

Québec

where it's at

Investing in Québec's  
Mining Sector

Québec 

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**Note to the reader**

The information presented in the report is the most recent available at the time it was written in the fall of 2025. It is indicative and has no legal value.

Notably, the Mining Act and the Mining Regulation must be consulted to comply with the most up-to-date normative framework.

- [Legislative amendment](#)
- [Mining Act](#)
- [Mining regulation](#)

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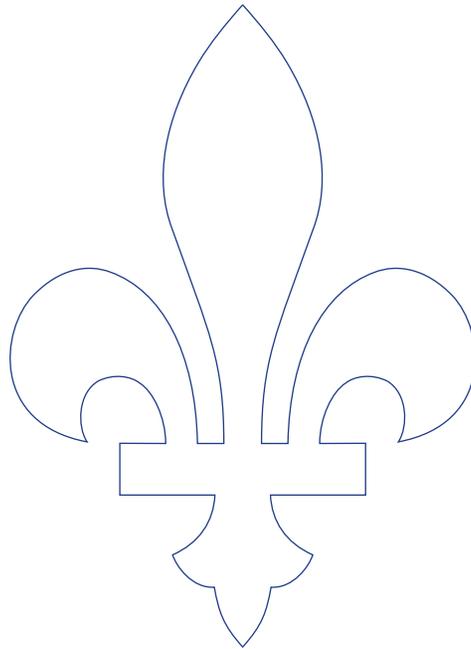
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# Investing in Québec's Mining Sector



**Financing at every stage of the projects**



**Diversified mineral resources and extensive public databases**



**Willingness to facilitate project delivery**



**Development of integrated sectors**



**Sustainable and responsible partner**



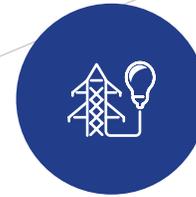
**Advantageous tax system**



**Stable and predictable legal framework**



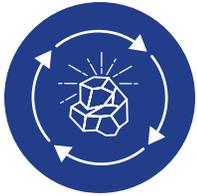
**Complete R&D ecosystem**



**Clean and renewable energy**



**Vast infrastructure network**



**Circular economy  
principles integrated  
into value chains**



**Leading-edge  
expertise and skilled  
workforce**



**Partnerships  
with Indigenous  
Nations**

# Québec's mining sector by the numbers

## A booming market



**40**

mining projects that produced a new techno-economic study  
(2019-2024)



**8%**

in shipment value  
(2019-2023)



**274%**

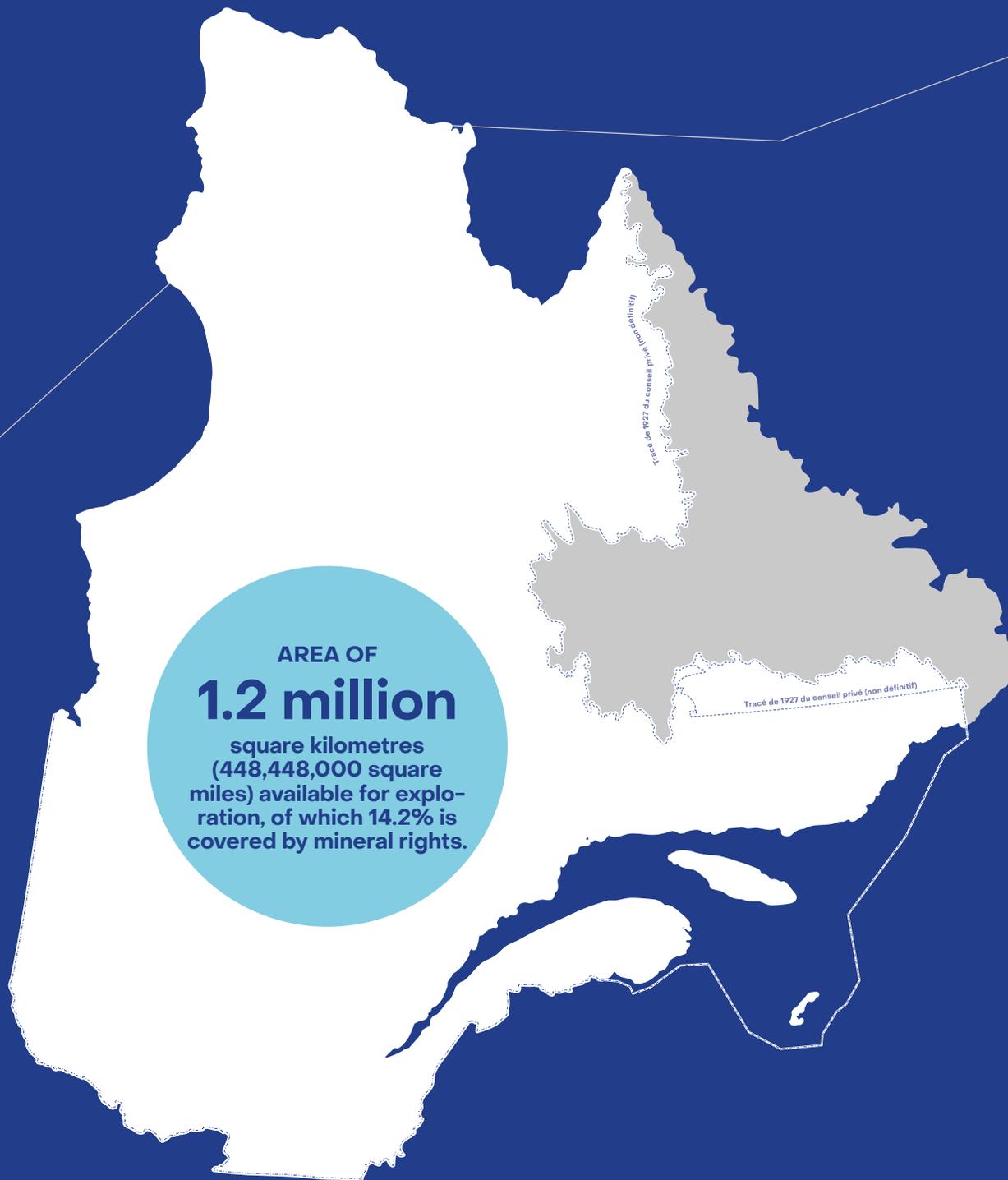
expenditures on exploration and development of critical and strategic minerals  
(2019-2024)



**over 20**

primary processing plants using Québec mineral resources as raw material

With 23 metallic and non-metallic substances produced, Québec is the largest producer of high-purity lithium and iron in Canada as well as the only producer of graphite. It is also North America's only producer of niobium, scandium and gallium.



**20+**  
producing mines\*

\* This number excludes quarries and sand pits exploiting surface mineral substances.



**50+**  
mining projects that have reached the deposit appraisal stage



**1,100+**  
mineral exploration projects



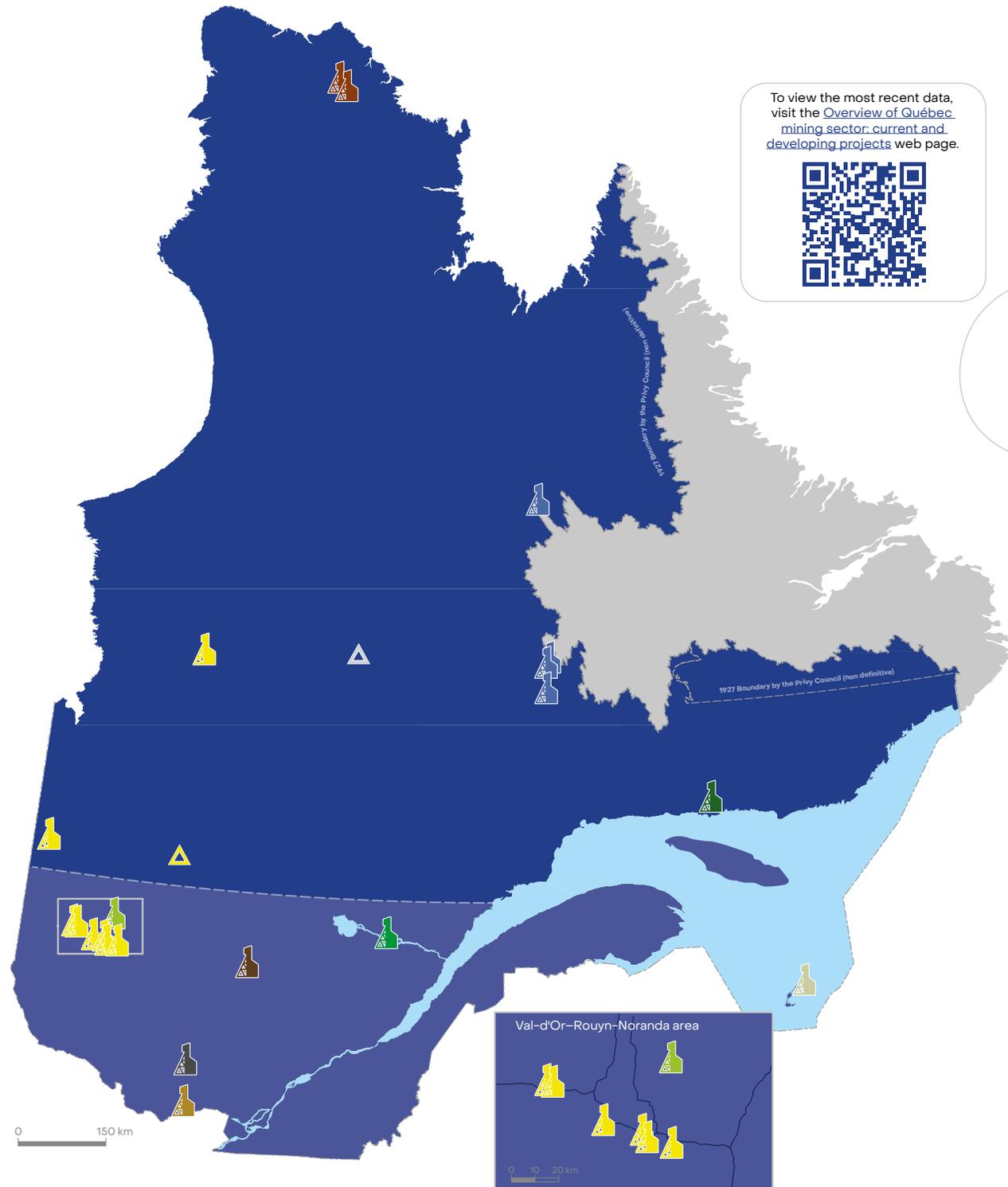
**6.2 billion**  
in private mining investments (2024)



