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## **The government issues clarifications concerning the reduction in spending on training, advertising and travel expenses**

**Quebec, May 28, 2010** – The Minister of Finance, Raymond Bachand, today clarified certain details concerning the reduction in spending on training by public organizations.

“All Quebecers are called on to help return to balanced budgets. The government has undertaken to shoulder 62% of the effort needed to balance the budget by 2013-2014. To achieve this, we announced significant steps, including a 10% reduction in administrative spending and a 25% reduction in advertising, training and travel costs. These measures, which have recently been extended to the entire public sector, will, however, be implemented taking into account the specific realities of each situation,” the Minister said.

To remove any confusion, the Minister said that in the case of the reduction in training expenses, the salaries of employees in training are not included in the announced reduction measure. For instance, salaries paid during the training of doctors, pharmacists or other professional bodies of the health network will not be subject to reduction.

Furthermore, the Minister today tabled an amendment to clarify that the 25% reduction in expenses related to advertising, training and travel, will apply on an overall basis. “By requiring a reduction in the total amount of these expenses, we are offering organizations a degree of flexibility to allow them to adapt this measure to their context and their issues,” Minister Bachand said.

Minister Bachand also introduced an amendment to allow ministers to issue directives regarding the requested reductions. “The measures we are proposing, targeting both revenue and spending, to return to a balanced budget are flexible. We want to achieve our objectives without hampering the mission of public networks and organizations,” the Minister concluded.

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