



# 2025 CFREF Symposium

CFREF Plenary on Sustainability and  
Legacy

May 2025

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# From Quantum Science to Quantum Technologies

33,5M\$ — 2015 to 2025



**CANADA  
FIRST**

RESEARCH  
EXCELLENCE  
FUND

**APOGÉE  
CANADA**

FONDS  
D'EXCELLENCE  
EN RECHERCHE

# CFREF program application

CFREF Program  
announcement

Letter of  
intent

Program rules  
released

Application  
submission

Results

December  
2014

Late January  
2015

Mid-february  
2015

March  
2015

July  
2015

**5** weeks of writing  
**12** pages, **7902** words

...

« Sustainability plan ?! ? »

# Sherbrooke CFREF Sustainability Assessment

- We recognized early on that while our scientific output was excellent, our most valuable products—and primary exports—were the talented individuals we trained, most of whom were leaving the country upon completion of their programs.
- Our partnerships were predominantly international, which prevented us from accessing most provincial and federal funding programs that required local stakeholder participation.
- We needed to find a way to reverse this trend and create a virtuous cycle: one where we could generate intellectual property, build commercial value, and retain our talent domestically.

# Sherbrooke CFREF Sustainability Master Plan

5-steps strategy for CFREF sustainability in quantum science

**Step 1** : Obtain the University official recognition

**Step 2** : « Physically » exist (so that they cannot get rid of you)

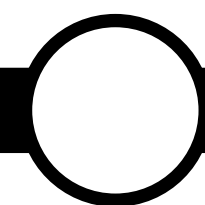
**Step 3** : Nurture the local ecosystem

**Step 4** : Learn the « political game » (and play it)

**Step 5** : International partnership



# Sherbrooke CFREF Sustainability Master Plan



Institut  
quantique  
founding

February  
2016

# Sherbrooke CFREF Sustainability Master Plan



Institut  
quantique  
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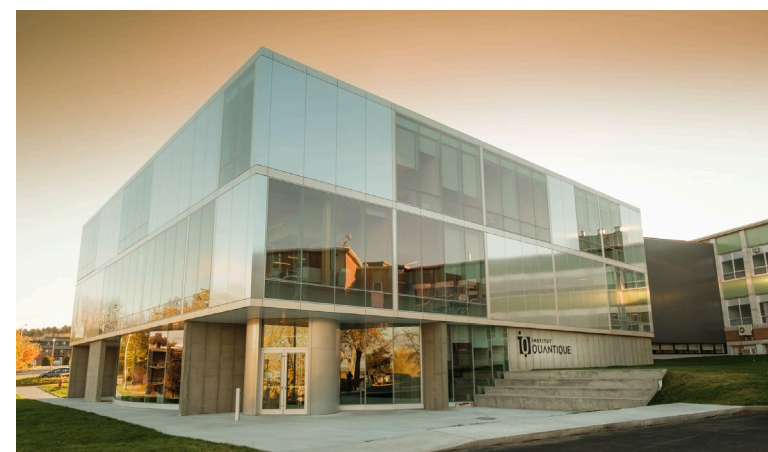
February  
2016

Opening of  
the IQ  
building

November  
2021



# Sherbrooke CFREF Sustainability Master Plan



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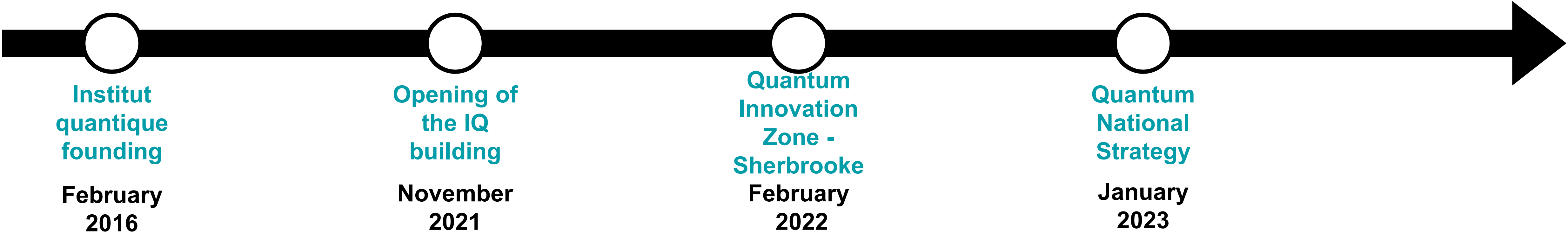
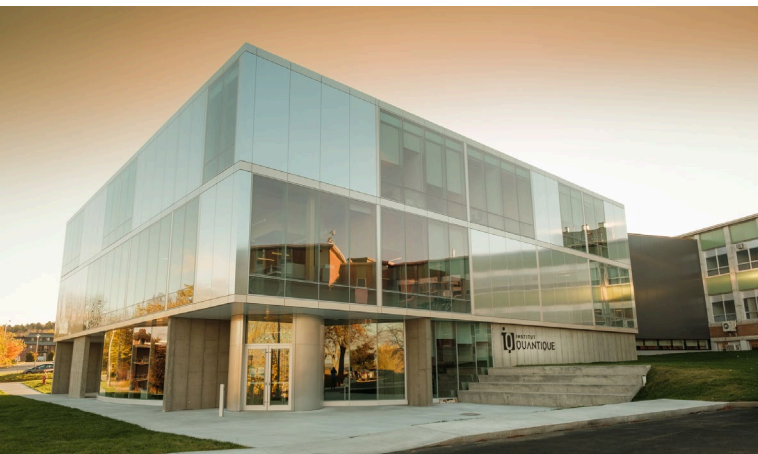
November  
2021

