

JOINT SUBMISSION

Of the **Société québécoise de la déficience intellectuelle**,
and the **Fédération québécoise de l'autisme**,
of the **Confédération des organismes de personnes
handicapées du Québec**,
of l'**Alliance québécoise des regroupements régionaux
pour l'intégration des personnes handicapées**,
and of the **Réseau communautaire en santé mentale**

Elaboration of the fourth government action plan to combat poverty and social exclusion

Easy to read version



How this submission was written and approved

The demands presented in this submission have been discussed by the five organizations signing the document. Each organization consulted with its own members to ensure that they were in agreement with the content.

All the demands in the document have been approved by the organizations signing the brief. The demands are diverse and touch on all persons with disabilities or mental health conditions in Quebec.

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Introduction

The Quebec government has asked the public to give their opinion on what should be included in the next government action plan to combat poverty and social exclusion. This plan is the Quebec government's strategy for combating poverty and social exclusion. It contains actions that the government intends to take.

In this context, organizations of persons with disabilities have decided to work together to propose ideas to the government. The organizations believe that all persons should have access to an adequate standard of living. To achieve this, the government needs to take action on a number of things. For example, the organizations would like the government to improve Social Assistance and Social Solidarity programs, as well as the Basic Income Program.

The organizations also want the government to do more on housing, transportation, employment and the participation of persons with disabilities in society.

This document presents the organizations' demands in a more accessible way than the document sent to the government. All demands are presented in a more accessible way. All sections are the same as in the document sent to the government. The numbers of the recommendations sent to the government are shown in brackets. The recommendation sent to the government can be consulted in the appendix.

I. Financial Security

Advocacy organizations for persons with disabilities in Quebec have done a lot of work on financial security issues. Financial security means having enough income to pay the rent, buy groceries and cover other expenses. Unfortunately, in Quebec, persons with disabilities are often unable to pay these expenses. While the new Basic Income Program helps, there is still work to be done.

This section presents the demands of the organizations that have signed the document.

A. Improving the Basic Income Program (BIP)

The Basic Income Program is an important step forward. It gives more money to the people who benefit from it. However, there are still things to be improved and resolved.

i. Benefit amount and how the Basic Income program works

The amount of the benefit for the Basic Income program is insufficient to guarantee financial security for persons. The organizations would like the amount of the benefit to be higher (recommendation 1). They would also like the amount to be revised based on increases in the cost of living (price increases) over the course of the year (recommendation 6).

It is possible to work while receiving the PRB, but there are limits. The organizations would like to remove these limits (recommendation 2). The organizations would also like the money received to be calculated solely on the basis of the person's income. Not the spouse's (recommendation 3).

There are also problems for persons living in intermediate or family-type resources. These persons do not receive all the money they should. Organizations are calling for this to change (recommendation 4). There also needs to be better support for persons receiving the BIP (recommendation 5). The rules can be complicated, and people need to be helped to understand them better.

ii. Access to the Basic Income Program (BIP)

Getting access to BIP isn't easy. People have to wait a long time in the Social Solidarity Program. The organizations would like this to change (recommendation 7). The organizations are asking :

- shorter waiting times;
- that persons with more extensive guardianship arrangements have access to the BIP;
- parents caring for a child or adult with high needs to have access to the BIP;
- persons with employment constraints who live with a spouse have access to the BIP;
- persons with employment constraints who are experiencing a serious emergency should have access to the BIP rather than having to wait;
- that persons with employment constraints who are working, but who don't have much money, receive the BIP;
- that persons with disabilities who receive money from the Quebec Pension Plan have access to the BIP.

The organizations would also like to see a change in the way employment constraints are verified (recommendation 8).

The organizations would also like time spent on the Social Solidarity Program to be cumulative (total) in order to access the BIP (recommendation 9). Currently, it is consecutive (all at once, without stopping). The organizations would also like the time spent on the Social Assistance Program with temporary employment constraints to be counted for access to the BIP (recommendation 10).

As well, the organizations would like persons on the Social Solidarity Program who are in prison or hospital for more than 6 months to have access to the long-term BIP (recommendation 11).

iii. Other BIP-related demands from organizations

They would like research to be carried out to see if the BIP really helps people (recommendation 12). They would also like to hold meetings to discuss the BIP and see how it can be improved (recommendation 13).

