

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### **Renewal of the partnership between Business France and Investissement Québec International**

**Paris, France, May 18, 2026** – Business France and Investissement Québec International are delighted to renew their partnership today in support of the development of exports and cross-investment between France and Quebec, at the Hôtel de Matignon, Paris, in the presence of the Premier of Quebec, Ms. Christine Fréchette, and the Prime Minister of France, Mr. Sébastien Lecornu.

This renewal comes after an initial active agreement from 2022 to 2025, which enabled the development and structuring of exchanges between the two agencies.

This comes in a context where the Premier of Quebec and the Prime Minister of France wish to intensify trade, promote economic and commercial diversification and strengthen existing collaboration between the two agencies.

Quebec and France, as privileged economic partners, continue to share a common strategic interest in strengthening their industrial and technological ecosystems. They reaffirm their shared interest in protecting supply chains and critical infrastructure, investing in defense and innovation capabilities, as well as supporting the competitiveness, resilience and international positioning of their businesses.

Within a new geopolitical framework, the partnership aims to strengthen ties for the benefit of Quebec and French businesses through:

- The exchange of best practice between the two institutions.
- The networking between firms from France and Quebec at major international events where both agencies are present with business delegations, particularly in new strategic sectors of the bilateral relationship, such as critical materials, defense, the environment, etc.
- The sharing of Export and Investment prospects in both directions to ensure seamless support for businesses.

Since 2022, Business France and Investissement Québec International have been working to bring French and Quebec firms closer together, offering them business development opportunities in both France and Quebec. Each year, approximately twenty networking events are organized between businesses from both countries at trade shows and conferences in North America and Europe, with joint business projects being supported in their expansion into Quebec and France.

In 2025, Quebec once again established itself as the leading driver of Canadian investment in France. Of the 57 Canadian investment projects successfully completed in France and supported by Business France, 70% originated from Quebec businesses (creating approximately 2,000 jobs). This dominance can also be seen at the identification stage, as

nearly 90% of the projects detected by Business France for investment in the country came from Quebec, illustrating the province's central role at the national level. In 2025, Business France teams supported more than 600 French firms in Canada (excluding V.I.E programs), with nearly two-thirds of these businesses operating through Quebec.

Quebec is home to several North American headquarters of French firms, demonstrating its strategic importance to them. Furthermore, in 2025, Investissement Québec International supported 23 investment projects from France, including seven new business setup projects and 16 major reinvestments by French companies already established in Quebec. These projects created and maintained nearly 2,000 jobs in Quebec. In addition, Investissement Québec International supports nearly 150 Quebec businesses annually in their business development in the French market, which serves as the preferred gateway for initial expansion into Europe.

"In a context of reshaping international trade, strengthening our partnership with Investissement Québec International fulfils a clear aim: to secure and fast-track economic cooperation between two particularly complementary ecosystems, especially in strategic sectors, such as critical materials, defense or the environmental transition," said Louis Margueritte, Chief Executive Officer of Business France.

"We are proud to update our collaboration agreement with Business France, as the current context requires strengthening trade ties with France and taking actions that benefit our respective businesses and industries. Our teams at Investissement Québec International will continue to work hand in hand with their French counterparts to diversify our markets and to make our supply chains stronger and more sustainable," said Hubert Bolduc, President of Investissement Québec International.

### **About Business France**

Business France is the public consulting business serving the international development of the French economy. It is responsible for fostering export-led growth by French businesses, as well as promoting and facilitating foreign investment in France.

It promotes France's firms, business image and nationwide attractiveness as an investment location, and also runs the V.I.E international internship program, which connects businesses with young talent for international assignments.

Business France has more than 1,400 personnel, both in France and in 53 countries throughout the world.

In 2025, support from Business France made it possible to generate €2.5 billion in additional export revenues for French SMEs and mid-size companies, accounting for more than 25,386 jobs created or planned. Business France supported 59% of the 1,878 foreign investment decisions in 2025, accounting for 35,426 projected jobs.

For further information, please visit: [www.businessfrance.fr](http://www.businessfrance.fr) @businessfrance

### **About Investissement Québec**

Investissement Québec's mission is to play an active role in Québec's economic development by spurring business innovation, entrepreneurship and business acquisitions, as well as growth in investment and exports. Operating in all the province's administrative regions, the corporation supports the creation and growth of businesses of all sizes with investments and customized financial solutions.

It also assists businesses by providing consulting services and other support measures, including technological assistance available from Investissement Québec – Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec (CRIQ). In addition, through Investissement Québec International, it also prospects for talent and foreign investment and assists Québec businesses with export activities.

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