**12.8 billion**  
billion in shipment value (2023)

## Producing Mines and Mines in Care and Maintenance

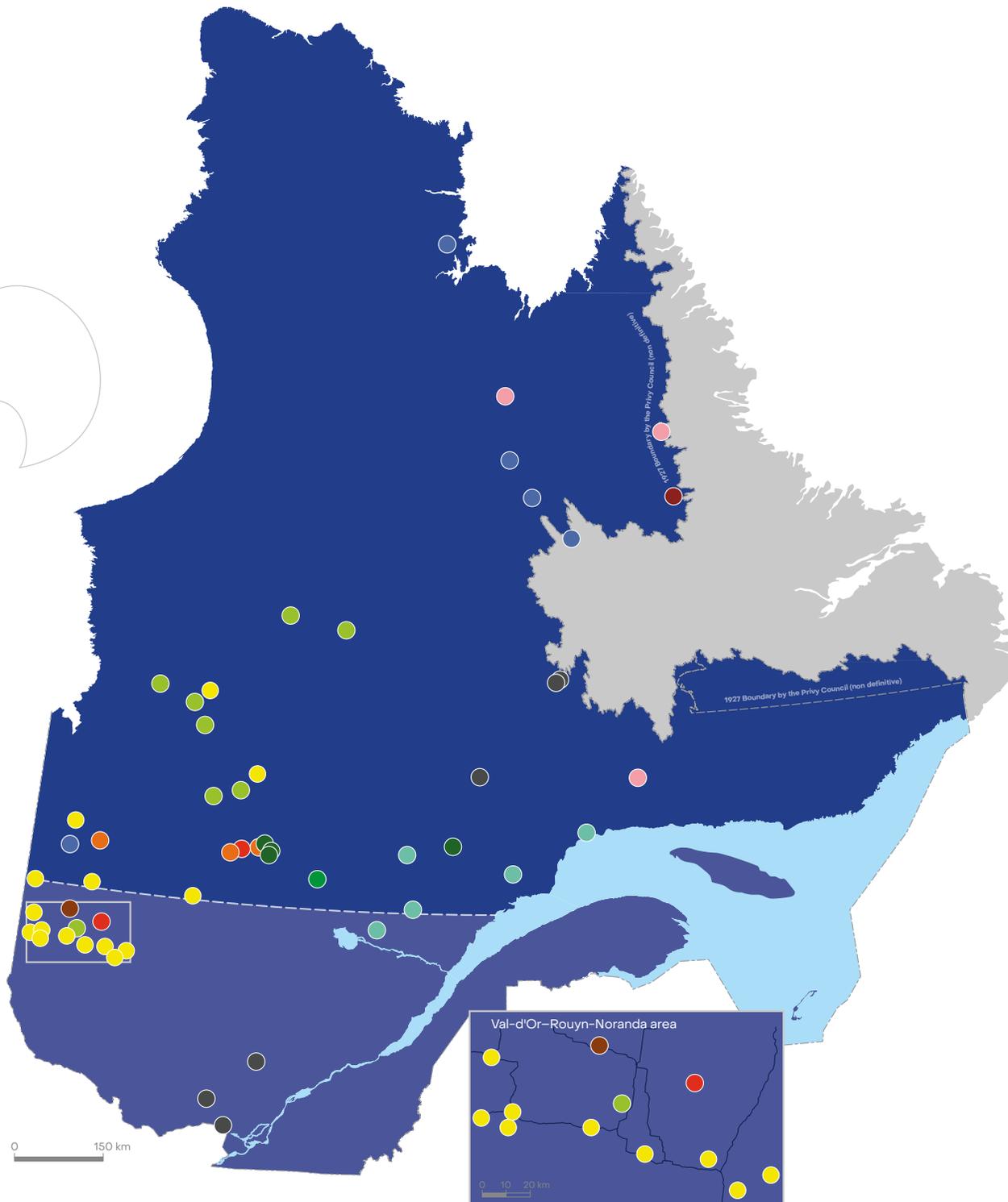
PRODUCING MINES	
	Feldspar
	Iron
	Lithium
	Graphite
	Mica
	Nickel
	Niobium
	Gold
	Salt
	Titanium
MINES IN CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
	Diamond
	Gold
	Territory of application of the Société du Plan Nord



Source: SIGÉOM  
Date: Fall 2025

## Mining Projects

	<b>Copper</b>
	<b>Iron</b>
	<b>Graphite</b>
	<b>Lithium</b>
	<b>Nickel</b>
	<b>Niobium</b>
	<b>Gold</b>
	<b>Phosphate</b>
	<b>Scandium</b>
	<b>Rare earths</b>
	<b>Titanium, vanadium and iron</b>
	<b>Zinc</b>
	<b>Territory of application of the Société du Plan Nord</b>



Source: SIGÉOM  
Date: Fall 2025

# Rich in minerals and business opportunities

## 150 YEARS OF GEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

**Québec has significant mining potential that accounts for one fifth of Canada's mineral production. The province produces and develops about 30 commodities, making it the most diverse resource base in Canada.**

**Québec offers the most diversified mineral production in Canada.**

Growing sectors such as telecommunications, clean and renewable energy, the biomedical field and electric vehicles, as well as the commitment to decarbonization of the economy, are putting strong pressure on procurement of resources that have, until now, been exploited sparsely or not at all in Western countries.

Québec contributes to supplying critical and strategic minerals, since it produces nickel, niobium, lithium, graphite, copper, zinc, cobalt

and platinum group elements and mining projects are underway for vanadium, rare earth elements, tantalum and phosphate.

Thanks to its geographical location, Québec is strategically close to large population basins and industrial centres, and has easy access to Europe and Asia through its deepwater ports.

Québec also benefits from great collaboration from associations representing the mining sector and with communities that host projects. These communities are natural project partners and work with the Government to develop the mining sector and promote it while respecting the principles of sustainable development and best practices recognized for favouring social acceptability.

The acquisition of new geoscientific knowledge throughout the territory is a key component of mining development in Québec. To achieve this, the government invests nearly \$15 million on average annually to acquire, process, and publish geological data.

For the past 30 years, Québec has been perfecting and developing the [SIGÉOM](#)<sup>1</sup> (Québec geomining information system) database which contains geoscientific

information collected over more than a century by the mining industry and the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF).

An Internet portal with an interactive map provides access to the database, which is one of the most comprehensive in the world.

Prospective zones for exploration, discovered during the MRNF's annual work, are published on the Internet in the [Bulletin géologiQUE](#)<sup>2</sup> (geological bulletin), which renews and enhances the traditional geological report by using all the benefits of the Web. The Bulletin GéologiQUE is also available in English.

## Exploring blindly?

Not in Québec, where the government invests nearly \$15M a year on average to acquire, process and disseminate its geological data in SIGÉOM, one of the most comprehensive and accessible interactive databases in the world.

## Some key figures:

- **11,048,000 descriptions of outcrops;**
- **184,000 location and description of drillings;**
- **1,016,000 sample analyses;**
- **88,000 reports;**
- **10 600 description of showings, including 280 deposits (with estimated mineral resources).**

# THE QUÉBEC MINES + ÉNERGIE CONVENTION

For over 45 years, the annual [Québec Mines + Énergie](#)<sup>3</sup> convention has been the most anticipated event of the year for stakeholders involved in developing Québec's mining industry. Its objectives are to provide opportunities for cutting-edge knowledge exchange, open business opportunities, fuel innovation and to promote Québec's mineral potential from a sustainable development perspective.

**Québec hosts an annual convention where high-calibre speakers have gathered for over 45 years, confirming their leadership in this area.**

The Convention addresses all the spheres of mining development, including geosciences, exploration, mining operation, processing, circular economy, social acceptability, Indigenous affairs, redevelopment and reclamation of mine sites, and the most recent advances in these fields. It is a forum for meetings and exchanges among key mining stakeholders from the scientific, economic and industrial sectors, research and education, as well as local and Indigenous communities. The MRNF takes this opportunity to release the latest results of its geological knowledge acquisition fieldworks.

The Convention also addresses themes relating to development of the energy transition, a theme inseparable from the mining sector's issues.

Workshops and short courses related to the mining sector complete a rich and diversified program for participants.

The event is held annually in November at the Centre des congrès de Québec (Québec City Convention Centre).

**QMÉ**  
Québec Mines+Énergie



# Critical and strategic minerals: Québec's vital role

**Over the past five years, Critical and Strategic Minerals (CMS) have evolved from a sectoral issue to a global geopolitical priority. The electrification of transport, the energy transition and the digitization of the economy have led to an explosion in demand for lithium, graphite, nickel, rare earths and other essential metals.**

The major economic powers have all adopted strategies to secure their supplies, which places resource-rich territories, such as Québec, in an unprecedented strategic position. Adopted in 2020, the Québec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals (QPDCSM) made Québec the first jurisdiction in Canada to adopt a specific action plan for these resources. The results are tangible:

- growth in exploration investments and multiplication of development projects throughout the territory;
- strengthening of the ecosystem with the establishment of round tables, targeted funding programs and innovation initiatives;
- increased recognition of Québec as a trusted partner on the international scene, in particular through bilateral agreements and transformation projects that are coming to fruition;
- awareness-raising of local and Indigenous communities, based on constructive dialogue aimed at social acceptability and sharing of economic benefits.

In more concrete terms, the QPDCSM has supported various projects that have promoted advances in the eventual production of CSMs or in increasing the production of CSMs extracted as by-products or from tailings. These include scandium or gallium that are or will be produced in Québec. Tellurium and magnesium have also been the subject of initiatives supported by the QPDCSM. A research chair on magnesium has also been created as part of this plan.

## An eye-catching track record:

- **1st in Canada to launch a plan for the development of critical and strategic minerals;**
- **1st producer of high-purity scandium oxide in North America;**
- **#1 producer of niobium in the Northern Hemisphere;**
- **#1 producer of graphite in Canada;**
- **Over 50% of lithium projects in Canada.**



## VISIONARY AND COHERENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

**Québec has implemented a set of visionary and coherent government policies to support the development of CSMs and actively contribute to the global energy transition. These policies are based on a shared vision, that of creating a predictable and attractive business environment, while ensuring that the development of mining and industrial activity is done in a responsible, sustainable and inclusive manner.**

**Québec is a reliable, ethical, responsible and sustainable partner for the supply of critical and strategic minerals. This reputation contributes to the outreach of the companies that establish their projects there.**

### **Québec Strategy for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals**

The [Québec Strategy for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals](#)<sup>4</sup> builds on the achievements of the QPDCSM. This government strategy creates a stable, predictable and competitive business environment, where projects can develop and come to fruition.

By focusing on accelerating the production start-up of mining projects, local mineral processing and infrastructure development as well as incentive financial tools, Québec is reducing risks and promoting a climate conducive to sustainable investments.