The organizations would like the government to create employment programs for persons with disabilities (recommendation 14). This is especially important for people who find it more difficult to find a job.

Finally, the organizations would like the Quebec government to work with the Canadian government to ensure that the various financial assistance programs for persons with disabilities work together (recommendation 15).

B. Recommendations to update Social Assistance and Social Solidarity Programs

The minister in Quebec has announced that she wants to update the Social Assistance and Social Solidarity Programs. The organizations have suggestions on how to do this.

They want the programs to be simpler and the government to help people more (recommendation 16). They also want support for persons who don't receive much help in society (recommendation 21).

Organizations want people to be able to work more (recommendation 17). They want people to be able to keep more money in their bank accounts (recommendation 18).

They also want people receiving money from Social Assistance and Social Solidarity programs to be able to live with a spouse without being penalized (recommendation 19).

The organizations ask that persons receiving financial assistance from the program not pay income tax on this benefit (recommendation 20). That way, they keep more money for themselves.

The organizations would also like to see Social Assistance and Social Solidarity debts cancelled (recommendation 22). These debts are unfair and penalize people.

The organizations would like the government to help pay the taxes of persons who own a house or apartment (recommendation 23). This is important because taxes can be expensive.

Finally, the organizations would like to see disability diagnoses put back on the government's list. These diagnoses would enable people to access the Social Solidarity program more quickly (recommendation 24). They also want the government to consider creating a financial assistance benefit for all persons with disabilities (recommendation 25), which means giving money to all persons with disabilities to help them.

C. Tax measures

Tax measures are the benefits people get when they file their taxes. In Quebec, everyone is supposed to file their taxes. This is important because persons with disabilities can get money when they file their taxes.

The organizations think that these benefits are not sufficient. They want to improve them.

The first request is to make refundable a measure called the "Amount for severe and prolonged impairment of mental or physical functions" (recommendation 26). This amount is for persons with disabilities who have significant needs. Making it reimbursable means that you do not have to earn money for the government to give you the amount.

The organizations also want the Quebec government to work with the Canadian government to ensure that the definitions of disability are the same (recommendation 27). This is not the case at the moment, and makes everything more complicated.

The organizations would also like to see more support for families. For example, by improving the tax credit for family caregivers (recommendation 28), or by improving the Supplement for Disabled Children and the Supplement for Disabled Children Requiring Exceptional Care (recommendations 29 and 30). These measures are useful, but they don't give families enough money. It's often complicated to access these measures and this money.

The organizations would also like to see changes to the Quebec Pension Plan. Persons with disabilities between 60 and 65 are currently penalized. The organizations want this to change. They also want the money given to persons to be calculated solely on the basis of their own situation, not that of their spouses (recommendation 31).

II. Social housing and support, individual funding

It is important for people with disabilities to have a good home or apartment to live in. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. The organizations would like the government to change several things.

They want more affordable housing (recommendation 32) and adapted housing (recommendation 33) for people with disabilities in every new building (recommendation 32). There should also be more help for persons with disabilities to pay their rent in general (recommendation 34).

The organizations would also like the Quebec government to build more housing, or give money to build it (recommendation 35). To do this, government ministries need to talk to each other and work together (recommendation 38).

Finally, there should be more help to support people who live in apartments (recommendation 37). There also needs to be a little more community life for people living in social housing (recommendation 36). Above all, organizations want to prevent people with disabilities from moving into long-term care facilities for no reason (recommendation 39).

III. Access to transportation and mobility

To be able to work or enjoy a hobby, you need to be able to move around. Across Quebec, it's getting harder and harder to get around. Especially when you have to use paratransit.

The organizations would like the government to lower public transit fares (metro, bus, streetcar) for persons with less money (recommendation 40). They would also like to see free parking for persons with disabilities (recommendation 41).

Finally, the organizations would like the government to improve public transit (recommendation 42).

IV. Social participation, inclusion, tackling stigma and promoting education

Social participation means taking an active part in the community, in your town or village, or in your neighborhood. Inclusion means being included in discussions, making decisions and being treated like everyone else. There are many ways to make this easier. Organizations have ideas to put forward.

