The Digital School in Québec: Current Situation and Outlook

International Summit on the Teaching Profession

Banff, March 29, 2015

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Digital culture in Québec

- **85%** of Québec homes have Internet connections (2014)
  - 70% of these are high-speed connections

- **99.4%** of people between the ages of 18 and 34 use the Internet on a regular basis

- **96.6%** of adults with children use the Internet regularly

- **80.4%** of people between the ages of 18 and 44 have smartphones

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Context: The school in a digital society

- The prominence of today's digital media is of primary importance for the mission of Québec schools, which is to **build citizenship** and **foster equality of opportunity** so that students can successfully integrate into a vibrant and active society

- Numerous issues viewed from three complementary perspectives:
    - Education *with the help of* digital resources: educational and pedagogical issues
    - Training *in the use of* digital resources: legal and ethical issues; organizational and professional issues
    - Greater *access to digital educational tools and resources*: social and technological issues

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Context: The school in a digital society

- Competency remains a key concept in the school's transition to the digital age

- The *Québec Education Program* (QEP) defines a competency as "a set of behaviours based on the effective mobilization and use of a range of resources"

- "Uses information and communications technologies": A cross-curricular competency set out in the QEP

  - The ability to use these technologies in a thoughtful, effective, intelligent way for a variety of tasks, while demonstrating critical judgment

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The teacher as a key player in the shift to the digital school

- The scientific literature shows that access to technology does not by itself have a significant impact on learning and academic success

- Teachers' digital competence is fundamental to the successful integration of information and communication technologies into the classroom

- During their initial training, Québec's future teachers must develop competency in the integration of information and communication technologies.
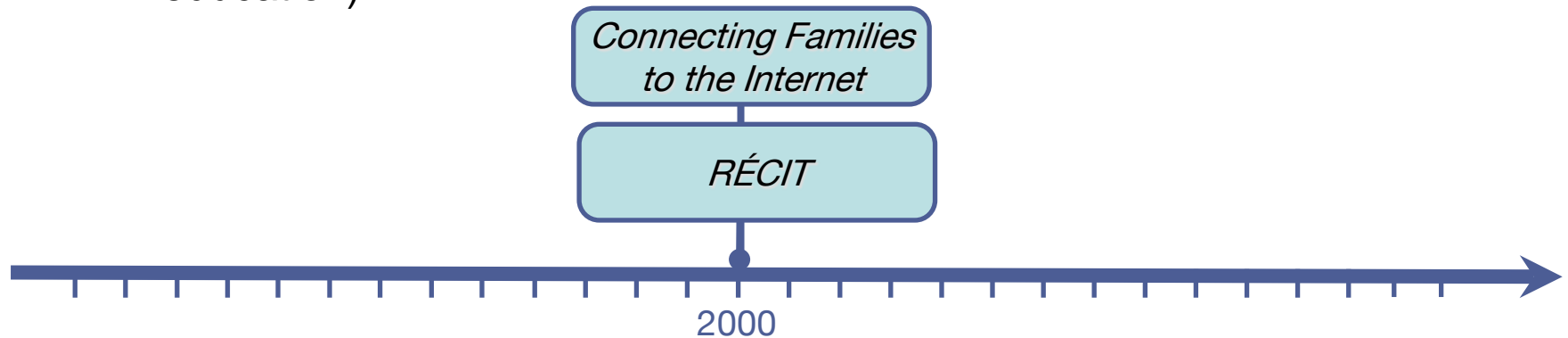
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Québec initiatives . . .

Connecting Families to the Internet

- A Québec government program intended to give families access to computers and the Internet
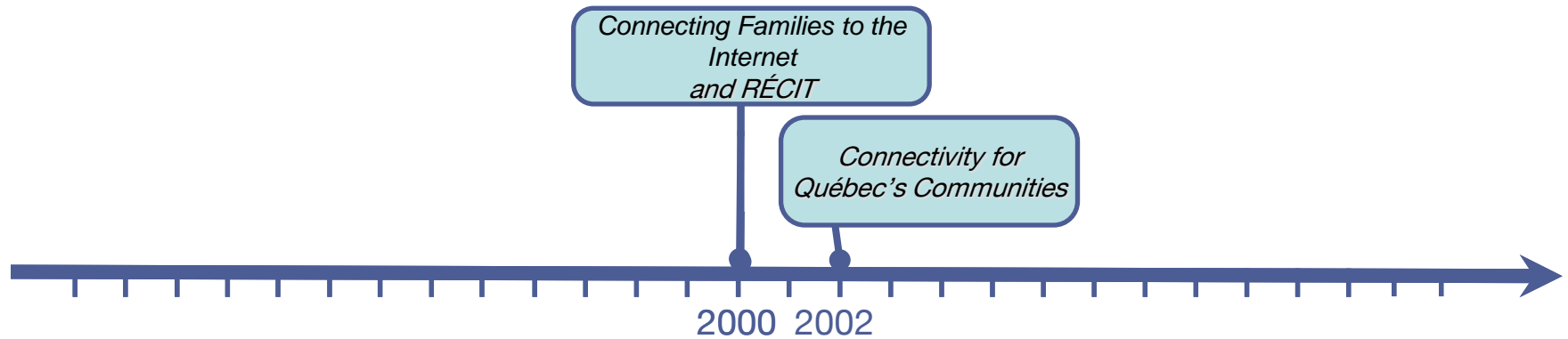
RÉCIT