**The Strategy is structured around a number of key objectives, including the following:**

- Offer a competitive business environment;
- Support the realization of new projects;
- Develop responsible value chains;
- Plan and develop strategic transport infrastructure and corridors;
- Maximize economic benefits for host communities;
- Engage partners.

## Québec strategy for development of the battery industry

With its raw materials and know-how, Québec has everything it takes to make one of the world's most responsible batteries. The development of this sector seeks to strengthen Québec's position as a global supplier of batteries, from extraction of raw materials to manufacturing of key components, and integration into a North American battery recycling logistics chain.

**Québec has all the minerals and raw materials necessary for battery production, particularly lithium, nickel, cobalt and graphite.**

The [Québec strategy for development of the battery industry](#)<sup>5</sup> has three streams:

- 1— Mine and process Québec critical and strategic minerals to manufacture batteries and their components;
- 2— Produce commercial electric vehicles.
- 3— Develop battery recycling with avant-garde Québec technologies.

## Plan for a Green Economy: Framework Policy on Electrification and the Fight Against Climate Change

Québec's [Plan for a Green Economy 2030 \(PGE\)](#)<sup>6</sup> will contribute to achieving the GHG reduction target, and will strengthen Québec's capacity to adapt to the consequences of climate change.

The government's vision is clear: make the fight against climate change a major lever for economic development and international outreach. That vision is rooted in the electrification of Québec's economy, the development of our other renewable energy resources, and the emergence of new cutting-edge economic sectors that create quality jobs.

The 2030 PGE also proposes important measures for the energy transition of the mining sector, including the improvement of certain programs to replace fossil energy by clean energy sources, the reduction of GHG emissions of the industrial sector, and research and development for carbon sequestration.

## DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED SECTORS

To take full advantage of its CSM potential, Québec is focusing on the development of integrated value chains that cover the entire value cycle, from exploration and extraction to processing, recycling and marketing. With a diversified mineral potential, eight mines producing CSMs, nearly thirty mining projects targeting these substances and more than twenty primary processing plants using Québec mineral resources as raw material, Québec has the resources and expertise to support the development of integrated sectors. In addition to active plants processing a number of Québec ores, including copper, zinc, titanium slag, scandium oxide, silicon and ferroniobium, projects are currently under development or construction to process lithium, graphite, apatite, nickel and rare earths.

Several sectors are already taking shape, illustrating this integrated vision, notably batteries, rare earths and advanced materials for cutting-edge technologies. Together, they help create a cohesive ecosystem and drive innovation.

## Québec battery sector

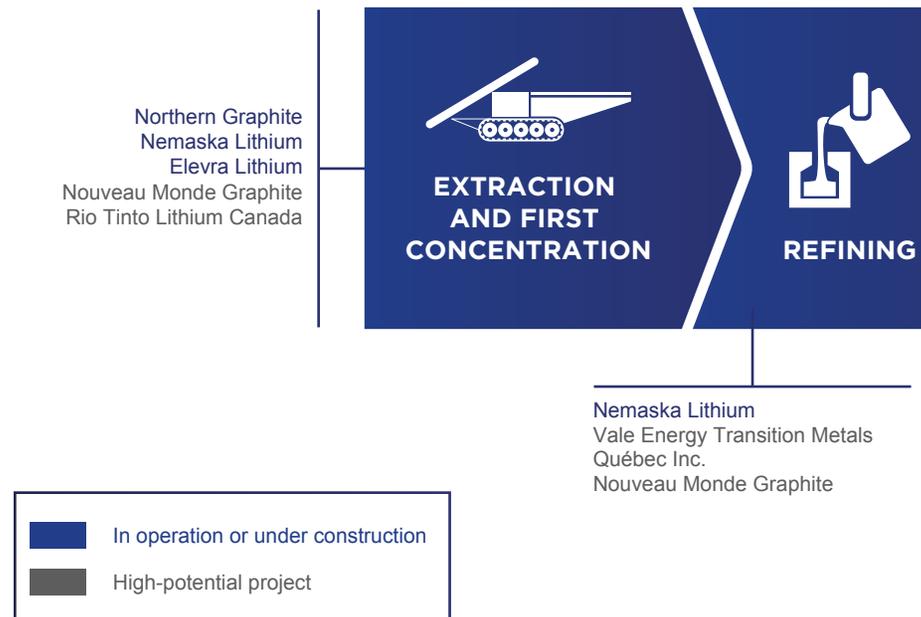
The government supports an integrated, eco-responsible and structured strategy to make the Québec battery industry a model of the circular economy. The development of this sector aims to contribute to and benefit from the decarbonization of transport undertaken by the main industrialized countries. This development is based on the abundance of CSMs, clean electricity from renewable sources, high environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards, the rich industrial ecosystem and the research network in Québec.

Several diversified and innovative projects are present throughout the battery value chain. The implementation of projects at every link of this chain is giving Québec an advantage within this sector of the future in North America. Major investments and the creation of many high-quality jobs are the result of the deployment of the battery industry in Québec.

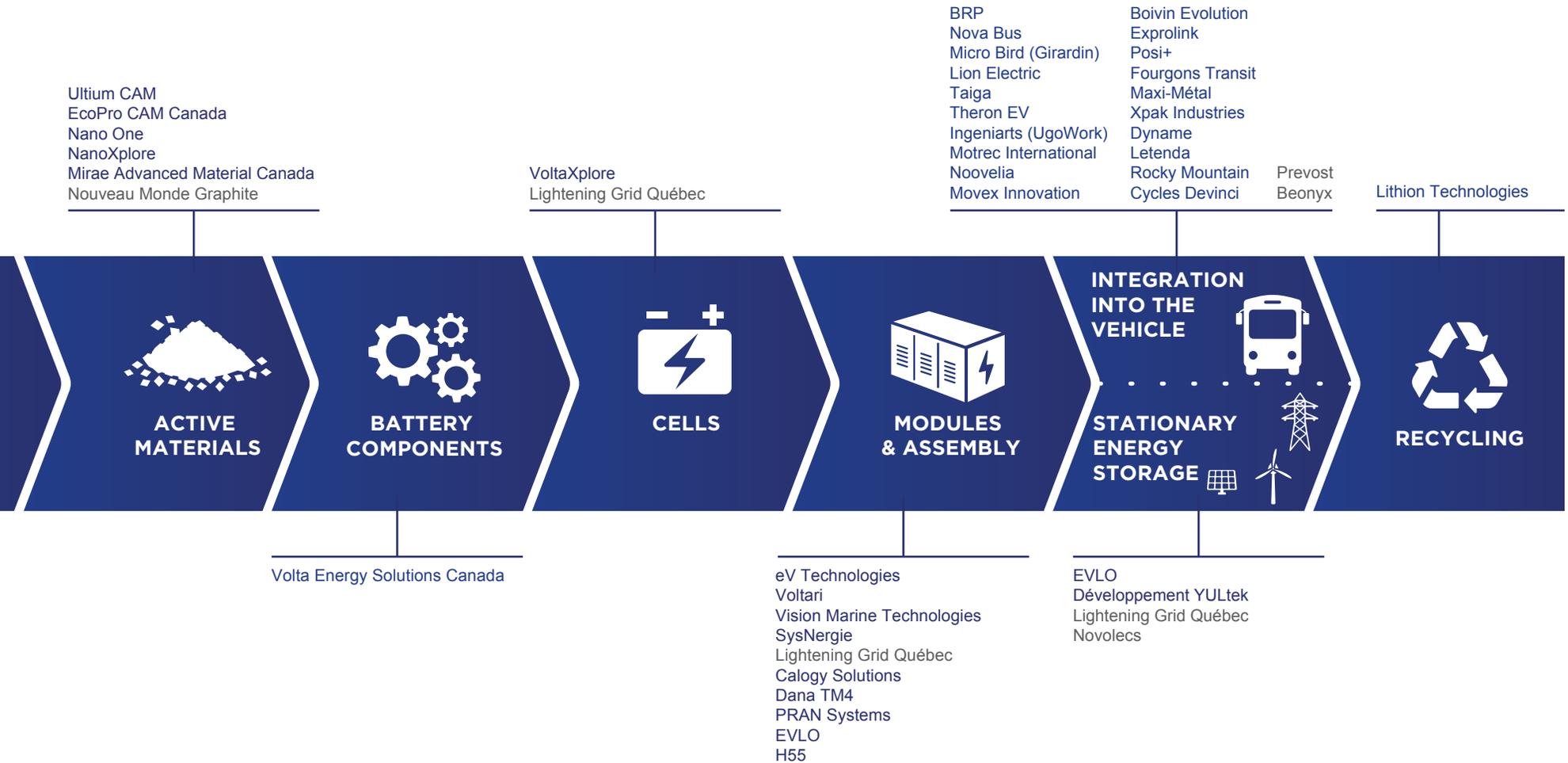
The battery sector is notably enabling Québec to propel its economy towards the secondary or

even tertiary transformation of its natural resources. It remains a strategic and structuring sector of activity whose economic benefits will be favorable for Québec and its regions for several decades to come.

### Diversified and innovative projects throughout the value cycle



Source: Investissement Québec, 2025. This is an overview of companies operating in Québec. Some companies may not be included in this list.



# A partner in your investments

**In a context where all the stakeholders and partners of the mining sector work in close collaboration, the Gouvernement du Québec is able to support developers and companies actively through Government corporations and their divisions and subsidiaries:**

- Investissement Québec;
- SOQUEM;
- Société du Plan Nord;
- Société de développement de la Baie-James;
- NQ investissement minier.

**The Gouvernement du Québec has custom-made financial tools to support and accompany mining projects at every stage of their development.**

## INVESTISSEMENT QUÉBEC

With its mission of actively participating in Québec's economic development, [Investissement Québec](#)<sup>7</sup> is a key partner for businesses. The organization offers two types of services: financing and support. In both cases, the support offered to companies is tailored to their objectives, whether growth, increased productivity and competitiveness, innovation, development of local and international markets or sustainable transition. Aligned with the organization's economic development mission, the support offered to Québec companies helps them grow from small to medium-sized, and then from medium-sized to large.

Investissement Québec is the entry point of businesses wishing to invest in the natural resources and energy sectors. The organization supports them at every stage of their development with financing as well as support in terms of business consulting, technological transformation and workforce strategies. It offers a full range of financial products, such as equity investments in companies, debentures and various forms of loans.



**1,200 EXPERTS**



**+30 OFFICES**



**19 COUNTRIES**



**6 CANADIAN CITIES**

Moreover, Investissement Québec complements private financing by favouring projects that have favourable yield prospects and that are structuring for the Québec economy.

The organization also acts as manager of the Natural Resources and Energy Capital Fund, which has a budget of \$1.5 billion.

An [investment policy](#)<sup>8</sup> specifies the major orientations that guide the analysis of the projects, the investment and disinvestment decisions and management of the Fund.

Finally, through [Investissement Québec International](#)<sup>9</sup>, the organization provides concrete support to companies in their export efforts and conducts prospecting activities to attract foreign investment to Québec.

## SOQUEM

The [Société québécoise d'exploration minière \(SOQUEM\)](#)<sup>10</sup>, a subsidiary of Investissement Québec, is a leading player in mineral exploration on Québec's territory. It capitalizes on innovation, research, and strategic minerals.

SOQUEM's mission is to encourage exploration, discovery, and deposit appraisal of Québec's mineral resources. It has participated in and contributed to the startup of hundreds of projects that led to major discoveries of gold, diamonds, lithium, niobium, rare earths and several other mineral commodities, which makes it one of the most prolific exploration companies in Québec. SOQUEM's discoveries have led to the production launch of several mines, three of which are currently producing mines, and contributed to the creation of more than 1,000 jobs in Québec.



# \$1.5 billion

**The Natural Resources and Energy Capital Fund allows the Gouvernement du Québec to acquire equity in companies developing structuring projects, particularly in the mining sector.**

## SOCIÉTÉ DU PLAN NORD

The northern territory, which extends north of the 49th parallel, then north of the St. Lawrence River and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, represents 72% of Québec's area and contains lithium, vanadium, nickel, cobalt, graphite, rare earths, platinum group elements, zinc, iron, ilmenite, gold, copper, phosphate and diamonds.

**Endowed with a sophisticated knowledge of northern issues, the Société du Plan Nord plays a facilitating role in research and deployment of solutions adapted to the specificities of this territory, which harbours rich mineral potential.**

The [Société du Plan Nord](#)<sup>11</sup> is a government corporation with the mission to contribute to the integrated and coherent development of Québec's northern territory, in concert with the representatives of the regions and the Indigenous Nations concerned, as well as the private sector. The corporation plays a major role in supporting the communities, businesses and organizations that carry out projects in the territory. It is also the key forum for the deployment of the Gouvernement du Québec's [Northern Action Plan 2023-2028](#)<sup>12</sup>. As a result of the efforts of all partners, a total investment of \$2.56 billion is planned by March 31, 2028, for sustainable development in the territory.

Moreover, the corporation works to facilitate access to the territory, whether by land, sea, or air (see the section [A vast infrastructure network](#) for more information). It also prioritizes improvement of telecommunications infrastructure, particularly to favour the shift to digital transformation (Mining 4.0). Finally, it is interested in the recruitment and skills development of the local workforce, including the Indigenous workforce, and contributes to deployment of the winning conditions to allow the populations to fully inhabit their northern territory.

## SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA BAIE-JAMES

The mission of the [Société de développement de la Baie-James](#) (SDBJ)<sup>13</sup> is to promote, from a sustainable development perspective, economic development, improvement, and exploitation of natural resources of the James Bay region, other than the hydroelectric resources within Hydro-Québec's mandate. SDBJ may generate, support, and participate in projects in the pursuit of those objectives. It favours concerted action with the other partners in the territory. It intervenes in economic development and management of road and airport infrastructure by facilitating business projects in the region and supporting them (see the section [A vast infrastructure network](#) to learn more).

## NQ Investissement minier

SDBJ supports the economic development of the James Bay region by making investments, in particular for structuring and profitable business projects in various economic sectors.

The SDBJ and the James Bay Regional Government joined forces in 2023 to form [NQ Investissement minier](#)<sup>14</sup>, an investment fund specializing in mining company financing.

NQIM's mission is to promote the development, mining and exploitation of mineral resources in the Nord-du-Québec region with a view to sustainable and responsible development.

It has three objectives:

- Promote the mineral potential of Nord-du-Québec in order to increase the number of junior companies active in responsible mining exploration in the territory of Nord-du-Québec;
- Increase total investments in mineral exploration in the territory of Nord-du-Québec;
- Encourage good practices in sustainable development.

# An attractive business environment

**The Gouvernement du Québec favours the realization of economic development projects and investments by maintaining a more attractive and competitive business environment for foreign investors, which is based on:**

- an advantageous tax system;
- a stable and predictable legal framework;
- a willingness to facilitate project delivery;
- a skilled workforce;
- support for research and innovation;
- a vast infrastructure network.





800

700

GÉOSCIENTIFIQUE





Québec offers foreign companies a very hospitable business climate for mining investments and a tax system that compares advantageously to those of its trading partners. See the brochure [\*Taxation in Québec: Favourable Measures to Foster Investment \(2024\)\*](#)<sup>18</sup>.

## AN ADVANTAGEOUS TAX SYSTEM

### Mining Tax Act

Québec offers one of the best business climates for mining investment. Under the Mining Tax Act, Québec's tax regime includes various measures to support companies in different phases of the mining cycle, including:

- A [refundable duties credit for losses](#)<sup>15</sup>, a unique measure in Canada:
  - Under certain conditions, notably, it provides a refund of 8% or 16% of the amount of eligible work (exploration-related development and preproduction deposit appraisal respectively);
  - since March 2021, for eligible operators, it includes CSMs development expenses;
- an [allowance for community consultations](#)<sup>16</sup> which allows mining companies to deduct a portion of these costs as part of their mining projects;
- an [environmental studies allowance](#)<sup>17</sup> so that mining companies can deduct a portion of the costs incurred to produce social and environmental impact studies of their projects.

The Act also helps to stimulate mineral exploration and mining in Québec, including in northern Québec, through:

- an [exploration allowance](#)<sup>19</sup> that adds an extra 25% to exploration expenses incurred in northern Québec that did not entitle companies to the refundable tax credit for resource-based projects;
- an [additional allowance for a mine situated in northern Québec](#)<sup>20</sup> to offset the high costs associated with bringing into production a mine located in northern Québec.

The mining tax regime also facilitates the processing and transformation of extracted mineral commodities. For example, companies are entitled to a [processing allowance](#)<sup>21</sup>, to acquire assets used in ore processing. The allowance is a percentage of the cost of the items and is determined based on the nature of the processing activity. This percentage is one of the most attractive in Canada.

## Taxation Act

The Québec Government's objective is that the tax regime applicable to Québec's businesses should compare favourably to that of its business partners. Québec offers businesses conditions that encourage investment and innovation. For example, its corporate tax regime includes the following measures:

- a [tax holiday for large investment projects](#)<sup>22</sup>, particularly targeting the CSMs extraction sector, which offers an incentive up to 25% of the total expenses of eligible investments, depending on the location where the project is carried out in Québec. Lasting 10 years, this measure allows a company that carries out an investment project of at least \$100 million to benefit, on certain conditions, from a holiday from corporate income tax and the contribution to the Health Services Fund;
- an [investment and innovation tax credit](#)<sup>23</sup> for the acquisition, in particular, of manufacturing and processing equipment used for smelting, refining and hydrometallurgy of ores other than gold and silver;
- an accelerated investment incentive that would, under certain conditions, increase the capital cost allowance amount on certain assets;
- a new [tax credit for research, innovation and commercialization](#)<sup>24</sup> (see the section [Support for research and innovation](#) to learn more).

The corporate and personal tax regimes include incentive measures to encourage mineral exploration and deposit appraisal of Québec's mineral resources:

- a [refundable tax credit relating to mineral or other resources](#)<sup>25</sup>, which was enhanced as part of the 2025-2026 budget and now entitles, under certain conditions, taxpayers to a refund of up to 45% of eligible exploration and deposit appraisal expenses incurred in Québec by an eligible corporation;
- the flow-through share system, under which individuals can deduct 100% of the cost of their investment, depending on established eligibility criteria.

# A STABLE AND PREDICTABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The document [Normative Framework Applicable to the Mining Sector](#)<sup>26</sup> identifies all of the laws and regulations that govern mining development.

The mining industry is subject, in particular, to the [Mining Act](#) (RLRQ, c. M-13.1)<sup>27</sup>, the [Mining Tax Act](#) (RLRQ, c. I-0.4)<sup>28</sup>, the [Taxation Act](#) (RLRQ, c. I-3)<sup>29</sup>, the [Act respecting transparency measures in the mining, oil and gas industries](#) (RLRQ, c. M-11.5)<sup>30</sup> and the [Environment Quality Act](#) (RLRQ, c. Q-2)<sup>31</sup> and its regulations.

Mineral commodities in Québec, except those of the topsoil, belong to the province, with a few exceptions. Any person may obtain exclusive exploration rights (formerly known as a claim) for a parcel of land designated on a map, provided their request complies with the Mining Act and the conditions prescribed by regulation.<sup>32</sup>

Québec's laws and regulations can be consulted free of charge on the [Légis Québec](#)<sup>33</sup>.

**The Gouvernement du Québec deploys major efforts to counter the administrative burden of businesses.**

**The objective: simplify the administrative process and allow businesses to innovate and invest more.**

## Mining Act

The primary purpose of the Mining Act is to promote mineral prospection, research, exploration and mining, as well as mineral processing in Québec, from a sustainable development and circular economy perspective. It aims to foster dialogue with local and Indigenous communities, and to maximize economic benefits. It helps protect the environment and take into account other possible uses of the territory and ensures greater transparency to set an example while developing and implementing best practices in [social acceptability](#)<sup>34</sup>, particularly with:

- a chapter on Aboriginal communities, which provides for the development of an [Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector](#)<sup>35</sup>. The policy clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders;
- the [authorization of "impact-causing" exploration works](#) (AT1)<sup>36</sup>, which is issued after required engagement with relevant local and the Indigenous communities;
- the approval of a redevelopment and restoration plan prior to issuing the mining lease. In order to equip the people concerned by the drafting of the contents

of such a plan and the general requirements for restoration of mine sites in Québec, the MRNF has published the [Guide to preparation of the mine site rehabilitation and restoration plan in Québec](#)<sup>37</sup>;

- the obligation to deposit and maintain a financial guarantee with the MRNF covering 100% of the anticipated costs of the rehabilitation and restoration work, as well as their monitoring costs for the entire mine site, supplied within two years of the approval date of the mine closure plan. The first payment is required prior to the conclusion of the mining lease;
- the [annual publication](#)<sup>38</sup> of the amount and value of ore mined, the royalties paid to the province by mining companies, a characterization of mine tailings from operations, and information on processing in Québec and shipping outside Québec (every five years), all with a view to ensure greater transparency;
- the withdrawal of private lands from exploration, prospecting and mining, with the exception of private lands subject to a current mineral right or a notice of map designation received before May 28, 2024, as well as the withdrawal of urbanization perimeters, with some exceptions and the ability to remove withdrawals.
- other measures for protection of portions of territories for certain reasons of public interest or for purposes of prioritization or conciliation of uses, or the delineation of public territories incompatible with mining activity.

