

Summary of the Quebec Economic Development Program (QEDP) Evaluation



QEDP quick facts

- The QEDP aims to support the development of businesses throughout their life cycle, and to support the economic development of regions and communities to increase Quebec's economic growth.
- The QEDP is divided into three intervention pillars: (a) Business Development; (b) Regional Economic Development; and (c) Strengthening Community Economies.
- The QEDP's activities include funding projects focused on business creation and start-up, innovation, productivity, commercialization and export, network structuring, community economic facilities, and promotion of regional assets.
- From 2012–2013 to 2015–2016:
 - 2,098 projects were supported (excluding initiatives that received dedicated funding); and
 - \$740.2 million was spent, including \$658.3 million in grants and contributions.

About the evaluation

- The evaluation addressed the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the QEDP, and focused on the factors that have influenced its implementation so that those factors can be taken into account for continuous improvement purposes.
- The evaluation covers the period from April 2012 to March 2016.
- Data sources used include internal documentation, a literature review, interviews with internal stakeholders and telephone surveys with CED clients.

What the evaluation found

- The results achieved in the QEDP's three intervention pillars during the evaluation period are generally positive:
 - In *Business Development*, the survival rate of supported SMEs is greater than 82%, and more than 60% of assisted businesses have maintained or increased their revenue.
 - Investments in Regional Economic Development have exceeded initial objectives for assisting regional planning, completing community economic facilities and attracting tourists and foreign investment.
 - In *Strengthening Community Economies*, the assistance awarded under temporary initiatives funded through the QEDP's core budget is being allocated as planned.
 - Every dollar invested through the QEDP has generated a direct investment of \$4.91, and this outcome is greater than that of previous programs.

- The program has met the needs that gave rise to its implementation, and its continuation is justified in light of ongoing needs, including the need to stimulate innovation in smaller businesses.
- The program has proved to be vital as most of the projects could not have been completed without the QEDP.
- The QEDP does not duplicate other interventions, and recipients observed coordination between CED and other stakeholders. As the multiplicity of funders may generate confusion and result in an administrative burden on recipients, the coordination efforts deployed to date will need to be continued.
- The QEDP's interventions are aligned with government priorities, and the objectives of the various components of the QEDP are consistent with the statements in the official documents for the period covered.
- The extent of the assistance awarded under the QEDP components is generally consistent with departmental priorities, with a few nuances observed for the *Promotion of Regional Assets* component owing to projects receiving recurrent funding in some regions.
- Despite the various organizational changes that took place within CED during the evaluation period, the work was organized efficiently.
- The QEDP is delivered by optimizing financial resources. However, according to some CED stakeholders, the business processes and work tools would benefit from improvements.
- 92% of assisted businesses interviewed said they were satisfied with their relationship with CED, and the service delivery method meets most of the needs of businesses and client organizations.
- For internal stakeholders, the "on demand" service delivery approach represents a challenge in some MRCs with low economic potential.

Recommendations and management responses

[Link to the recommendations and the management responses](#)