- Réseau pour le développement des compétences par l'intégration des technologies ((network for competency development through the integration of technology into education)

Connecting Families to the Internet

RÉCIT

2000

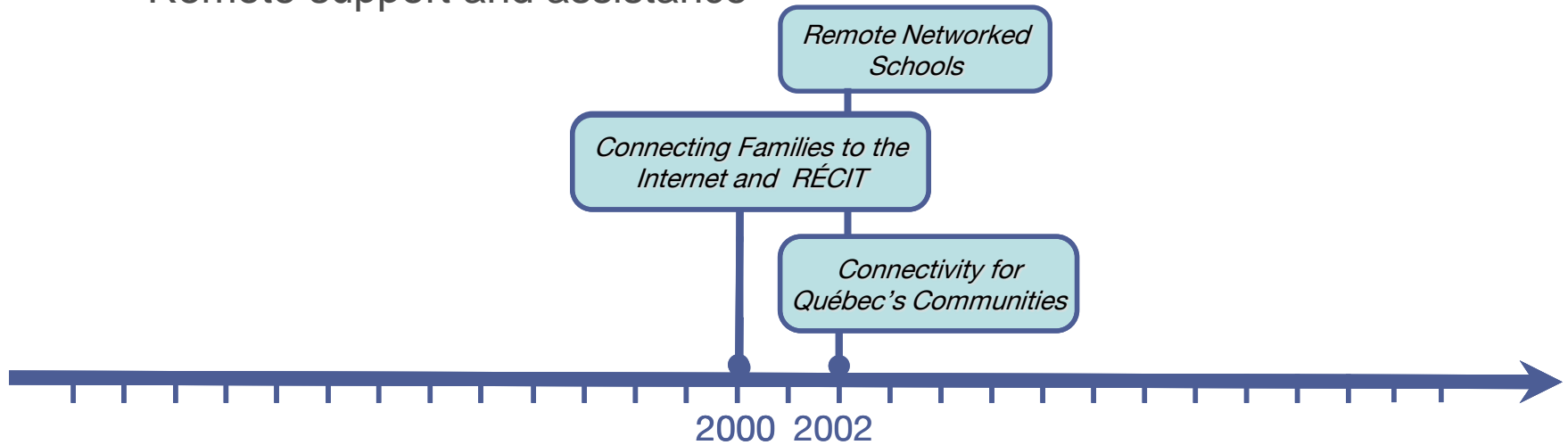# Québec initiatives . . .

Connectivity for Québec's Communities

- A program linking Québec's schools by means of a broad bandwidth telecommunications network (fibre optics)

Connecting Families to the Internet and RÉCIT

Connectivity for Québec's Communities

2000 2002

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Québec initiatives . . .

Remote Networked Schools

- Preserving small schools located in rural areas
- Creating a networked educational environment through the use of ICT
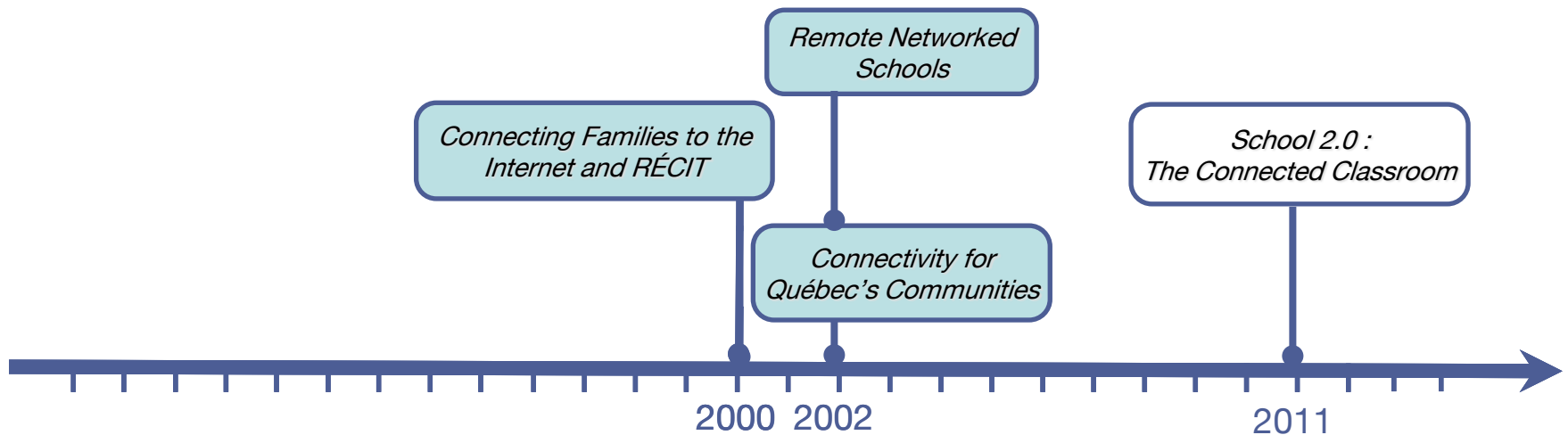- Remote support and assistance