## Act respecting transparency measures in the mining, oil, and gas industries

The result of an international initiative, the Act respecting transparency measures in the mine, oil, and gas industries requires companies to report the amounts they pay each year to various levels of government, government agencies, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and organizations that perform public functions for any of them. The information obtained is public.

The requirement applies to companies listed on a Canadian stock exchange that are headquartered in Québec and to large extractive companies, whether listed on a stock exchange or not.

To limit the administrative burden on businesses, the Act is harmonized with the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act adopted by the Parliament of Canada and the requirements of the European Union Transparency Directive. Thus, Québec recognizes returns filed with other authorities<sup>39</sup> whose requirements are equivalent to those set out in the Act. Companies thus do not have to file different returns in each country where they are subject.

## Environment Quality Act

The Environment Quality Act ensures the application of a clear, predictable, optimized environmental authorization regime conforming to the highest environmental protection standards.

The approach based on the environmental risk level is an avenue of choice to focus the efforts on projects with significant environmental impacts.

The [Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact](#)<sup>40</sup> presents the classification of activities according to their environmental risk level. For regulated activities, including all new mining operations, the regulations provide for rigorous procedures for assessing and reviewing the environmental and social impacts of development projects (see the [Environmental Impact Assessment and Review](#) section for more information).



# WILLINGNESS TO FACILITATE PROJECT DELIVERY

In a global context of increasing demand for CSMs, it is essential to support proponents by simplifying procedures, reducing authorization times, and improving process predictability. The goal is to enable promising projects to be implemented more quickly, while ensuring harmonious integration in host communities and rigorous adherence to environmental and social standards.

## **Bureau de coordination des droits**

The government has set up the [Bureau de coordination des droits](#)<sup>41</sup>, which aims to ensure better management of administrative lead times in the allocation of rights and authorizations, and to better coordinate and optimize processes for issuing these rights and authorizations.

**The work of the Bureau de coordination des droits seeks more efficient processes and gains in delays for developers.**

**The support they are offered in the context of the regional interministerial panels represents a significant advance.**

The following initiatives are in progress:

- The [regional interministerial panels](#)<sup>42</sup> can offer mining developers custom-made support, adapted to the regional realities depending on the context and the evolution of their projects;
- **optimization of permitting processes** has three main objectives: eliminate non-value-added steps, reduce administrative delays and increase the quality of the services provided;
- **creation of an electronic service delivery counter** will offer mining industry clients a one-stop shop combining the information and transaction services of all the rights and authorizations overseeing mining activities;
- **coordination of Indigenous consultations** has the goal of improving coordination among government departments issuing rights, authorizations or permits to avoid multiplication of consultation approaches for the same project.



## State-of-the-art management tools

In Québec, exclusive exploration rights granted by the State are recorded in the Registre des droits miniers, réels et immobiliers and can be accessed online through the [GESTIM](#)<sup>43</sup> application. This reliable system gives users real-time access to updated data from the Registre. Equipped with an integrated interactive map, GESTIM also offers great predictability by allowing users to view active mining titles, constraints to mining activity and Indigenous agreements. Its online transactional component, in a secure environment, allows acquisition, by designation on a map, of exclusive exploration rights and their renewal, in addition to reporting of statutory work.

**68% of the exclusive exploration rights are processed and granted by the electronic registrar, which significantly reduces processing times.**

## A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Québec is recognized worldwide for the quality of its mining labour force. Québec is a long-standing mining producer and benefits from a succession of specialized training programs throughout the province. Experienced, skilled workers are employed in all phases of mining: exploration, underground and open-pit mining, ore processing, logistics and site rehabilitation. This expertise is supported by a well-structured regional training offer, aligned with the needs of the industry, which makes it possible to quickly mobilize the skills needed to support new projects. The mining industry generates more than 30,000 direct and indirect jobs.

**The Québec mining sector annually can count on a pool of 10,000 new graduates from 50 programs of study and training related to the mining sector.**

## Dynamic network of suppliers and equipment manufacturers

In addition to this skilled workforce, Québec boasts a dynamic network of suppliers and equipment manufacturers that support mining projects at every stage of their development. According to a [study](#)<sup>44</sup> on the economic impacts of mining activity in Québec, published in 2024, more than 5,295 suppliers of goods and services work for the mining sector, 73% of which are in Québec.

This industrial fabric offers mining developers turnkey solutions: specialized equipment, engineering services, logistics, environment and technological innovation. This geographical and sectoral proximity enables project promoters to reduce lead times, optimize operations and maximize local and regional economic benefits.



## Institut national des mines

Several leading educational institutions meet the training needs of the mining workforce. Created in 2010, the [Institut national des mines](#)<sup>45</sup> (INMQ) has the mission to support the Gouvernement du Québec in exercising its responsibility for education in the mining field. In particular, its mandate is to maximize the training capacity of the workforce, by optimizing the resources available and using them according to the concerted vision of all actors in the mining sector, thus contributing, from a sustainable development perspective, to improving Québec's productivity and competitiveness.

The INMQ thus monitors the needs for skills and collaborates with educational institutions to align the training offer with the reality of companies.

The INMQ has produced several studies to help Québec's mining industry make the digital shift to smart mining, namely the skills and training to be provided for a workforce capable of meeting the industry's new needs.

## Comité sectoriel de main-d'œuvre de l'industrie des mines

The [CSMO Mines](#)<sup>46</sup> is an autonomous body recognized as a partner by the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail. Its main members are representatives of mining sector employers and workers, who collaborate to implement strategies to address common workforce attraction and development challenges as well as mining industry human resource management issues. A range of specialized training courses has been set up by the CSMO to enable all companies in the mining sector to jointly offer ongoing training tools to their workers. The training courses are tailored to the needs of the industry, and training sessions are planned to align as much as possible with the availability of companies and their workers. One of the founding concepts of this platform is to provide access to specialized training for the various players in the industry, such as mining companies, exploration companies and mining contractors.

## SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

To make Québec's mining sector even more competitive, the Gouvernement du Québec has introduced [a number of initiatives to support innovation as well as research and development](#)<sup>47</sup>. Process control, energy conservation, GHG reduction, tailings reclamation, climate change adaptation and the integration of circular economy principles are just some of the challenges facing the mining sector. Research and innovation enable the Québec mining sector to review its ways of doing things and thus propose innovative solutions to enhance its competitiveness as well as the social acceptability of projects.

**Québec benefits from at least 50 research organizations whose work is beneficial to the mining sector:**

- 5 college technology transfer centres
- 15 private or university research centres
- 25 research chairs linked to Québec universities
- 1 ACCORD niche of excellence
- 5 research laboratories



Research is supported in various ways, including the following:

- The [joint research program on sustainable development of the mining sector](#)<sup>48</sup>, established by the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT), addresses university and college researchers and has the goal of responding to the research priorities defined previously. The research fields concerned cover all mining industry fields.
- The objective of the [mining research and innovation support program \(PARIDM\)](#)<sup>49</sup> is to improve the competitiveness of the Québec mining industry by supporting companies in their R&D and innovation projects, based on at least two dimensions of sustainable development.
- The objective of the [research and development support program for the extraction, processing and recycling of CSMs](#)<sup>50</sup> is to promote innovation and the acquisition of knowledge on CSMs, from mining to the production and processing of these minerals, including the recycling and reclamation of tailings.
- The [support program for the scaling of mineral or primary processing for critical and strategic minerals](#)<sup>51</sup> has the following objectives:
  - Advance projects to scale up mineral or primary processing of CSMs at the maturity level of a semi-continuous pilot project (PML 7) or demonstration plant (PML 8) to a higher level or to market.
  - Innovate by creating new processes or improving existing processes.
- A new [tax credit for research, innovation and commercialization](#)<sup>52</sup> was introduced as part of the 2025–2026 budget to replace various innovation tax measures. It provides eligible companies with a simpler and more effective tax assistance scheme to support their scientific research and experimental development activities as well as their pre-commercialization activities.
- The aim of the [support program for research projects of the scientific research network specific to CSMs](#)<sup>53</sup> is to support collaborative research and innovation projects with the goal of fostering the development of shared knowledge related to the development of CSM sectors in Québec and encouraging pre-competitive research.
- The objective of the [support program for technological research and development for the circular economy applied to critical and strategic minerals sectors](#)<sup>54</sup> is to promote innovation and the acquisition of knowledge on CSMs, based on the application of circular economy principles to their development.
- The ResMinA research partnership, with the Institut de recherche en mines et environnement de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (IRME-UQAT), aims to respond to the challenges of rehabilitating abandoned mine sites through applied research projects in mining reclamation. Research topics include optimizing the performance of rehabilitated abandoned mine sites, passive treatment systems, the influence of highly oxidized tailings and biodiversity during mine rehabilitation.
- Support for research organizations: the government provides financial support for [CONSOREM](#)<sup>55</sup>, a research consortium on mineral exploration, [Corem](#)<sup>56</sup>, a research consortium on mineral processing and transformation, and [Groupe MISA](#)<sup>57</sup>, a network of experts who actively contribute to the development of innovative equipment and services for mining activities ranging from exploration to restoration.

**The Scientific research network specific to CSMs<sup>58</sup> was launched in the wake of the Québec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals. Its mission is to pool knowledge related to the development of CSMs, promote pre-competitive research and encourage the training and recruitment of highly qualified people. Since its creation in 2023, it has brought together the active forces in Québec revolving around CSMs in order to determine the priorities to be put forward in terms of research and innovation.**

# A VAST INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK CON- NECTED TO THE WORLD

Québec's territory is served by a vast network of road, rail, port, airport, and electrical infrastructures, most of which is shown on the opposite map.

They are reliable and well established, even in regions remote from major centres.

## Infrastructure in the northern environment

Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) is responsible for the maintenance of a large part of the territory's road network, i.e. 2,436 km of roads in 2024. The Route Billy-Diamond Highway, the main north-south link in this region, and Chisasibi Road are paved and total 710 km. These two roads are undergoing a major repair project to maintain reliable, sustainable, and safe infrastructure for the population and the companies of the industrial sectors active in the area.

SDBJ owns and operates La Grande-Rivière Airport and ensures management and maintenance of the Matagami Aerodrome on behalf of the Ministère des Transports et de la

 <b>20 commercial ports</b>	 <b>6,278 km of railways connecting Canada, the United States, and Mexico</b>
 <b>82 regional airports</b>	 <b>325,000 km of roads</b>
 <b>3 international airports</b>	 <b>34,000 km of power transmission lines, the most extensive grid in North America</b>

Mobilité durable. It is mandated by Hydro-Québec to maintain the aerodromes of Nemiscau, Fontange, LG4 and LG3.

