

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE: BUDGET PROVINCIAL 2026-2027

Strengthening Québec's Innovation and Competitiveness

Québec City, March 18, 2026 - Montréal InVivo was present in Québec for the presentation of the Québec Government's 2026–2027 budget. Marked by a complex and unstable geopolitical and economic context, as well as a period of governmental transition ahead of the elections, this budget is relatively restrained and reflects the government's commitment to restoring fiscal balance.

Here are the key points that caught our attention:

Life Sciences: a strategic economic lever for Québec

We want to highlight the recognition of the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) sector as a strategic priority for Québec in the current context. Along with five other priority sectors, LSHT is identified as a key lever to increase productivity, strengthen Québec's value chains, and reinforce the province's economic positioning. To this end, **\$410.1M** has been allocated to support investment projects in these sectors.

Research and Innovation

Innovation continues to be highlighted as a critical driver for improving Québec's competitiveness. **\$261M** is dedicated to supporting the entire innovation chain, fostering the growth of innovative industries, and promoting the adoption of cutting-edge technologies.

Recognizing that innovation cannot happen without research, **\$54.8M** over five years is also allocated to support public research and enhance its impact, including renewed funding for the mission of the Fonds de recherche du Québec. An additional **\$45.3M** is earmarked for academic research to develop centers of expertise, attract top-level researchers, and train the next generation of talent.

Healthcare and Social Services

Despite a projected deficit for Santé Québec, spending is set to increase by **4.1%** in 2026–2027. These investments aim to continue optimizing operations and improving the delivery of healthcare services.

In the same vein, the government announces **\$756.2M** over five years to improve access to medications, including **\$92.7M** linked to commitments under the Québec Life Sciences Strategy (SQSV) 2025–2028.

Another highlight is the allocation of **\$100M** for the implementation of the National Health Prevention Strategy. These actions are expected to help reduce pressure on Québec's public healthcare and social services system.

Support for Businesses

Several budget measures target business support, including the continuation or relaunch of programs announced in previous budgets. Notably, this is the first year for the implementation of the **refundable tax credit for research, innovation, and commercialization (CRIC)**.

Other programs are also maintained, including **ESSOR**, the **Québec Business Growth Fund**, the **Investment and Innovation Tax Credit (C3i)**, and the **tax holiday for major investment projects**. Additional funding is also planned to support the adoption of artificial intelligence in businesses.

Conclusion

Finally, the renewed government support for sectoral clusters is worth highlighting. The confirmed five-year commitment reflects the government's confidence in Montréal InVivo and recognizes the strategic role it plays in structuring and energizing Québec's economic ecosystem.

In short, despite a cautious budget, the government demonstrates its commitment to supporting business adaptation to the new economic context and to strategically investing to stimulate growth. It will be important to closely monitor the impact of the election year on government actions and their concrete effects on budgetary priorities.



About Montréal InVivo

Montréal InVivo is the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of Greater Montréal. We represent a network of over **1,500 companies** connected to the sector — including **753 specifically in LSHT** — and nearly **59,000 direct and indirect jobs** across Québec.

Montréal InVivo acts as a catalyst for growth and collaboration. We facilitate a dynamic network for exchange, engagement, and innovation, helping to identify major trends, amplify the voice of the LSHT sector, and support its economic development.

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