

Québec

IN EUROPE

IN BRUSSELS
SINCE 1972



A UNIQUE DIPLOMACY



Québec's international action is based on the extension of its powers and in areas within its constitutional jurisdiction. Thus, economic development, culture, health, education, agriculture, the environment, natural resources and immigration are all sectors where it operates internationally and collaborates directly with States all over the world. Québec has already reached more than 700 international agreements with foreign governments.



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Festival international de jazz de Montréal, place des Festivals

Port of Montréal

QUÉBEC



Population

- Second largest province in Canada (8.5 million people, or 23% of the Canadian population).
- A vast territory of 1 667 712 km².



Language

- French is the official language. Nearly 80% of the population is French-speaking.
- 45% of the population speak French and English.
- 150 languages are spoken.



Francophonie

- Québec is a full member of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), as are six European Union (EU) Member States.



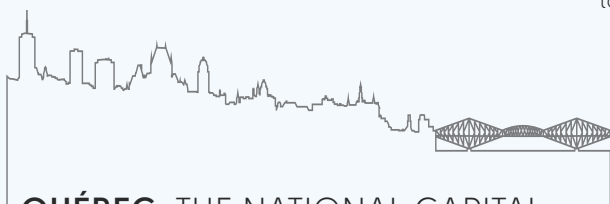
Economic assets

- A business environment offering a skilled workforce, a stable and affordable supply of clean and renewable energy and a strategic geographic position in North America.
- A diverse and booming network of startups: the Montreal ecosystem brings together more than 1,300 of them alone.
- 99,8 % of companies in Québec are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (under 500 employees according to the criteria used in Québec). They provide 92 % of the private sector jobs.
- An egalitarian society with an employment rate of 83.4 % among women aged 25 to 54, thus ranking second among 32 OECD states (31 countries and Québec).



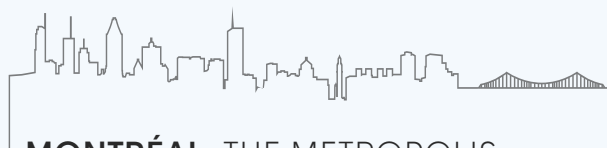
Trade relations with Europe

- The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entered into force provisionally in September 2017.
- Québec played a decisive role in launching the negotiations and actively participated in the talks.
- The EU is Québec's second largest trade partner. Trade relations have increased by 10.5% in 2018.
- 143 geographical indications are protected under CETA.
- 33 billion dollars (nearly 25 billion euros) in 2018 in Québec-EU trade, or 30% of Canada-EU trade.
- The EU exports more than \$22.6 billion (over €15 billion) annually in goods to Québec, representing 34% of European exports to Canada.



QUÉBEC: THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

- Cradle of French America, its historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- With over 6,000 researchers and associates, it is home to one of the highest concentrations of research and technology transfer centres in Canada.



MONTREAL: THE METROPOLIS

- A true creative open-air lab, Montréal is the second-largest consular city in North America, after New York, and has the second-largest pool of university students on the continent.
- It is also home to more than 70 international organizations, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and four United Nations agencies.



Research and innovation

- Funding programs for Québec researchers to participate in Horizon Europe consortia.
- 29% of research and development jobs in Canada are in Québec.
- Funding agencies under the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ):
 - » Health (FRQS);
 - » Nature and technology (FRQNT);
 - » Society and culture (FRQSC).
- International collaboration modalities:
 - » Transnational calls for proposals (ERA-NET);
 - » Research and innovation missions abroad;
 - » International research and innovation projects.
- Québec's priority areas:
 - » Artificial intelligence, Big Data and quantum technology;
 - » Life sciences, medical technology and health care (genomics, neuroscience and infectious diseases);
 - » Renewable energy and clean technology;
 - » Aerospace.



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- International Centre of Expertise for the Advancement of AI through the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in Montréal.
- Supply Chain Super Cluster (SCALE.AI), in Montréal.
- Montréal Declaration for the Responsible Development of AI, Université de Montréal.
- International Observatory on the Societal Impacts of AI and Digital, Université Laval.
- Montréal is Canada's leading city for research and development investments in AI.



Environment

- Québec has the lowest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita in Canada.
- Québec has a GHG cap and trade system that covers 85% of emissions, tied to California's, under the Western Climate Initiative, since 2014.
- More than 99% of the electricity produced in Québec comes from renewable sources.
- One of the world's leader hydropower producer and the largest in North America.
- Québec is the province with the highest number of electric cars (nearly 45% of the total fleet in Canada).



Northern and Arctic Affairs

- Québec participates in the Arctic Circle and the Arctic Council as part of the Canadian delegation.
- It collaborates with the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- The Institut nordique du Québec consolidates Québec's expertise in Northern and Arctic research.



Seaway

- The St. Lawrence River is the most important waterway in North America and provides direct access to the continent all year round.
- The Port of Montréal is part of the international network of intelligent chainPORT ports.

QUÉBEC AND EUROPE



Pierre-Luc Desgagné
Delegate General

Since June 2019, I have had the honour and pleasure of representing Québec in Brussels. Québec has 33 representations around the world, nine of which are located in Europe: Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels, London, Munich, Paris (where the representations to UNESCO and the OIF also have their headquarters) and Rome.

Inaugurated in 1972, the Québec General Delegation in Brussels has the mandate to ensure the influence of Québec and the promotion of its interests with the European institutions, as well as in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The Government of Québec works closely with the European institutions on a number of issues, including climate change, the environment, electrification of transportation, Arctic and Northern affairs, and maritime affairs. In addition, research and innovation is an area of collaboration that is intensifying from year to year, especially in artificial intelligence.

This is an especially exciting context to work in, and I will be looking to strengthen collaboration between Québec and Europe, a collaboration that is based on shared values.

Please do not hesitate to contact our team!

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