**Québec is within reach of American, European and Asian markets thanks to an advantageous geographical position and a network of reliable and well-established infrastructure, even in regions far from major centres.**

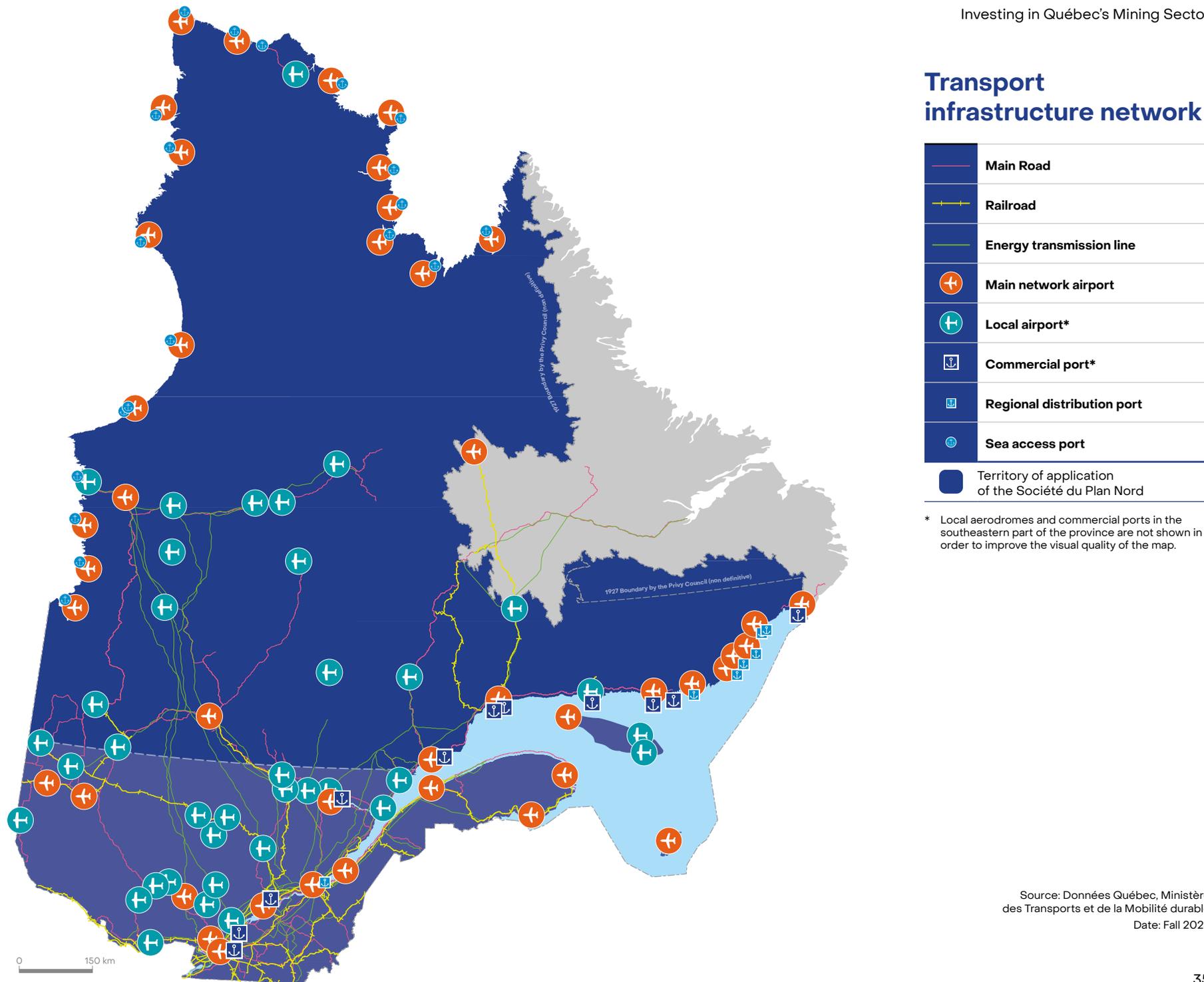
The SDBJ also partnered with the City of Matagami to operate its transfer centre, which is currently in the process of an upgrade project with financial assistance from the Société du Plan Nord. This partnership is part of a strategy to integrate the railroad network with the territory's road and airport transportation infrastructure to complement transportation logistics chain solutions.

Société du Plan Nord (SPN) supports the development of ore transportation and transshipment infrastructures to maintain a context conducive to natural resource development. SPN participates financially in the repair, improvement or extension of roads giving access to resource-rich sectors, including Route Billy-Diamond Highway, Route 389 between Baie-Comeau and Fermont, and Route 138.

To encourage mining development in Québec's northern territory, SPN offers [financial support](#)<sup>59</sup> on certain conditions to mining companies that will carry out major development and repair work on multi-purpose roads in order to operate a new mining site.

SPN is also the sole limited partner of Société ferroviaire et portuaire de Pointe-Noire in Sept-Îles, whose multi-user infrastructures offer transportation and handling services. Two major public and private investment projects have been completed to modernize the facilities and increase the total capacity of the site.

## Transport infrastructure network



Source: Données Québec, Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable  
Date: Fall 2025

# A leader in sustainable and responsible development

**Québec stands out for its commitment to mining development that meets the highest environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards. Its rigorous regulatory framework ensures responsible management of resources, environmental protection and the participation of local and Indigenous communities.**

Stringent environmental assessments help to reduce impacts and effectively plan site rehabilitation. Structured public consultations with local and Indigenous communities ensure transparent dialogue and promote their participation. Obligations related to certain ESG accomplishments ensure compliance with best practices and strengthen investor confidence.

## CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Thanks to [Hydro-Québec](#)<sup>60</sup>, Québec is a major global producer of electricity. 99% of its production comes from renewable sources.

Companies can also benefit from a competitive rate, depending on their consumption. On this subject, see the document entitled [Comparison of Electricity Prices in Major North American Cities](#)<sup>61</sup>.

There is also a growing interest in clean energy in Québec and, as a result, a tightening of balance sheets in terms of energy expenditures and power. Work is underway to improve the electricity offer. Hydro-Québec is notably working on energy efficiency, on increased production, and on demand management during peak periods. Investments as part of the 2035 Action Plan range from \$155 billion to \$185 billion.

**Québec ranks among the five leading hydroelectricity producers in the world. This clean energy from renewable sources is available throughout much of the province via a reliable electrical distribution network.**





Of these amounts, \$90 billion to \$110 billion are earmarked for increasing production capacity, representing average investments of \$7 billion to \$9 billion annually.

The territory of Québec also has a large natural gas pipeline system. This infrastructure is connected to the North American network and serves several regions of Québec.

## Research, development and innovation

Hydro-Québec is the only electricity production company in North America to have a research centre as important as the [Institut de recherche en électricité du Québec \(IREQ\)](#)<sup>62</sup>. This institute brings together the Centre de recherche d'Hydro-Québec (CRHQ) and Centre d'excellence en électrification des transports et en stockage d'énergie (CEETSE). It develops cutting-edge innovations in energy storage and electrification, particularly in the fields of batteries and smart microgrids. These advances can support self-generation, optimized energy management and the integration of thermal networks, solutions that are particularly relevant to the mining sector's energy transition.

## Access to clean energy sources

The implementation of the Act to Secure the Responsible Governance of Energy Resources and the Integrated Energy System Planning (IESP) will help secure the energy supply necessary for the development and local transformation of CSMs. By aligning energy planning with the needs of the mining industry,

Québec optimizes infrastructure use, reduces risks for investors and strengthens its status as a reliable and responsible supplier on international markets. The Gouvernement du Québec also makes financing tools available to developers to support clean energy and renewable energy initiatives, particularly those integrated into mining sites, to help reduce the sector's carbon footprint.

The new legal framework allows a renewable electricity producer to supply a consumer located on land adjacent to the production site, following authorization from the government, subject to certain conditions. Several mines have set up smart microgrids integrating wind or solar photovoltaic energy production that can meet part of their total electricity needs. The Gouvernement du Québec further ensures that, for [projects requiring a block of electricity of five megawatts \(MW\) or more](#)<sup>63</sup>, the available electricity is allocated to uses that are directly in line with the government's orientations regarding the decarbonization of the economy and increased prosperity for Québec.





## SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY AT THE CORE OF PROJECTS

Québec encourages the establishment of a collaborative climate where stakeholders in the mining sector work closely with the local and Indigenous communities in the areas where mining activities take place and with any other stakeholder who wishes to be informed about the projects. MRNF developed its expertise in social acceptability particularly to that end.

**Communication and transparency are strongly rooted in Québec business practices. They aim to ensure the success of projects to benefit not only the host communities, but also the developers.**

### Tools to support responsible development

Mining companies are encouraged to integrate good practices relating to social acceptability into the project's planning, execution, and closure phases to ensure that, as far as possible, the concerns and issues of the host communities and the Indigenous communities are considered, regardless of whether the project is situated close to an urban area or in a sparsely populated region.

The Gouvernement du Québec makes [guides and tools](#)<sup>64</sup> available to developers and local stakeholders to help them better understand the [factors influencing social acceptability](#)<sup>65</sup>, and implement effective public participation mechanisms that will maintain an open dialogue with the communities, and thus establish a relationship of trust between the parties. Among them are:

- [Information for Developers and General Information Regarding Relations with Indigenous Communities in Natural Resource Development Projects](#)<sup>66</sup>, on which the MRNF collaborated with the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Premières Nations et les Inuits and other departments. In the context of implementation of the [Aboriginal Community Consultation Policy Specific to the Mining Sector](#)<sup>67</sup>, the MRNF undertook various actions with the goal of better coordinating Indigenous consultations, better informing Indigenous communities about mining projects and better supporting developers in the development and maintenance of good relations with Indigenous communities.
- The [Guide for public consultations conducted by the promoters of certain](#)

[mining projects](#)<sup>68</sup>, published by the MRNF, which describes the procedure for organizing public consultations in the context of application of the Mining Act.

- The [Best Practices Guide for Monitoring Committees and Legal Obligations of Mining and Petroleum Projects Promoters](#)<sup>69</sup>, which contains information for mine operators and monitoring committee members on good practices and on their legal obligations under the Mining Act.

### Support from project managers

The deployment of a network of project managers in all regions of Québec has greatly improved the support provided to mining project developers and local stakeholders, which is explained in the MRNF's [Offer of Service in the Area of Social Acceptability](#)<sup>70</sup>.

### Harmonious coexistence with municipalities

The RCMs have the option of delineating territories incompatible with mining activities (TIAM). According to certain criteria set out in the [Orientation gouvernementale en aménagement du territoire relative à l'activité minière \(OGAT-Mines\)](#)<sup>71</sup>, the RCMs are able to identify areas where activities taking place there would be compromised by mining activities. To ensure the coexistence of different uses in the territory, the RCM will have, during the process, to consult its local population, the Indigenous communities and mining rights holders affected by its project to assess their suitability. This authority allows municipalities to participate in the mining process and also provides for measures to reduce the impact of mining on

other land uses. In particular, by targeting restrictions on the siting of sensitive uses near mining sites. This delineation process is thus part of a strategic planning process for territorial development, providing communities with greater predictability in the use of their land and, to the mining industry, a better understanding of the areas where its activities would be compatible with other uses.

