

Le Réseau d'investissement social du Québec (RISQ)

At the intersection of finance, solidarity, and collective
entrepreneurship



RISQ emerged in 1997, following the 1996 Summit on the Economy and Employment. Its mission is to support the growth of Quebec's social economy enterprises by providing accessible financial tools tailored to their specific needs and stages of development. By addressing needs unmet by traditional financial institutions, RISQ has helped structure an emerging field: solidarity finance in Quebec.

A Path Shaped by Innovation and Collaboration

- 1996 Summit on the Economy and Employment leads to the creation of a fund dedicated to the social economy.
- 1997 Creation of RISQ by the Chantier de l'économie sociale, with support from the Government of Quebec and financial partners.
- 2003 Publication of the *Guide to Analyzing Social Economy Enterprises*, a key resource in evaluating collective projects
- 2009 Participation in the creation of CAP Finance, the Solidarity and Responsible Finance Network that brings together the sector's key players in Quebec.
- 2010 Launch of the Pre-startup component, completing RISQ's financing offering.
- 2017 Updated version of the *Guide to Analyzing Social Economy Enterprises*, translated and shared internationally.
- 2021 Launch of the Transition Fund in response to the COVID-19 crisis, and the Social Economy Innovation and Growth Fund.
Significant involvement of RISQ in the efforts to implement the federal Social Finance Fund in Quebec.
- 2023 Launch of the Ampli Fund to support community investment crowdfunding campaigns.

A Social Innovation Structuring the Social Economy Ecosystem

- **Financing exclusively** for social economy enterprises, addressing unmet needs by traditional markets.
- **Unique evaluation methodology** that considers both the financial and social dimensions of projects.
- **Catalytic role in financial structuring**, often as the first investor to encourage further contributions.
- **Partnership approach**, with support networks, public institutions, and other in solidarity finance actors.
- **Contribution to collective learning** through the dissemination of the *Guide to Analyzing Social Economy Enterprises*, both in Quebec and internationally.

Today

RISQ continues to fulfill its mission by financing collective projects with high social impact and by strengthening regional ecosystems. As a funder, catalyst, and partner, it remains a key player in Quebec's solidarity finance landscape.



A Method Tailored to the Realities of Collective Entrepreneurship

RISQ introduced a groundbreaking investment approach for collective projects. Instead of replicating private-sector financial evaluation frameworks, RISQ developed an approach that balances both economic viability with social mission. RISQ's analysts provide strategic recommendations to project leaders, and help attract additional funding sources.

This approach fosters a dynamic of collaboration among solidarity finance actors, support organizations, and the social economy.

Measurable Impacts

- 1 396 projects funded
- 41,6 millions of dollars invested through six financial products (Technical Support, Emergence, Capitalization, Transition, FICÉS, and Ampli).
- 13 234 jobs created or maintained
- 458,7 million generated in total investments
- 6,31 million in pre-startup funding

References

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