

## What has become of the regional development plans for vocational and technical training resources?

In June 2006, Jean-Marc Fournier, who was Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport (MELS) at the time, made public the Vocational and Technical Training Collaboration Plan. This plan would, among other things, revive the regional inter-level forums in vocational and technical training so that each region could act in concert on the development of a plan to provide vocational and technical training. Thus, the regional inter-level forums would support collaborative partnership initiatives such as the pooling of services, expertise, and infrastructures. With these regional plans for vocational and technical training resources, MELS was targeting six objectives:

- To maintain access to training in a context shaped by population decline and migration affecting several regions;
- To help educational institutions that are experiencing difficulties and to consolidate these important development tools for regional populations and companies;
- To meet the pressing need for a qualified workforce in Quebec over the next few years and to ensure that the workforce remains competitive;
- To enable students to make a smooth transition from one level of education to another, with no duplication of training;
- To lead more youth and adults to acquire training that will qualify them for a trade or profession and to facilitate continuous upgrading;
- To consolidate the Quebec vocational and technical training system by making it more coherent and efficient.