

Financing the Service

- At the **elementary level**, the MEQ has made a provision for a supplementary allocation of **\$13 million dollars** to help school boards pay the individuals assigned to the service. This sum is given *a priori* in the following manner:
 - a basic amount of \$50 000 per school board (totalling \$3.5 million)
 - an amount of \$15.33 per student to make up the difference (totalling \$9.5 million)
- To date, school boards have been investing approximately **\$3 million dollars** collectively in pastoral and religious animation services at the elementary level, representing approximately \$5 per student. The MEQ strongly urges school boards to maintain this level of investment at the very least.
- Because the service is original to the school system and has now to prove itself in Québec, the MEQ is hoping that the \$16 million set aside for this purpose will serve to **hire qualified and competent personnel**. To this end, an employment category called “animator of spiritual life and community involvement service” was added to the classification plan for school board personnel.
- Over the next two years, the MEQ will find **other ways of offering additional support to school boards, in the area of financial assistance among others**, so that schools and students have the services of a sufficient number of animators. This is a challenge that the MEQ and the school boards will have to meet collectively.
- At the **secondary level**, the monies allocated for remunerating personnel is included in the **budgetary allocation envelope for educational services** where a recurrent amount of \$4 per student has been added since the 2000-2001 school year.