of the regions, the Government is encouraging the involvement of youth in their communities. Its efforts include fostering the consultation, representation, and mobilization of young people in each region of Québec and promoting citizen participation. Helping young people acquire citizenship skills, through activities introducing them to the electoral process in particular, is another goal.

Young Native people have an important role to play in various Québec regions, and consequently the Government is seeking to foster their participation in development and to improve their quality of life. In particular, it is striving to boost the perseverance and academic success of these young people. The Government is also working to ensure they are better represented within certain bodies.

The Regional Challenge has 21 policy instruments related to three strategic choices.

Completed	In progress	Not started
0	21	0

In 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, these policy instruments directly reached more than 100 000 young people.



Salient facts



- 1674 young people settled in regions thanks to support from Place aux jeunes en région, which focuses its efforts on the land occupancy and vitality of regional communities.
- 85% of young graduates who benefited from an income tax credit for working in a remote region chose to stay there after spending their first year there.
- The Fonds régionaux d'investissement jeunesse (FRIJ), managed by the Forums jeunesse, enabled 462 innovative projects involving more than 8000 young people.
- 25 500 youth were made aware of the electoral process and the functioning of democratic institutions thanks to the Parlements au secondaire and Électeurs en herbe programs.
- 10 000 children and adolescents from Native communities took part in or were affected by sports activities aiming to encourage their civic and community involvement.
- 829 Native youth took part in creative workshops in the audiovisual and music fields, led by the Wapikoni Mobile Corporation, during which they created 296 artistic projects.



STATUS OF THE

Diversity Challenge

Reminder of the strategic choices

Diversity is a source of wealth and added-value for Québec. This is why the Government wants to fight discrimination and is advocating the adoption of values like openness, tolerance, and respect for differences. By making a priority of learning to “live together”, the Government is striving to make Québec an inclusive and egalitarian society in which young people from all origins succeed in finding their place.

In addition to promoting respect for diversity, the Government is seeking to encourage the active involvement of young immigrants and young people from cultural communities in the development of Québec society. Full Québec citizens, these young people must see themselves as having the opportunity to fully participate in the social, economic, political, and cultural life of the society in which they are living.

The Diversity Challenge has 10 policy instruments related to two strategic choices.

Completed	In progress	Not started
2	8	0

In 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, these policy instruments reached almost 4000 young people directly.



Salient facts



- In schools and CEGEPS, 42 560 young people became involved in activities promoting intercultural bridge building and facilitating integration. Under the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport's Policy Statement on Educational Integration and Intercultural Education, these activities helped make them more aware of living together and the wealth that diversity provides.
- With the collaboration of the Secrétariat à la condition féminine, organizations from all regions of Québec offered 53 training sessions and seven community mobilization workshops on the issue of hypersexualization, thus increasing awareness among more than 1350 people.
- Through the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale's Québec pluriel program, 560 young people were paired with mentors who supported their individual entry into the workforce. Of that number, 354 returned to work or studies.
- 1109 young people from visible minorities gained rewarding, supervised, paid work experience thanks to the participation of 153 employers who offered summer jobs through the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles's Valorisation jeunesse program.



STATUS OF THE

Environmental Challenge

Reminder of the strategic choice

In Québec, as elsewhere in the world, protecting the environment is one of the current affairs topics that most preoccupies citizens and one which is becoming increasingly important to them. Being aware of environmental issues from a very young age, younger generations of Quebeckers are showing a growing commitment to protection of the environment. The Government plans to expand expertise in the area of resource preservation and to promote jobs in this sector as indisputable ways to ensure an improved quality of life for future generations. It is thus choosing to foster the development of environmental expertise by encouraging Québec's youth to carry out environmental projects and contribute to important issues related to the preservation of the environment.

The Environmental Challenge has three policy instruments related to one strategic choice.

Completed	In progress	Not started
0	3	0

In 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, these policy instruments reached more than 300 young people directly.



Salient facts



- 326 workshops on ecology and the environment were held through the Claudine & Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation's C-Vert Project and were attended by 180 young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, thus strengthening their environmental and community commitment.
- Thanks to student organizations, 97 student groups composed of 9448 young people aware of sustainable development set in motion 293 environmental initiatives and projects, thus developing their expertise in the field and making other young people more aware of this cause.
- 148 young people had the opportunity to contribute to important environmental issues and enhance their knowledge by experiencing three-month internships on sustainable development through Katimavik's Eco-Internship program.

Conclusion



Although described very briefly, the salient facts from the mid-term report are sufficient to illustrate the many efforts undertaken through the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy to help Québec youth develop to their full potential.

Since the Strategy was launched, 114 of its 115 policy instruments have been implemented, reaching a total of almost 2 million young people. The 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy has also helped create and preserve more than 450 jobs and attracted international attention. Delegates from countries like France and Belgium have come here to observe its impact before importing a number of its models abroad.

Thanks to the collaboration of 14 ministries and government bodies, almost 300 partners, and a wide range of stakeholders from the education field, the community, and the business and health fields, the 2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy has been able to produce results. The Secrétariat à la jeunesse is proud to note these initial benefits in which it sees an opportunity to invite all of the Strategy's partners to carry on in the same vein, in the coming years, to continue *Investing in Youth, Empowering Québec's Future*.





