



Newsletter

October 2026



It takes more than financial incentives to attract physicians to rural areas

We learned from media reports that the 3,000 residents of Percé have lost the only family physician at their CLSC. Not having timely access to appropriate care can lead to serious health problems, particularly among vulnerable people.

Research conducted at CIRANO provides insights into the pressing challenge of attracting and retaining physicians in rural areas. The authors had access to unique data tracing the successive practice episodes of all new family physicians who began practising in Quebec between 1975 and 2024.

Quebec policies have helped improve the attraction and retention of physicians in remote or isolated regions over the past few decades, but the problem remains far from resolved.

[More information](#)

SUMMARY

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-RESEARCH

Does working from home lead to a decrease in the use of transportation infrastructure and a reduction in pollutant emissions?

A recent CIRANO report examined this issue and reached the following conclusions.

1

The positive effects of working from home are not as significant as might have been expected

2

With new daily routines, some commutes to work are being replaced by trips for other reasons

3

Teleworking is not the solution to the environmental problems resulting from individuals' travel choices

[Read the report](#)

The Act to Promote the Development and Recognition of Workforce Skills—or the “1% Act”—has marked its 30th anniversary. How effective has it been?

A recent CIRANO report provides three possible answers.

1

The law played a role in helping Quebec catch up in the area of structured and formal education

2

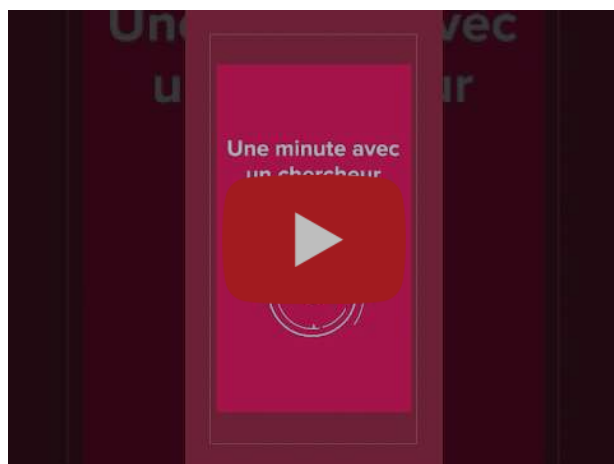
However, it is not clear whether the ultimate goal of improving the workforce's skills and qualifications has been achieved

3

A recommendation? Include mechanisms in the law to monitor progress toward and achievement of objectives.

Read the report

A MINUTE WITH A RESEARCHER



The Contribution of Mathematics to Economic Activity

With François Vaillancourt (University of Montreal, CIRANO)

Advanced mathematical knowledge plays a vital role in many sectors: engineering, forecasting, public policy, healthcare, and more. But what is its actual contribution to Quebec's economy?

-EVENTS CALENDAR



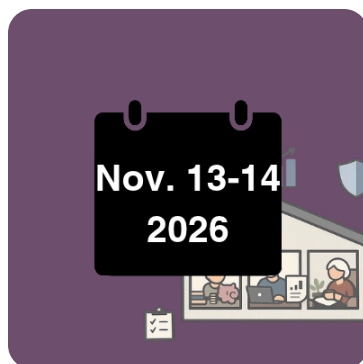
External Activity - 2026 Gérard-Parizeau Award: “Propulser l’innovation grâce aux données”

On October 6, 2026, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., Catherine Beaudry (Polytechnique Montréal, CIRANO), recipient of the 2026 Gérard-Parizeau Award, will present the lecture “Propelling Innovation Through Data” at HEC Montréal as part of the official award ceremony. The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Patrick Cohendet (HEC Montréal, CIRANO), Luc Sirois, Quebec’s Chief Innovator, and Sophie Veilleux (Université Laval), moderated by Benoit Dostie (HEC Montréal, CIRANO).

External Activity - 7th CEAR-RSI Household Finance Workshop

On November 13 and 14, 2026, the 7th CEAR–RSI Workshop will bring together researchers at HEC Montréal whose work focuses on household financial decisions. Jointly organized by HEC Montréal’s Retirement and Savings Institute, its Financial Education Laboratory, and the Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk at Georgia State University, the workshop will cover topics including saving, investing, retirement, financial education, and risk

management. Matthew J. Notowidigdo (University of Chicago Booth School of Business) will deliver the keynote address.



5th CIRANO Workshop on “Experimental and Behavioural Research”

On November 27, CIRANO's Experimental and Behavioral Research Group will hold its 5th workshop devoted to experimental and behavioral research. This edition will notably feature Edda Claus (Wilfrid Laurier University) and bring together research on a variety of topics examined through the lens of behavioral economics using rigorous statistical methods. The day will also include a series of brown bag presentations.