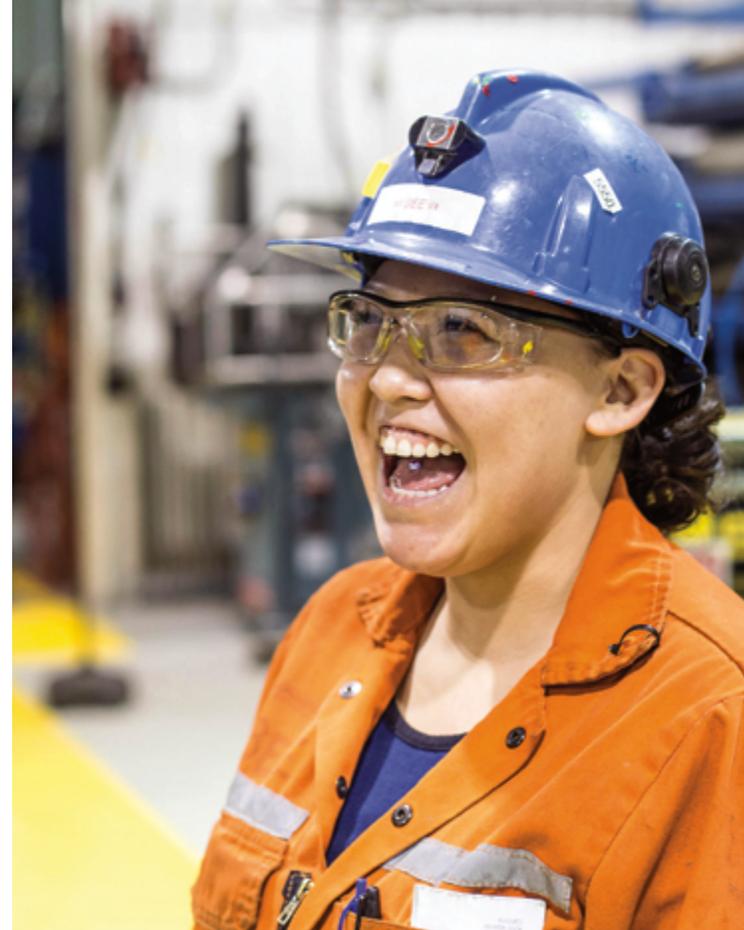
With the latest amendments to the Mining Act, certain obligations have been added to ensure better dialogue between mining companies and host communities, including the transmission of annual exploration work plans, the establishment of a monitoring committee for all mines, and the possibility of concluding sectoral agreements to reconcile mining activity with Indigenous activities.

## Environmental impact assessment and review

In the context of the [environmental impact assessment and review procedure](#)<sup>72</sup>, various mechanisms have been established to favour public participation and account for the public's concerns regarding projects that could have impacts on the physical, biological and human environments. Public participation allows a better determination of a project's issues and ensures an informed decision-making process by the Government. It is possible to obtain information and express a point of view on a project during:

- consultation on the issues the impact assessment should address;
- the public information period;
- the public hearing, the mediation or the targeted consultation, according to the mandate given to the commission of inquiry.

Special [northern environmental assessment](#)<sup>73</sup> provisions are applicable in the territory of application of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) and the Northeastern Québec Agreement (NEQA), in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 22 and 23 of the JBNQA and Chapter 14 of the NEQA. The environmental assessment procedure specific to these regions is characterized, among other things, by active participation in the review mechanisms of the Aboriginal people (Cree, Inuit and Naskapi) who live there.



## TREATIES AND PARTNERSHIP WITH FIRST NATIONS

Québec has already signed two modern treaties, also known as Northern Agreements, with the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi nations that cover nearly 1.1 million square kilometres (over 65% of Québec's total area). On the territory of application of the Northern Agreements, the rights of these nations have been established, and processes have been put in place to ensure that their concerns are taken into account.

The Gouvernement du Québec and the MRNF have also established policies containing directives for consultation with Québec's other First Nations when a project may affect their Aboriginal or treaty rights, whether they are recognized or claimed. In addition, specific agreements may be entered into with Aboriginal communities, such as consultation agreements in specific areas. This is the case of the agreement signed with the Abitibiwinni First Nation that defines a clear framework for consulting and accommodating the community on mining activities and a territory of application. Such agreements may take precedence over policies and directives.

### James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and the Northeastern Québec Agreement

The JBNQA was signed on November 11, 1975 by representatives of the Crees and Inuit of Québec, the governments of Québec and Canada, the James Bay Development Corporation, the James Bay Energy Corporation and Hydro-Québec. Two years later, the NEQA was also signed. These two agreements are considered to be the first modern treaties in Canada. The JBNQA and NEQA recognize the treaty rights of the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi nations and establish specific governance over the territory. In addition, the JBNQA and NEQA provide for specific processes to ensure that the concerns of these nations are taken into account. To this end, the JBNQA established a land regime that provides for the collective allocation of land for the exclusive benefit of the Crees and Inuit, as well as exclusive hunting, fishing and trapping rights. These treaties also provide for the assumption of numerous government responsibilities, mainly in the fields of health and social services, education and income security.

The Gouvernement du Québec signed subsequent agreements with the treaty nations, including several with the Crees. In this respect, the MRNF maintains a privileged relationship with the Cree Nation Government and the Cree communities following the signing of these various agreements, which serve as a foundation for maintaining constructive relations, based on trust and mutual respect.

### Participation of Indigenous people in mining development

The Gouvernement du Québec encourages and supports the participation of Indigenous people in mining development through [programs](#)<sup>74</sup> and support measures.

These measures promote dialogue between Indigenous communities and organizations and developers, support Indigenous participation in mineral potential promotion, raise awareness of the mining sector, prospecting and mineral exploration, and support Indigenous entrepreneurship in mineral resources and related services.

Two Indigenous organizations are deploying this support offered in partnership with the Cree Nation Government, the Kativik Regional Government and Makivik Corporation, namely the [Cree Mineral Exploration Board](#)<sup>75</sup> within Eeyou Istchee James Bay and the [Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund](#)<sup>76</sup> within Kativik territory.



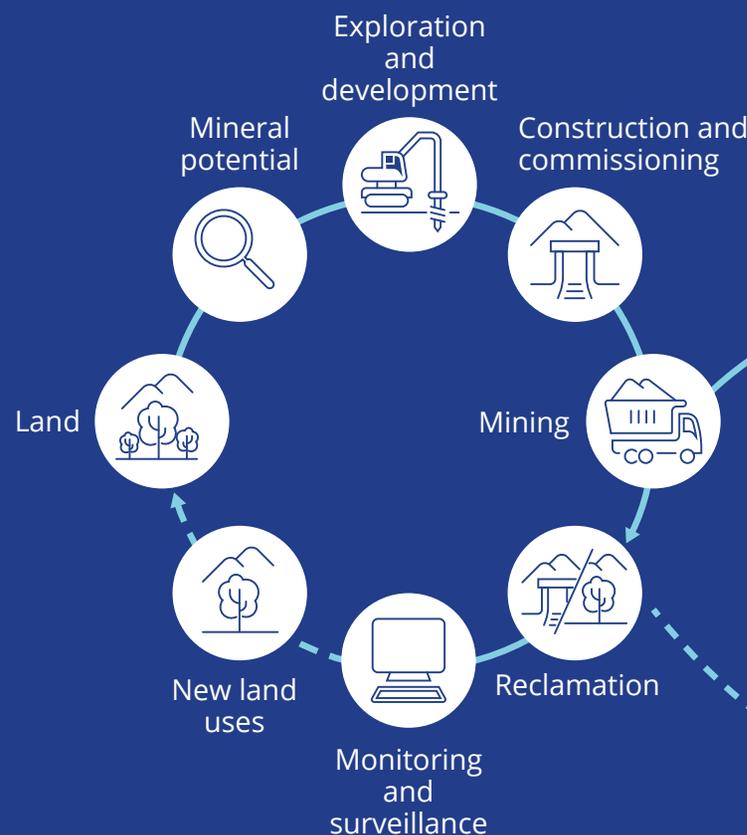
# THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AT THE SERVICE OF THE MINING SECTOR

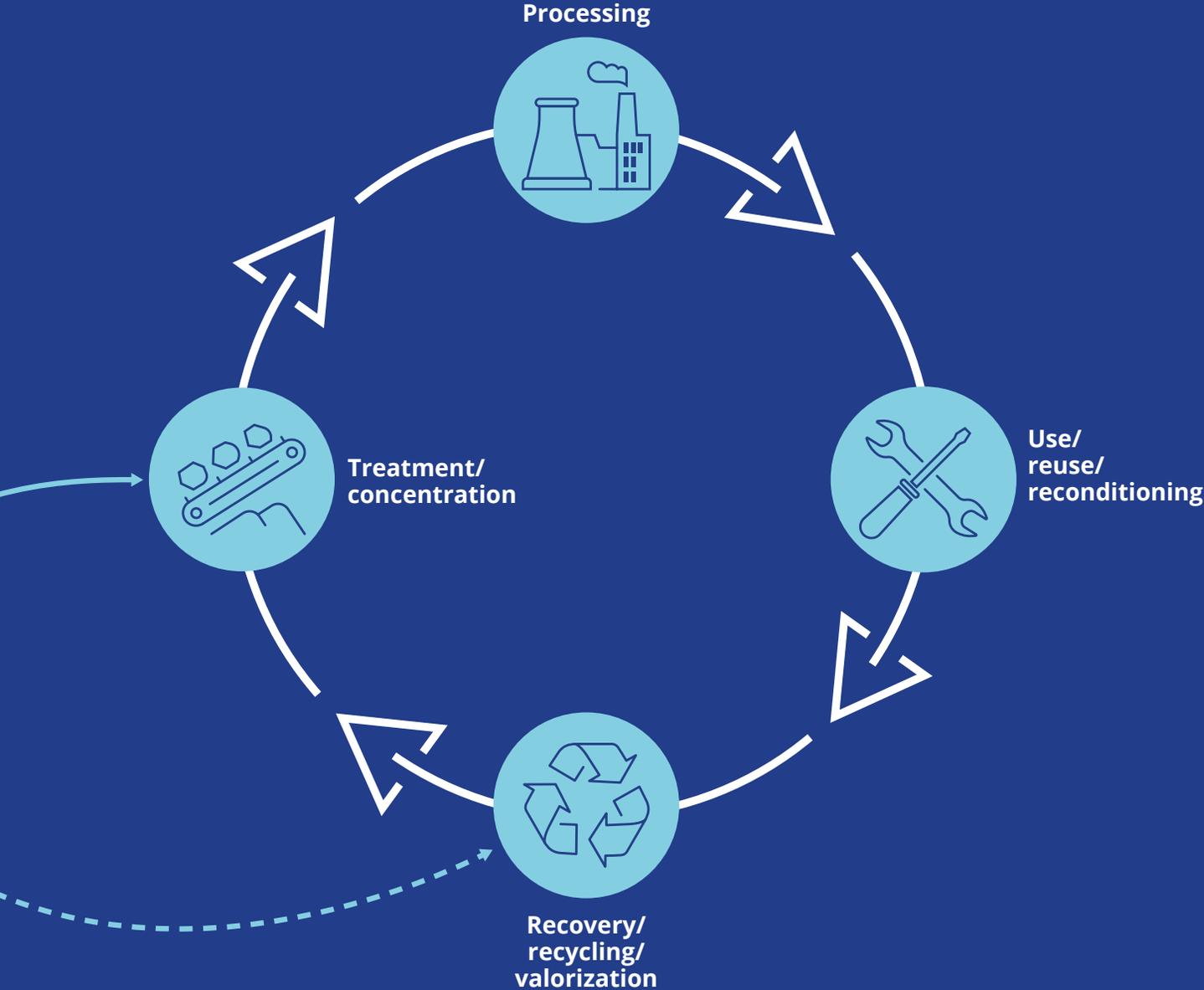
The circularity rate of the Québec economy is 3.5%, as indicated in the first [Circularity Gap Report](#)<sup>77</sup> produced in 2021 by RECYC-QUÉBEC in collaboration with Circle Economy. This index is defined as the percentage of resources used to meet our needs that is looped back into our economy. In an economy that has long been based on the exploitation of natural resources, Québec has the potential to succeed by integrating circular economy principles into several of its industries, including the mining sector.