Quantum  
Innovation  
Zone -  
Sherbrooke

February  
2022



# Sherbrooke CFREF Sustainability Master Plan

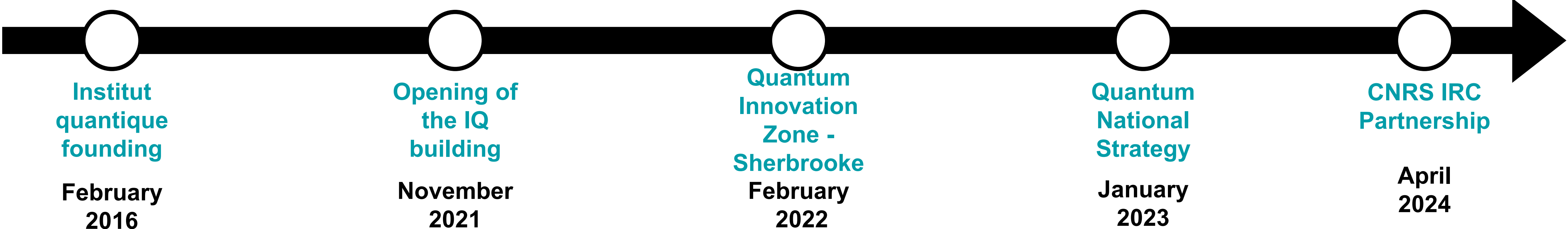
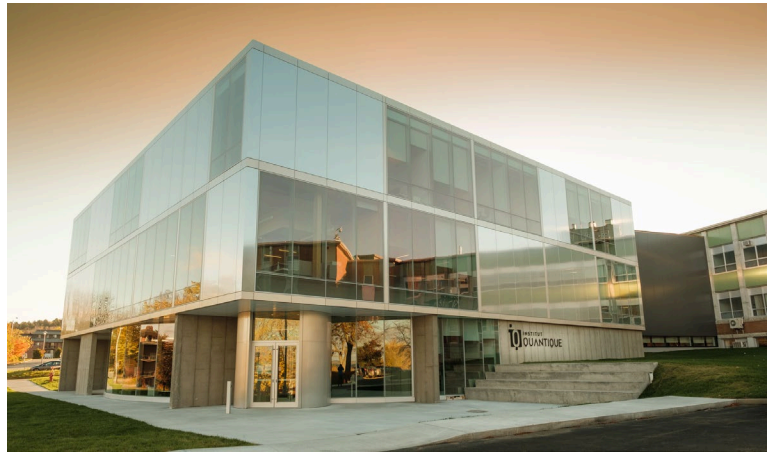




# Sherbrooke CFREF Sustainability Master Plan

## CNRS-UdeS International Research Center

International Research Center (IRC) Ongoing



# CFREF application, 10 years later

**Expected impacts** – This CFREF initiative is **more than just a research direction**; it represents the **creation of a rich and stimulating environment for world-class researchers, trainees and industry.** (...)

By the end of this initiative, we envision **blossoming quantum-based industries that will be in need of highly skilled personnel with the quantum know-how that UdeS will provide.**

## Leverage Effect for the IQ and Sherbrooke Ecosystem:

636 graduates;  
Seven Research Chairs;  
Six spin-offs;  
200 new jobs,  
\$500M in quantum investments in the region (x14 CFREF award)



**iq** INSTITUT  
QUANTIQUE