A. Employment and inclusion in the workplace

It's harder for people with disabilities to find work. It's not because they don't want to work or can't, it's because people have biases and the government doesn't help enough. The organizations would like the government to do more to help people find jobs.

For example, organizations would like to see government policies aimed at inclusive employment (recommendation 43). Inclusive employment means being included in the workplace and paid the same as everyone else. To do that, you need money and you need to change the way people think.

What's more, organizations want sheltered work and internships programs to be time-limited. They have to be used for training the person (recommendation 45). No one should spend their whole life on an internship or sheltered work programs, because people don't earn money doing it. Organizations want all persons with disabilities to be paid and treated equally (recommendation 46).

They also think it should be easier to hire people with disabilities (recommendation 44). People with disabilities who are absent from work should be able to return later (recommendation 47). This is also the case for persons caring for a family member who have to leave their job temporarily (recommendation 48).

Finally, the organizations believe that the minimum wage should be increased. The minimum wage must allow people to live well (recommendation 49).

B. Social participation and inclusion

Persons with disabilities have the right to participate and be included in society like everyone else. To make these rights a reality, the organizations want the government to act.

The public and the government need to understand that social and economic participation is not just about work (recommendation 50). There are other forms of participation that are important, such as volunteering or getting involved in a community organization to defend your rights.

Organizations would also like to see the justice system better adapted (recommendation 51). Persons with disabilities often encounter difficulties in the justice system. People working in the justice system need to better understand the needs of persons with disabilities.

Sometimes, even if people want to include them, persons with disabilities can't participate because they don't have enough money. It is important to help people pay the costs associated with their disability (recommendation 52).

Finally, the organizations would like to see disability included in government analyses. When the government makes an action plan or research, for example for a new law, it should include disability (recommendation 53). This would help to better understand the reality of persons with disabilities.

C. Combating stigma

Persons with disabilities and the disadvantaged are often judged by others. These negative judgments can be hurtful. This needs to change.

The organizations would like the government to run a campaign to change people's beliefs about disability (recommendation 55) and poverty (recommendation 54). To achieve this, the government should bring together experts, persons and organizations to ensure that everyone works together (recommendation 56).

D. Education and post secondary education

Having access to education can help people earn a better living and be included in society. Unfortunately, there isn't enough money to ensure that persons with disabilities are truly included in school and helped to decide what they want to do in life.

The organizations would like schools to have more money to offer services to students with disabilities (recommendation 57). They would also like to see a better transition between school and work (recommendation 58). This transition is not always made everywhere in Quebec. The organizations want to make it mandatory.

The organizations would also like to see more support for people who want to go to CEGEP or university (recommendation 59). More money is needed for students and the people who help them (recommendation 60).

E. Supporting community organizations and funding the social safety net

In addition to all these requests, the organizations would like the government to act on other issues. In particular, there should be more money for community organizations. This would enable persons with disabilities to access more services and activities in the community (recommendation 61).

The organizations would also like services to be easier to access. For example, talking to a psychologist should be easier and free of charge. Other health and social services also need to be available (recommendation 62).

Organizations that help people feed themselves, such as food banks, should also receive more money (recommendation 63).

Finally, the organizations believe that taxes should not be reduced (recommendation 64). Tax money can help the government fund assistance for persons with disabilities. The need for services is huge, and the government is already short on money. If the government really wants the poorest people and persons with disabilities to be included, it must provide free, quality services (recommendation 65). For that, money is needed.

V. Conclusion

The war on poverty is everyone's business. People can help. So can organizations. But it's really the government that can do the most. It has to be clear to everyone.

There's a lot of work to be done to ensure that people with disabilities and poorer people live with dignity. We need to improve financial assistance programs. We need to improve tax measures. We need to ensure that people can get to their activities or work. People need to be respected at work. People need access to the services they need. People need to be able to go to school. And much more.

The organizations are asking for a number of things related to these issues. The government really needs to listen and everyone needs to work together.

The fight against poverty is really important. Everyone needs to be involved.

If you have any questions about this document, please send an e-mail to info@sqdi.ca.

