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Mme Paquet has previously worked in other government departments and in academia. In academia, she taught economics at the School of Management at the University of Ottawa. She worked in the Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch, and in the International Trade and Finance Branch, at Finance Canada. Mme Paquet was the Director of Operations, Economic and Regional Development Policy Secretariat at the Privy Council Office, providing policy advice to the Clerk of the Privy Council and the Prime Minister on a wide range of economic and regional development issues. She also worked at Transport Canada on the coordination of the policy response to the Lac-Mégantic tragedy. Mme Paquet received her PhD in Econometrics from Université Laval jointly with Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne.