



## RE: Supporting Businesses as the Engine for Growth

"How will your party support businesses as the engine for growth to move our country from recovery into strong and sustained economic growth?"

The Bloc Québécois is convinced the economic recovery will be driven by an energy transition. We must redirect the investments made in the oil and gas sector to forward-looking industries, such as forestry, which is underfunded by Ottawa. We also advocate for the creation of a Sector Fund dedicated to the transformation of aluminium in Quebec (the cleanest in the world!), in the amount of \$120 million to support the competitiveness of Quebec SMEs in this sector.

The greatest challenge for Quebec SMEs when it comes to economic recovery is the labour shortage. The Bloc Québécois has proposed several measures to address this issue, including:

- 1) A tax credit for new graduates and newcomers in rural areas of a maximum value of \$3,000 per year up to a total of \$8,000.
- 2) A tax credit for those 65 and over who wish to remain in the workforce and an increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement employment income exemption to allow seniors to work a few more hours without penalty.
- 3) Suspending the CRB with exceptions for industries that still need it, but not eliminating it altogether.
- 4) A digital strategy that provides more support for SMEs.
- 5) Bringing the management of temporary foreign workers back to Quebec.
- 6) Increasing research and development tax credits to encourage the acquisition and adaptation of green technologies for the benefit of our unique network of Quebec-owned SMEs as well as offering a tax credit for automation in the manufacturing sector.

Income support programs, like the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy, must be maintained for sectors whose level of activity will take longer to return to normal, such as the tourism and cultural sectors.

Finally, the Bloc Québécois is calling for a proper aerospace strategy to support SMEs in the sector. This industry alone generates 40,000 direct jobs and 100,000 indirect jobs and is Quebec's main export sector.