List of recommendations and ministries concerned

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
Improving the Basic Income Program		
1	Set the basic benefit for the BIP at the level of the Low Income Measure calculated by Statistics Canada (Institut de la statistique du Québec, 2022).	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
2	Eliminate reduction rates linked to earnings and work income.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
3	Individualize benefits: a) As a priority, fully individualize the BIP benefit; b) Alternatively, increase the amount of spousal income, indexing it to the median income in Québec, and reduce the reduction rate to 15%.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
4	Review the method of calculating the personal expense allowance for BIP recipients in the health and social services network, in intermediate resources (IR) and in community housing.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
5	Mobilize all ministries and organizations to support the most marginalized individuals in society, to ensure that they meet the new BIP compliance obligations.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
6	Index the benefit to reflect actual inflation figures, as the federal government does for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (indexed in January, April, July and October to reflect increases in the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index).	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère des Finances

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
7	Give immediate access without having to go through the Social Solidarity Program to : • Individuals with severely limited capacity for employment, without going through the Social Solidarity Program, OR alternatively: reduce the eligibility period to 30 months of participation in the SSP; • Persons under curatorship and persons subject to a modulated guardianship equivalent to the level of incapacity under the former curatorship regime; • Parents or significant adults of children or adults with particularly high needs or who do not have access to services and have had to leave their jobs to care for them (Gouvernement du Québec, 2020; Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, 2021b, 2021a); • Individuals with severely limited capacity for employment, who have not had access to the SSP because of a spouse's income in the past; • Individuals with severely limited capacity for employment living in an emergency situation (e.g. domestic violence), but who have not accumulated the months required for admission to the BIP. This measure is intended to promote the financial independence of those living in an emergency situation, by giving them the means to get out of it; • Individuals with severely limited capacity for employment, benefiting from an employability program, but whose annual income is less than the basic BIP benefit; • Persons receiving Quebec Pension Plan disability benefits who receive less than the BIP benefit.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
8	Continue to work on redefining and identifying severe employment constraints, in order to modernize eligibility for the SSP and facilitate access to the PRB over time. In particular, by : • Promoting a psychosocial approach to the assessment of severe employment constraints; • Considering incapacitating illnesses that are not on the list of obvious diagnoses; • Considering episodic or cyclical conditions.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
9	Make the duration of participation in the SSP necessary for access to the BIP cumulative (rather than consecutive).	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
10	Take into account the cumulative time of participation in the Social Assistance Program with temporary employment constraints when calculating the time required to access the BIP.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
11	Retain SSP participation duration in the case of persons incarcerated or in certified addiction resources (substance abuse centers), so that they do not have to start the cumulative period of SSP participation from scratch in order to access the BIP after each incarceration of more than 6 months.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
12	Plan a long-term independent study to assess the impact of the BIP on recipients.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
13	Enshrine the existence of a committee to monitor the implementation and evaluation of the BIP in the <i>Individual and Family Assistance Act</i> .	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
14	In collaboration with the disability community, create inclusive employment programs for persons with disabilities, while maintaining access to other employability programs and measures, particularly for BIP recipients who are more remote from the job market.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
15	Ensure that the BIP is well aligned with the future Canada Disability Benefit (Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, 2021).	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
Improving Social Assistance and Social Solidarity Programs		
16	Simplify program administration and management in order to prioritize accompaniment towards inclusion in employment and all other forms of social participation.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
17	Increase and annualize the limit on employment income admissible under these programs (currently \$200 per month) to at least the level of the basic benefit under the various last-resort financial assistance programs.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
18	Increase the liquid asset thresholds for the various last-resort financial assistance programs.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
19	Individualize last-resort financial assistance benefits to allow marital life and encourage mutual aid between recipients of last-resort financial assistance programs.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
20	Do not treat last-resort financial assistance benefits as income for tax purposes, while at the same time taxing the employment income of persons receiving assistance.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère des Finances
21	Make it easier for persons with disabilities who are disaffiliated to access the SSP.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
22	Take action to eliminate or reduce last-resort financial assistance debts • Cancel all debts to social assistance and social solidarity programs; • Stop collecting interest on debts to social assistance and social solidarity programs; • Review marital status rules for recipients of last-resort financial assistance to put an end to joint debts; • Revise the statute of limitations for debts to the Social Assistance and Social Solidarity Programs to 5 years.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère des Finances
23	Ensure that low-income persons with disabilities or mental health conditions who own their home receive assistance in paying municipal taxes. This could be done by expanding and improving existing programs for seniors, or by providing tax exemptions or credits to help these persons pay their taxes.	Ministère des Finances / ministère des Affaires municipales
24	Reinstate bipolarity, schizophrenia and autism in the list of "obvious diagnoses" for access to the SSP.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
25	Mandate the Comité consultatif de lutte à la pauvreté et à l'exclusion sociale to conduct research into the possibility of creating a universal benefit for persons with disabilities to promote their social inclusion, financial security and economic participation.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / Comité consultatif de lutte à la pauvreté et à l'exclusion sociale
Making tax measures more attractive		
26	Make the amount for severe and prolonged impairment in mental or physical functions refundable as early as 2023.	Ministère des Finances / Revenu Québec
27	Harmonize the assessment for access to the provincial Severe and prolonged impairment tax credit with that for the federal Disability tax credit.	Ministère des Finances / Revenu Québec
28	Increase tax credits for caregivers.	Ministère des Finances / Revenu Québec

