

# QUÉBEC

## Jurisdictional Profile

2023 Report

*A profile of governance, programs, and services for the aging population in Québec*

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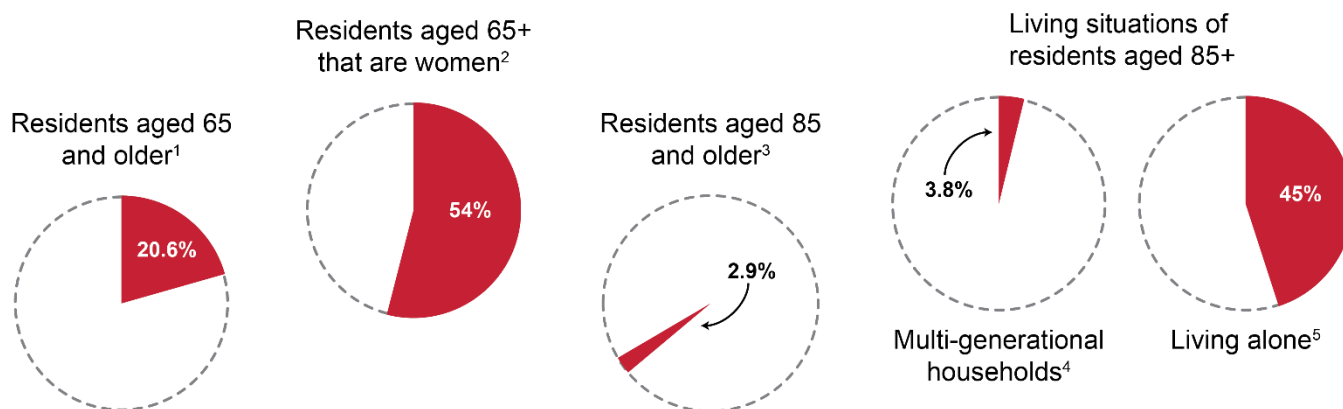
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**Preamble:** Québec's body responsible for older adult policy is the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Older adult policy was formerly under the Ministry of Families, Seniors and the Status of Women, but this was disbanded and changed to the Ministry of Families. Now the Ministry of Health and Social Services also has under it the Minister Responsible for Seniors.

## Québec Older Adult Demographics



<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada: Québec Profile - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427a-eng.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Québec: Statistical showcase on the aging population - <https://statistique.quebec.ca/docs-ken/vitrine/vieillessement/index.html?theme=population&tab=3>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&GENDERlist=1&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0&DGUIDlist=2021A00052423027&SearchText=quebec>

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada -

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=9810013401&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.24&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1&pickMembers%5B2%5D=3.11&pickMembers%5B3%5D=4.1>

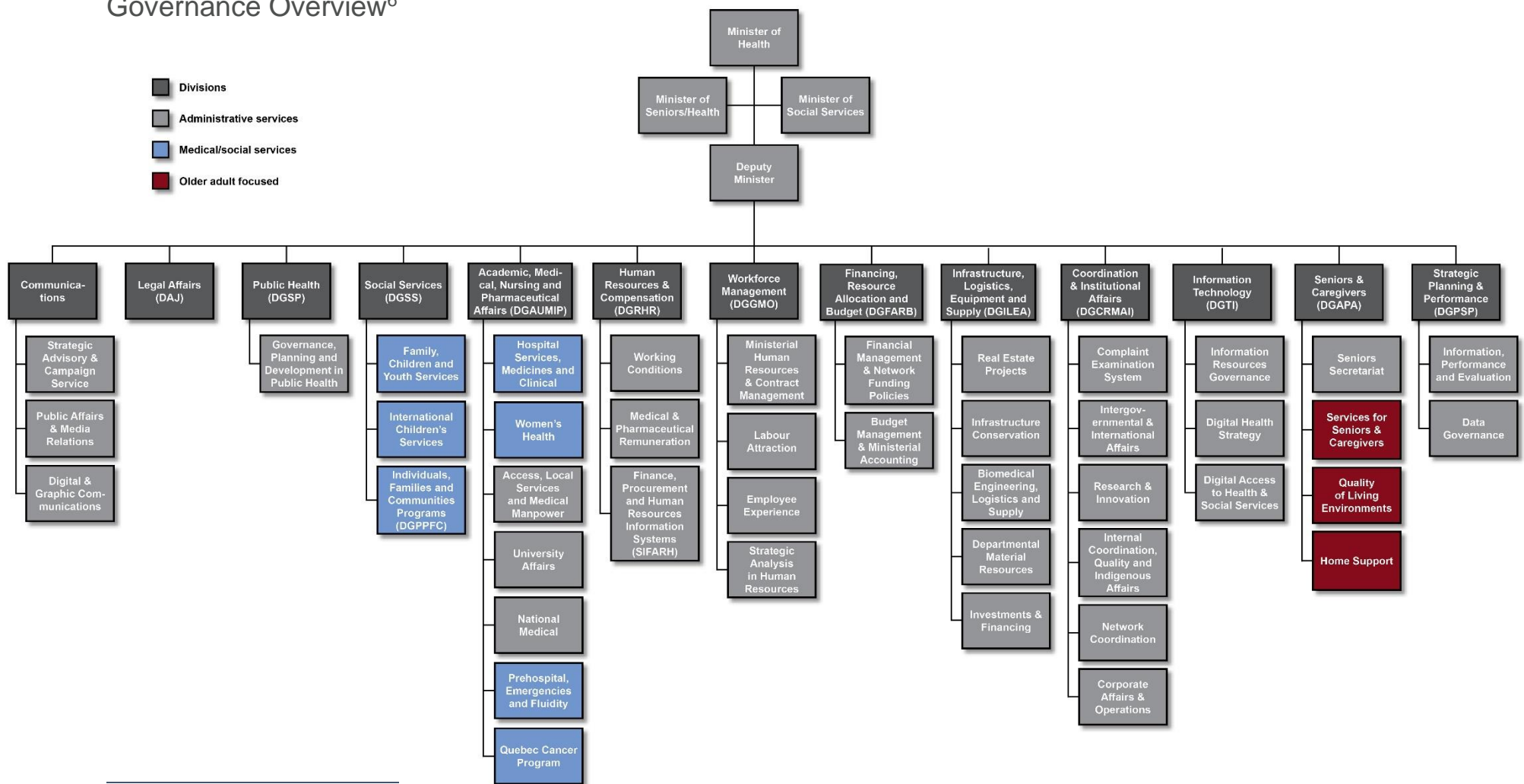
<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada -

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=9810013401&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.24&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1&pickMembers%5B2%5D=3.11&pickMembers%5B3%5D=4.1>

## Ministry of Health and Social Services

The mission of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux (MSSS) is to maintain, improve and restore the health and well-being of the Québec population by making available a set of integrated and high-quality health and social services, thus contributing to the social and economic development of the province. The primary role of the MSSS is to see to the proper functioning of the health and social services system. With a view to improving the health and well-being of the population, the ministry determines the priorities, orientations and policies that fall within its domain, and sees to their application while relying on a vast network of key stakeholders.

### Governance Overview<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Organizational Chart- <https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministere/sante-services-sociaux/orqanigramme>

## Strategies / Action Plans

This section includes strategies, action plans, and other relevant reports from government that outline commitments and progress toward serving older adults.

- [Un Québec pour tous les âges](#)
- [Government action plan to counter mistreatment of older adults 2017-2022](#)
- Recognize and act together - Government action plan to counter mistreatment of older adults 2022-2027<sup>7</sup>
- The Plan to implement the necessary changes in health 2022<sup>8</sup>
- 2022-2025 interdepartmental action plan for the government policy on health enhancement<sup>9</sup>

## Legal Framework<sup>10</sup>

The legal framework consists of legislation passed in Québec that direct the Ministry of Health and Social Services and/or any agencies or non-governmental entities under its purview. This list is not exhaustive, and contains only legislation related to older adult care in the province.

- [Public Health Act](#)
- [Code Civil du Québec](#)<sup>11</sup>
- [Act respecting pre-hospital emergency services](#)
- [Act respecting health services and social services](#)
- [Health Insurance Act](#)
- [Act ensuring the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities with a view to their educational, professional and social integration](#)
- [Act respecting the Department of Health and Social Services](#)
- [Tobacco Health Care Costs and Damages Recovery Act](#)
- [Funeral Services Act](#)
- [Act Respecting End of Life Care](#)
- [Act to promote access to family medicine and specialized medicine services](#)
- [Prescription drug insurance act](#)
- [Law and commissioner act](#)
- [An Act to combat mistreatment of seniors and any other person of full age in a vulnerable situation](#)
- [An Act to ensure the maintenance of essential services in the health and social services sector](#)
- [Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec](#)

<sup>7</sup> Recognize and act together - Government action plan to counter mistreatment of older adults 2022-2027- <https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-003402/>

<sup>8</sup> Plan pour mettre en œuvre les changements nécessaires en santé- <https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/fichiers/2021/21-210-216F.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Un projet d'envergure pour améliorer la santé et la qualité de vie de la population- <https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/fichiers/2022/22-297-05W.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Health and Social Services – Laws and Regulations: <https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministere/sante-services-sociaux/lois-et-reglements/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/document/lc/CCQ-1991>

## Programs and Services

The following list provides an overview of some of the relevant and available programs and services for older adults.

- Age-Friendly Québec Program<sup>12</sup>
- [Prescription Drug Insurance](#)
- [Québec Health Insurance Plan](#)
- [Hearing Devices Program](#)
- [First Link](#)
- [Alzheimer Societies Adult Day Programs](#)
- Community Work Initiatives with Seniors in Vulnerable Situations (ITMAV)<sup>13</sup>
- [Assistance for Dental Care and Dentures](#)
- Age-Friendly Municipalities Initiative<sup>14</sup>
- [Falls Prevention: STAND UP!](#)
- Programme Action Aînés du Québec<sup>15</sup>

## Government of Québec Agencies<sup>16</sup>

This section lists bodies that may have influence over policy or practice that impacts the delivery of services and supports to older adults.

- National Institute of Public Health of Québec (INSPQ)
- Hema-Québec
- Aging Secretariat
- Health and Welfare Commissioner (CSBE)
- Québec Health Insurance Board (RAMQ)
- Health Emergencies Corporation
- Modernization Office of Montreal University Hospital Centers (MUHC)
- Commission on end-of-life care (CSFV)
- Office for Persons with Disabilities of Québec (OPHQ)
- National Institute of Excellence in Health and Social Services (INESSS)
- Provincial Committee for the Provision of Health and Social Services in the English Language
- Provincial Committee for the Delivery of Health and Social Services to People from Ethnocultural Communities

<sup>12</sup> Age-Friendly Québec (AFQ) Program: <https://www.quebec.ca/famille-et-soutien-aux-personnes/personnes-agees/aide-financiere-organismes/municipalite-amie-des-aines>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/salle-de-presse/communiqué-3542/#:~:text=Le%20programme%20ITMAV%20est%20une,toutes%20les%20r%C3%A9gions%20du%20Qu%C3%A9bec.>

<sup>14</sup> Age-Friendly Municipalities Initiative: <https://www.makingmtl.ca/seniors-2023>

<sup>15</sup> Programme Action Aînés du Québec: [https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/services\\_quebec/Guide\\_Seniors\\_EN\\_2023.pdf](https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/services_quebec/Guide_Seniors_EN_2023.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Agencies reporting to the Minister - <https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministere/sante-services-sociaux/organismes-lies>

## Provincial Priorities/New Initiatives/Announcements<sup>17</sup>

The following section comprises a review of recent government announcements and budgets that have dedicated resources and action to improving programs, policy, and services offered to older adults in Québec.

### **Making the health care system more effective and more humane**

The government launched the plan to reform the health care in March 2022. It initiated a major shift to meet the many challenges present in this sector by investing nearly \$5.6 billion aimed at:

- making the health care system more efficient and more flexible for the public;
- caring for seniors and informal and family caregivers;
- supporting the most vulnerable.

### **Making the health care system more efficient and flexible for the public**

The government is implementing new initiatives totalling more than \$3 billion to make the health care system more efficient and flexible with a view to:

- adapting the health sector to post pandemic realities;
- improving care and services through lasting structural changes;
- supporting the creation of Santé Québec.

### **Adapting the health sector to post pandemic realities**

The government is providing more than \$2.2 billion to adapt the health care system to post pandemic realities. This will make it possible to focus on:

- sustaining the new approach developed for vaccination and testing, expanding its reach to other front line services;
- updating the emergency preparedness plan and personal protective equipment procurement;
- reducing the waiting list for surgeries.

### **Improving health care and services through lasting structural changes**

An additional \$710 million will make it possible to focus on:

- opening new front line access clinics and adding specialized nurse practitioners and other front line professionals;
- developing the “Votre Santé” platform;
- establishing a helicopter medical transportation service;
- improving the management of patients suffering from rare or chronic diseases.

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<sup>17</sup> Budget speech - Budget 2023-2024- [http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget\\_and\\_update/budget/speech.asp](http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget_and_update/budget/speech.asp)

### **Opening new front lines access clinics and adding specialized nurse practitioners and other front line professionals**

Since 2021, specialized nurse practitioners (SNPs), have been given more responsibilities and greater autonomy. They can make more diagnoses, prescribe examinations, medication and treatment plans, and monitor pregnancies.

Continuing this initiative, the government plans to invest \$395 million to open 23 new SNP clinics in Québec.

### **Developing the “Votre Santé” platform to facilitate appointment booking**

Since June 2022, the government has made it possible to roll out an appointment management platform. The “Votre Santé” platform will build on the success of the vaccination campaign with “Clic Santé” and will also facilitate the adoption of telemedicine.

As a result, the government is earmarking \$146 million to develop this platform.

### **Caring for older adults and informal / family caregivers**

In this budget, the government has committed to continuing efforts to take better care of older adults and informal/family caregivers.

In Québec, the proportion of people aged 65 and over is continually increasing. It will increase from 21% in 2022 to 26% in 2041.

Therefore, the government is earmarking nearly \$2 billion for older adults and informal/family caregivers.

### **Increasing the supply of home support services**

The government is making an investment of \$964 million aimed at:

- providing services to an additional 34 000 people;
- increasing the provision of home support services by more than 13.5 million hours annually.

This means that, since 2018-2019, the additional amounts announced for home support have totalled nearly \$6.5 billion.

### **Ensuring the sustainability of services in private seniors’ residences**

Private seniors’ residences (PSRs) are an essential partner of the public health care system when it comes to home support services for older adults. The government has taken steps to ensure the sustainability of the services offered. However, residences continue to close down because of significant increases in operational costs, such as those associated with labour, insurance and certification.

The government is continuing its efforts to ensure the sustainability of services in PSRs. In this budget, \$405 million is being invested aimed at:

- maintaining services to older adults;
- extending the financial assistance program for installing sprinklers.

In addition, the program to reduce the impact of insurance premium increases on PSRs will be extended by one year.



## Maintaining services offered in private seniors' residences

To ensure that older adults living in PSRs continue to obtain the services they need, \$316 million is being set aside in the aim of:

- improving the direct allocation mechanism for clients with diminishing autonomy;
- updating the intervention framework for small residences;
- expanding the salary transition program for caregiving staff.

## Supporting the most vulnerable

In recent years, significant investments have been made to enhance mental health and social services. The government is continuing its efforts to strengthen support for the most vulnerable Québécois.

To this end, \$565 million is being provided for:

- strengthening support to community organizations in the health and social services sector;
- increasing mental health, homelessness and addiction services;
- creating new places for respite care for parents of children with disabilities;
- strengthening care and services for youth in difficulty, in line with the recommendations of the Special Commission on the Rights of the Child and Youth Protection.

## Supporting Québécois

The government is pursuing its commitments to support families, community organizations and people in vulnerable situations. In addition, significant investments have been made to improve their living environments and enhance access to transportation.

To this end, the government will invest \$3.6 billion to better meet the needs of Québécois.

It will promote access to affordable housing and support families, vulnerable individuals and First Nations and Inuit people.

## Key Stakeholders in Québec

This section lists bodies that may have influence over policy or practice that impacts the delivery of services and supports to older adults.

- Seniors Action Québec (SAQ)
- Réseau FADOQ (Fédération de l'âge d'or du Québec)
- Québec Association of Gerontology (Association québécoise de gérontologie)
- Alzheimer Society of Québec (Société Alzheimer du Québec)
- The Council on Aging of Montreal (Conseil des aînés de Montréal)
- Integrated University Health Networks (RUIS)