

## DIGITAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN QUEBEC

### Coding in the Classroom with Dash & mBot Case Study



#### AT A GLANCE

##### Challenges

- Adapt to Digital Revolution
- Implement More Coding into the Classroom

##### Benefits

- Variety
- Knowledgeable
- Support



*We are excited to be a part of the digital transformation within the education system in Quebec. The Dash and mBot products are very popular amongst teachers and students alike due to their ease of use and learning potential. Coding and the principals it teaches are an important part of skill development and we look forward to the next phase of this project."*

**Pierre Brault**

President BB

#### THE CHALLENGE

In the spring of 2018, Quebec's Ministry of Education announced a Digital Action Plan for Elementary and Higher Education. A total of \$1.2 billion was granted to implement the plan which will continue until 2023. It was developed by government in recognition of the fact that teaching and higher education are the keys in enabling Quebec to adapt to the emerging digital revolution.

Coding in the classroom became one of the tenants of this plan and was viewed as a pedagogical tool aimed at fostering the development of computational thinking and education success. The ministry soon began its evaluation of technology tools that could help teachers and students achieve these goals.

#### THE SOLUTION

Logics Academy and Brault & Bouthillier (BB) in Quebec, worked together to present a variety of robotic and coding solutions to elementary and secondary school directors, pedagogical counsellors, recit leaders and other key influencers. They attended conventions and held training sessions and workshops to provide knowledge to the educators about several robotic platforms and the curriculum support available for each.

At the end of the review process, 3 key products were listed on the tender: Makeblock's mBot and Ranger and Wonder Workshop's Dash robots. Wonder Packs and Cue from Wonder Workshop were also selected.

#### THE RESULTS

In the summer of 2018, over 5000 of these robots were delivered to various schools across Quebec and in September, teacher training began. Dash has been integrated into all grades within Elementary schools and is one of the leading coding platforms. The products selected for this project met several key criteria. They were age/grade appropriate, used block based programming, were institutional quality, French software was available, and they provided scaffolded learning opportunities.