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
29	Facilitate access to and enhance the Supplement for Handicapped Children (SHC) and the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care (SEHNSE). - Establish incremental funding tiers for the SHC to better take into account the varying financial support needs of families caring for children with disabilities; - Use the current SHC amount as a floor for the different funding tiers; - Simplify access forms and clarify access criteria.	Revenu Québec
30	Increase the amount of the various tiers of the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care.	Revenu Québec
31	Improve the Quebec Pension Plan: - Do not consider disability pensions for persons between the ages of 60 and 65 as retirement pensions; - Eliminate, with retroactive effect, the penalty applied to the retirement pension paid to persons reaching age 65 who received a disability pension between the ages of 60 and 65 (regardless of the age at which the disability pension began); - Individualize Quebec Pension Plan benefits.	Revenu Québec
Social housing and support, individual funding		
32	Include affordable housing for persons with disabilities or mental health conditions in every new housing project of more than 5 units, and impose penalties on developers who fail to meet this obligation.	Ministère des Affaires municipales
33	Include adapted or adaptable housing for persons with disabilities in every new housing project of more than 5 units, and impose penalties on developers who fail to meet this obligation.	Ministère des Affaires municipales
34	Grant rent supplement program (PSL) units to persons with disabilities and mental health conditions.	Ministère des Affaires municipales
35	Reintroduce the AccèsLogis program or a similar alternative aimed at setting up projects dedicated to persons with disabilities or mental health conditions, in a socially mixed environment.	Ministère des Affaires municipales

