

# OPEQ—Computers for Schools in Québec

## Bell and OPEQ: partners for more than 20 years!

In 1993, Industry Canada and the Telephone Pioneers created the Computers for Schools (CFS) program to give to schools computers the federal government no longer needed.

In 1997, Bell took over leadership of the program in Québec and became a founding member of Computers for Schools in Québec (OPEQ—Ordinateurs pour les écoles du Québec). It is under this entity that the CFS (now CFS+) program is being managed in the province.

Bell has contributed to the success of this program for more than 20 years. In addition to donating computers and other equipment, Bell is actively involved with OPEQ including by maintaining representation on the board of directors, dedicating an employee as Executive Director and by providing space for a workshop and office space for the OPEQ management team.

This close collaboration has helped OPEQ grow, becoming the most important player in the reuse of electronic equipment in Québec with 2 sorting centers (Montréal and Québec) and 6 workshops (Bellechasse, Gatineau, Montréal, Québec, Saguenay, Sherbrooke).

Through OPEQ, Bell benefits from secure, efficient and environmentally sound management of its electronic equipment surplus. OPEQ produces tax receipts for the market value of the donated equipment. Bell's donations are worth more than half a million dollars a year.



In the last 20 years, OPEQ has

- sorted millions of units of equipment (computers, servers, cell phones, printers, mice, keyboards, projectors, etc.)
- recovered more than 50,000 computers per year
- upgraded and distributed more than 315,000 refurbished computers and laptops
- provided more than 50,000 hours of training per year
- helped more than 1,800 young people gain work experience through the OPE internship program
- helped several thousand trainees to acquire skills in the field of IT
- worked with dozens of young people with physical or intellectual limitations in our sorting centers and workshops

## Donations of used equipment for reuse or recycling by Bell and its subsidiaries

(number of units donated to CFS+)

	COMPUTERS	MONITORS	PRINTERS
2018	8,802	1,022	152
2019	8,465	1,127	82
2020	5,215	482	25
<b>Cumulative total (since 1997)</b>	<b>119,000</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>4,850</b>

---

### OPEQ for the environment

OPEQ has been mandated to recover computer equipment from provincial and federal ministries as well as para-governmental and municipal agencies. OPEQ also receives equipment from Québec's major companies in industries such as technology, communications, pharmaceuticals, finance and others.

To minimize the negative environmental impacts of electronic devices, OPEQ prioritizes reuse before recycling. Thanks to the companies that have chosen OPEQ for the management of their equipment at the end of their useful life, we have refurbished more than 315,000 computers and laptops in the last 22 years, giving new life to computers that would have been discarded or recycled.


The satisfaction of donors, customers and employees is at the heart of OPEQ's mission. Work procedures are regularly revised to meet strict standards for quality, security, health and safety.

Equipment that cannot be reused is recycled by audited, certified recyclers who meet the highest standards for recycling and proper handling of materials.

---

### Giving back to the community

Since the program's inception, hundreds of thousands of computers, laptops, printers and cell phones have been refurbished and redistributed to schools, libraries and non-profit organizations. OPEQ's mission extends to other clients such as low-income families or newcomers via targeted programs to help deal with technological isolation.



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, OPEQ has been very active in the community, providing more than 16,000 computers and laptops for distance learning to thousands of students in primary/secondary schools and CEGEP's. OPEQ also managed the Québec Ministry of Education's inventory of information technology equipment during the crisis, and distributed equipment to school service centres.

---

## Training young people from all over Québec

**Diversity, equity and inclusion are at the heart of the organization's values.**

The OPE internship program provides youth with hands-on experience in information technology to help them join the job market. Several instructors or managers now employed by OPEQ in the sorting centers and workshops come from this internship program.

OPEQ also partners with professional training centers and offers a work environment that complements the classroom training and provides motivation against dropping out of school.

The organization offers an opportunity for young people with physical or intellectual limitations to gain work experience. This integration of young people in difficulty is proving rewarding for all employees.

---

## Certifications

OPEQ is among the organizations certified by the Recyclers Qualification Board as an Electronic Products Reuse and Rehabilitation Program (EPRRP). This certification allows us to work with the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA-Quebec).

OPEQ is also certified ISO 14001:2015. This environmental standard certifies that the organization acts proactively in controlling its environmental risks.

OPEQ is recognized by "ICI on recycle +", a program from RECYC-QUEBEC, as a certified Elite member, the highest level of recognition.

Please visit us at [www.opeq.qc.ca](http://www.opeq.qc.ca)