CIRANO NEWS



Pierre-Carl Michaud to Take Part in a Discussion Following the Screening of “Nid-de-poule”

On September 30 at Théâtre Outremont, Pierre-Carl Michaud (HEC Montréal), President and CEO of CIRANO, took part in a discussion following the screening of the documentary “Nid-de-poule,” directed by Paul-Maxime Corbin. Alongside the director and actress Eve Duranceau, he discussed how citizens relate to public goods, collective choices regarding infrastructure, and the shared responsibilities involved in maintaining them. The documentary draws in part on the CIRANO report “Quebec Infrastructure Plan: Interprovincial Comparison and Sustainability,” co-authored by Pierre-Carl Michaud, Louis Lévesque, Marcelin Joanis, Jonathan Brasseur, and Quentin Winstel.

→ **Read more**

The Quebec Consumer Confidence Barometer on Food Named a Finalist for the 2026 Scientific Collaboration Award

The Baromètre de la confiance des consommateurs québécois à l'égard des aliments, developed by CIRANO in partnership with MAPAQ, is among the finalists for the Institut d'administration publique du Québec's (IAPQ) 2026 Scientific Collaboration Award. Conducted every two years since 2019, the Barometer tracks changes in consumer confidence and contributes, in particular, to



monitoring the 2025–2035 Biofood Policy. The award recipients will be announced on November 26, 2026.

→ **Read more**

-OUTREACH



Amélie Quesnel-Vallée
named Fellow of the Royal
Society of Canada



Catherine Beaudry, Winner
of the 2026 Gérard-
Parizeau Prize



CIRANO in the Media

A journal for the dissemination and valorization of research at CIRANO -



Perspectives - Revue semi-annuelle 2026 Volume 3 N°Spécial **(Publication in French)**

Nathalie De Marcellis-Warin, Carole Vincent

The 2026 special issue of PERSPECTIVES, “Education and Workforce: For a More Productive and Equitable Society,” brings together six articles stemming from research projects conducted at CIRANO. This issue examines educational choices, inequalities, as well as transformations and challenges in the labour market, including lower educational attainment among boys, the wealth gap between Quebec and Ontario, skills needs related to the bioeconomy, mismatches between labour supply and demand, hybrid work, and the 30th anniversary of Quebec’s 1 % Act.



Perceptions citoyennes de la durabilité agricole : un enjeu de premier plan

(Publication in French)

Bernard Korai, Rémy Lambert

The adoption of the Sustainable Agriculture Plan (PAD 2020–2030) has strengthened the agri-environmental efforts undertaken by Quebec agricultural producers, who often have to go beyond regulatory requirements and bear significant costs. But are these efforts sufficiently recognized and valued by the public? In a CIRANO study (Korai et al., 2025), the authors examine public perceptions of agricultural sustainability and propose several avenues for reflection to better recognize and promote the farming profession among the general public.

-PUBLICATIONS

PROJECT REPORT



Effet des mesures incitatives et coercitives sur la rétention régionale des médecins de famille

(Publication in French)

Bernard Fortin, Josette Rosine Aniwuvi Gbeto

This report analyzes the effects of various Quebec policies on the retention and regional mobility of family physicians between 1975 and 2024, using longitudinal data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information. The analyses show that retention remains significantly lower in remote or isolated regions. The estimates also suggest that differential remuneration and regional medical staffing plans (PREMs) are associated with better retention, particularly in these regions, while scholarships tied to a service obligation do not appear to extend physicians' length of stay once that obligation has been fulfilled. The authors therefore stress the importance of assessing physician distribution policies not only by their ability to attract physicians to rural and remote areas, but also by their ability to retain them over the longer term.

WORKING PAPER



Les cadres privés et publics du Québec : la place des francophones en 1981, 2001 et 2021

(Publication in French)

François Vaillancourt, Genevieve Vaillancourt

In this working paper, François Vaillancourt and Genevieve Vaillancourt examine francophones' access to managerial positions in Quebec using data from the 1981, 2001, and 2021 Canadian censuses. The descriptive results indicate that bilingualism among francophones and anglophones is associated with slightly greater access to managerial positions for both men and women compared with unilingual francophones, whose situation

nevertheless improved in 2021 relative to 1981 and 2001. The multivariate analyses also confirm the importance of bilingualism as an attribute associated with access to a managerial position.

FOR REFLECTION



Despite recent returns to the office, work from home in Canada is still alive and well

René Morissette

This document analyzes the evolution of working from home in Canada between 2016 and 2026 using data from the 2016 Census of Population and supplements to the Labour Force Survey from May 2020 to May 2026. Despite recent return-to-office policies introduced by some businesses and governments, the study shows that the proportion of Canadians working most of their hours from home has more than doubled over the past decade. These results suggest that, in some sectors, businesses continue to experiment with different forms of working from home, whether hybrid or fully remote, or view them as advantageous, particularly for employee retention, profitability, and productivity.



Le privé en santé au Québec : Revue de la recherche scientifique (Publication in French)

Antoine Rondeau, Olivier Jacques

This document examines the role of the private sector in Quebec's health care system and, from a comparative perspective, analyzes the documented effects of its expansion. The authors' review of the scientific literature focuses in particular on costs, wait times, access, and quality of care. They emphasize that it is difficult to establish that the private sector is more efficient, provides higher-quality care, or costs less than the public sector. They also identify several risks associated with its expansion, particularly for wait times in the public system, costs, access, and equity, and propose various avenues for preserving Quebec's public health care model.

All publications

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