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
36	Fund community living support services in social or community housing for persons with disabilities or mental health conditions.	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / ministère des Affaires municipales
37	Fund the development in every region of Quebec of a variable-intensity housing support service for all persons with disabilities or mental health conditions.	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / ministère des Affaires municipales
38	Bring together the various networks (health, social services, Société d'habitation du Québec, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, technical resource groups, etc.) to reduce delays in setting up new residential projects.	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / ministère des Affaires municipales / autres organisations et partenaires
39	Ensure the development and adequate funding of community housing resources for persons with disabilities as an alternative to CHSLD housing.	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / ministère des Affaires municipales
Access to transportation and mobility		
40	Introduce a social fare system for low-income individuals, allowing them to purchase monthly, annual or individual transit passes.	Ministère des Transports / municipalités
41	Ensure that on-street parking is free and available to persons with disabled parking stickers.	Ministère des Transports / municipalités
42	Ensure the availability of regular and adapted public transit services to promote the social and economic participation of persons with disabilities or mental health conditions (van Holstein et al., 2022; Wasfi et al., 2017).	Ministère des Transports / municipalités
Employment and workplace inclusion		
43	Ensure that the future National Strategy for the Integration and Retention of the Handicapped includes measures: • Aiming at inclusive employment for persons with disabilities or mental health conditions (e.g. mentoring, job coaching, long-term follow-ups, etc.); • To convert funds allocated to passive measures into active measures to enable persons receiving last-resort financial assistance programs to enter the job market, notably by supporting access to the Contrat d'intégration au travail measure.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
44	Invest regionally and cut red tape to better support employers and individuals, in order to facilitate the employability of people with disabilities.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
45	Limit the duration of participation in sheltered work and internships programs, and set up monitoring and intervention mechanisms to combat the exploitation of persons with disabilities or mental health conditions participating in programs where they are not paid a real wage (Institut de recherche et de développement sur l'inclusion et la société, 2021).	Ministère du Travail / ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère de la Santé et des services sociaux
46	Give equal status with the rest of the population to persons with disabilities in employment or participating in socio-professional programs in which employers generate a profit from their work.	Ministère du Travail / ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère de la Santé et des services sociaux
47	Enable persons who have to leave their jobs for reasons related to episodic, cyclical or chronic conditions to return to work after a period of absence, and put in place support measures for employers during the period of absence.	Ministère du Travail / ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
48	Introduce a full-time or part-time job protection and retention measure for family/informal caregivers who must be temporarily absent to care for a person requiring significant care or who does not have sufficient services, for the period beyond the employment insurance coverage period.	Ministère du Travail / ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
49	Increase the minimum wage rate to reach a sustainable income threshold as calculated by the Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (Eve-Lyne Couturier et al., 2023).	Gouvernement du Québec
Social participation and inclusion		
50	recognize that social and economic participation is not just about employment, but also about volunteering, community involvement, activism, etc.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
51	Implement an interdepartmental plan to reduce the number of people with disabilities or mental health conditions being prosecuted in the courts, and to facilitate access to the justice system by adapting processes and procedures.	Ministère de la Justice / ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / Office des personnes handicapées du Québec / Curateur public / ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
52	Compensate the additional costs of disability for all persons concerned, regardless of age.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
53	Take into account capacity differentiated analysis (CDA+) and social inequalities in health in reports, research, studies, surveys, assessments, action plans, etc., concerning the eradication of poverty and social exclusion.	Gouvernement du Québec
Combating stigma		
54	Implement an awareness-raising campaign on poverty, to deconstruct prejudices about last resort financial assistance program recipients.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
55	Implement an awareness campaign to combat stigmatization, discrimination and prejudice against persons with disabilities or mental health conditions, in order to promote their social inclusion and economic participation.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
56	Develop and implement a national strategy based on recognized best practices. The fight against stigmatization and discrimination must be examined and entrusted to a national committee, made up of persons with disabilities or living with or having experienced a mental health condition, members of their entourage, representatives of the community and the government sector.	Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale / ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
Education and post secondary education		
57	Increase School Service Center budgets to offer students with disabilities a program adapted to their needs, by equipping school teams with innovative and inclusive teaching practices.	Ministère de l'Éducation
58	Legislate to make the school-to-work transition approach (TEVA) mandatory in the <i>Education Act</i> in all regions of Quebec, to ensure the social inclusion and economic participation of young adults with disabilities, social or learning difficulties.	Ministère de l'Éducation

Number	Recommendation	Ministry
59	Increase services for students with disabilities or mental health problems in post-secondary institutions to foster their academic success and future social participation, notably by ensuring separate, direct funding for these persons.	Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur
60	Provide support for community organizations that assist persons with disabilities or mental health problems in their studies.	Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur / ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux / Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
Supporting community organizations and funding the social safety net		
61	Adequately fund health and social services: • Invest \$18 million to fund the access and accommodations necessary for persons with disabilities to ensure their participation in community organizations (Fortier, 2017); • Support organizations that help develop and maintain the empowerment of persons with disabilities or mental health conditions; • Fund and better recognize community organizations, particularly organizations without service delivery contracts and with limited sources of funding (aid, mutual aid, living environments, popular education); • Better fund and recognize advocacy organizations; • Emphasize and recognize the importance of peer helpers and establish a job title for them.	Gouvernement du Québec
62	Make public health and social services accessible (SAD, psychotherapy, nutrition).	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
63	Guarantee access and accessibility to food services (grocery stores, food banks, etc.) for persons with disabilities or mental health conditions, to ensure their food security.	Gouvernement du Québec
64	Don't cut taxes at a time when service costs and needs are exploding.	Gouvernement du Québec
65	Guarantee the universality of public services, notably by abolishing direct user contributions.	Gouvernement du Québec