Québec initiatives . . .
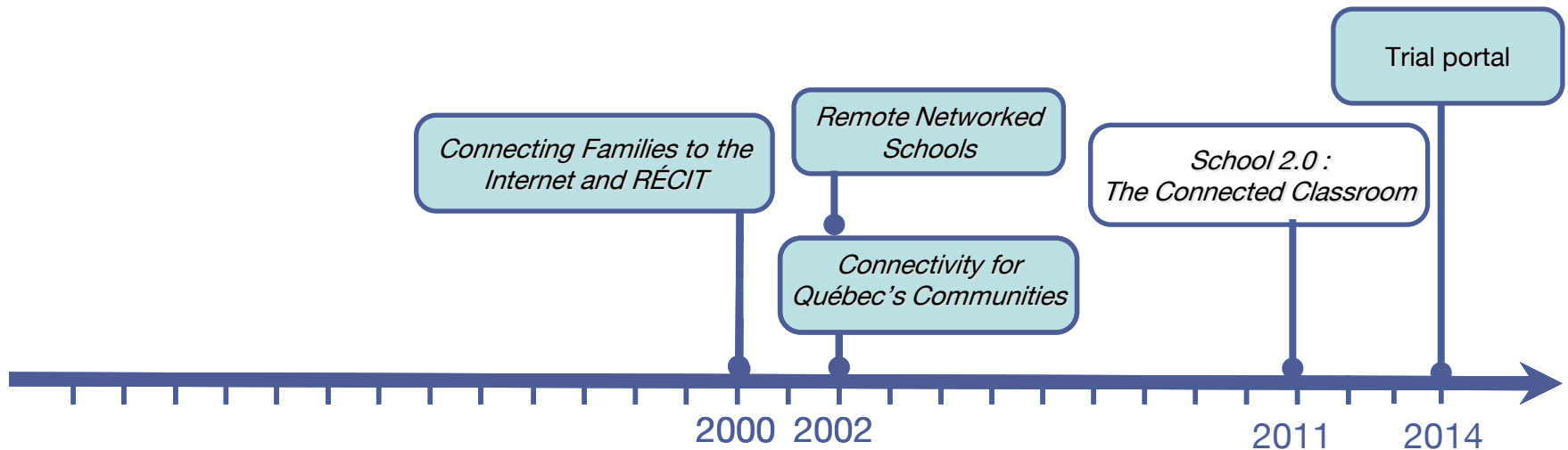
School 2.0: The Connected Classroom

- Five-year action plan
- An interactive whiteboard in all classrooms and a laptop for every teacher
- Teacher training and support; purchase of digital teaching resources

Remote Networked Schools

Connecting Families to the Internet and RÉCIT

School 2.0 : The Connected Classroom

Connectivity for Québec's Communities

2000 2002

2011

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Québec initiatives . . .

Trial portal

- Directory of educational resources and communities of practice
- Pilot projects:
  - intensive English-language program (Grade 6)
  - new history programs
  - new sexuality education program

Connecting Families to the Internet and RÉCIT

Remote Networked Schools

Connectivity for Québec's Communities

School 2.0 : The Connected Classroom

Trial portal

2000 2002   2011   2014

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Outlook . .

A common vision, shared orientations

- The ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche du Québec is currently in the process of defining a common vision and shared orientations:

  - so that Québec schools can take their place in a digital society in a creative and effective manner

  - while respecting the values of the Québec education system, which are universality, equity and accessibility

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Thank you for your attention

You have the floor!

Questions, comments?