In a context of ever-increasing demand to feed the economy of tomorrow, strongly influenced by technological and energy shifts, maximizing the recovery of minerals, tailings and industrial residues, metal recycling and the economy of functionality are just some of the solutions that can be put forward to support the mining sector in reducing its footprint.

It is also thanks to the recovery of residues that Québec has become the number one producer of high-purity scandium oxide in North America!

## Typical value chain in a circular economy context





# Frequently asked questions about Québec's mining sector

## What are the legislative powers of the Québec and Canadian governments with regard to the mining sector?

The Constitution of Canada provides for the division of legislative powers between the federal government and those of the provinces, including Québec. Québec has exclusive jurisdiction to legislate the exploration, development, conservation and management of natural resources in Québec, including mineral resources.

The environment is a shared jurisdiction between the Parliament of Canada and the Parliament of Québec. Moreover, any business established in Québec is subject to both Québec and federal tax laws.

## What is the regulatory process to obtain approval for a mining project, from mineral exploration to mine opening and closure?

Under the **Mining Act**, before engaging mineral exploration, an **exclusive exploration right** must be obtained from the MRNF that grants its holder an exclusive right to search for mineral commodities in the domain of the State on the land subject to the right. In addition, for impact-causing exploration work, particularly those carried out with machines using hydraulic force or with explosives, the MRNF must obtain an [authorization for impact-causing work](#)<sup>78</sup> before they are carried out. Annual exploration work planning should be provided to relevant local and Indigenous community representatives, with the option for those representatives to require an information session. If the land is private on which mining activities are permitted, the exclusive exploration right holder must obtain written authorization from the landowner at least 30 days before going onto the land or conducting exploration work.

Certain exploration work, depending on the nature or location of the activity, may necessitate other authorizations or permits, particularly under the Mining Act, the Environment Quality Act, the Sustainable Forest Development Act or the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife.

The Mining Act allows the Minister to impose on the exclusive exploration right holder when they deem appropriate conditions and obligations in the public interest, including to avoid or limit impacts on local and Indigenous communities or to allow for the prioritization or conciliation of land uses and protection.

The exclusive exploration right holder must obtain a mining lease under the provisions of the Mining Act to be able to mine mineral substances other than surface mineral substances. The lease application must notably be accompanied by a project feasibility study as well as an economic and market opportunity study addressing, among other things, the circular economy and processing in Québec. A draft of the latter must have been submitted to the MELCCFP, along with the impact assessment. If applicable, an authorization or a lease issued under the Act respecting the lands

in the domain of the State may also be necessary for use, permanent occupation, development or construction outside the mining lease. These authorizations or these rights are issued following an **application for use of public land**.

Before a mining company applies for a mining lease, it must file a **rehabilitation and restoration** plan with the MRNF. The MRNF makes this plan public and places it on the public register of real and immovable mining rights. A mining lease cannot be signed until the mine rehabilitation and restoration plan has been approved in accordance with the Mining Act and the authorization provided for in the Environment Quality Act. The Mining Act states that when granting a lease, the Minister may attach conditions or obligations to it to enable the prioritization or conciliation of uses and protection of the territory for any reason in the public interest, including to avoid or limit impacts on local and Indigenous communities and to maximize economic benefits.

Moreover, a **financial guarantee** is required regarding the rehabilitation and the restoration of the mine site. It corresponds to the anticipated cost for the work set out in the rehabilitation and restoration plan. This guarantee must be provided in three payments: the first payment (50%) must be made within 90 days of receiving the plan's approval, and each subsequent payment (25% each) must be made on the first two anniversary dates of the plan's approval. A financial guarantee must be deposited with the MRNF for certain types of exploration work.

Any new mine is subject to an environmental assessment under the Environment Quality Act. The same is true for some mine expansions or production increases.

Within 30 days after the mining lease is issued, the lessee must establish a **monitoring committee**, the mandate of which is determined by regulation, to foster the involvement of the local community in the project.

Once operations have **ceased**, the operator may be required to obtain one or more authorizations from the MELCCFP for restoration work. The financial guarantee is returned or refunded in two payments: (1) the portion of the guarantee corresponding to the rehabilitation and restoration work following a statement of satisfaction by the Minister of Natural Resources, and (2) the remainder of the guarantee, at the end of the obligation to monitor the work provided for in the rehabilitation and restoration plan.

Québec has published a [document](#)<sup>26</sup> listing the main permits, leases, and authorizations required for development of a mine in Québec.



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## Do foreign investors have the same rights as Canadian investors?

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In Québec and Canada, every investor is treated fairly under the applicable legal and regulatory framework. However, there are rules regarding takeovers of Canadian firms by foreign interests, namely those set out in the [Investment Canada Act](#)<sup>79</sup>.

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## Does a mining company need to hire workers from a particular region or union? Can it bring in its own workers?

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The Gouvernement du Québec encourages companies to employ workers from neighbouring communities. Québec has a skilled mining workforce and these workers mostly live in mining areas.

However, businesses established in Québec may employ workers from anywhere in Canada. Bringing workers in from outside Canada to occupy positions subject to a labour shortage is possible if the company is having trouble recruiting [Canadians](#)<sup>80</sup>.

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## Does Québec have standards to ensure the safety of workers in the mining sector?

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The Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) is the body responsible for administering the occupational health and safety system. It is responsible, in particular, for the application of the [Regulation respecting occupational health and safety in mines](#)<sup>81</sup>.

In addition, the [Association paritaire pour la santé et la sécurité du travail du secteur minier](#)<sup>82</sup> (APSM) is dedicated to supporting workers and employers in the mining industry in their management of occupational health and safety prevention by providing training, information, research, advice and technical assistance.

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## Which mining associations are active in Québec?

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There are three mining associations operating in Québec: the [Québec Mineral Exploration Association](#) (QMEA)<sup>83</sup>, [Québec Mining Association](#) (QMA)<sup>84</sup> and the [Québec Peat Moss Producers Association](#) (QMPMA)<sup>85</sup>.

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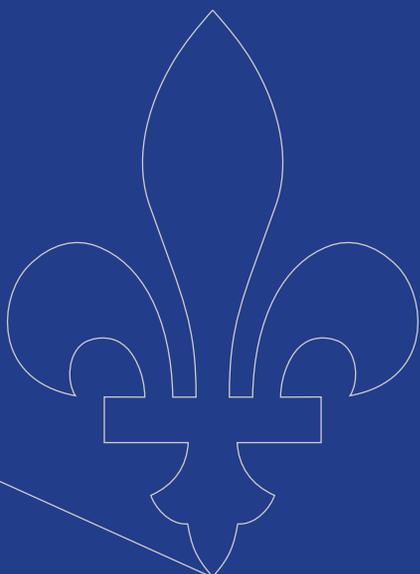
## What are the roles and responsibilities of the main departments and agencies that deal with foreign companies looking to invest in mining projects in Québec?

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- [Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts](#)<sup>86</sup>: all matters related to exploration and mining, metal processing, industrial mineral purification, mine tailings valorization, and reclamation (permits, mineral rights, authorizations, leases, public land use authorizations, etc.)
- [Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs](#)<sup>87</sup>: all matters related to the environment and environmental impacts.
- [Ministère des Finances](#)<sup>88</sup> and [Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie](#)<sup>89</sup>: financial assistance, equity investments and general business support.
- [Société du Plan Nord](#)<sup>90</sup>: for all matters related to the integrated and coherent development of Québec's northern territory from a sustainable development perspective.
- [Institut national des mines](#)<sup>91</sup>: provides consultation, innovation and training services for the mining industry outside Québec.

- [Investissement Québec](#)<sup>10</sup>: Investissement Québec assists project developers at every stage of their development, from exploration and extraction to resource processing. It offers a range of financial solutions adapted to the needs of projects, including equity holdings, debentures or loans. Investissement Québec also administers the Natural Resources and Energy Capital Fund, which has a budget of \$1.5 billion.
- [Revenu Québec](#)<sup>92</sup>: for all matters relating to corporate taxation and the administration of the Mining Tax Act and the Taxation Act.

Other government departments and agencies may be involved depending on their fields of jurisdiction (see the section [A partner in your investments](#) to learn more).



## What statutes and regulations generally apply to mining exploration and development?

The [Normative Framework for the Mining Sector](#)<sup>26</sup> brings together all the information on the government framework related to mining activities. The following is a non-exhaustive list of laws and related regulations in Québec and Canada.

Québec statutes and regulations (non-exhaustive list):

- Mining Act (M-13.1) and Mining Regulation (M-13.1, r.2);
- Act respecting transparency measures in the mine, oil and gas industries (M-11.5) and Regulation respecting the application of the Act respecting transparency measures in the mining, oil and gas industries (chapter M-11.5, r.1);
- Mining Tax Act (I-0.4);
- Taxation Act (I-3);
- Sustainable Forest Development Act (A-18.1) and Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (A-18.1, r.7);
- Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (T-8.1);
- Environment Quality Act (Q-2) and various regulations;
- Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and to promote better governance of water and associated environments (chapter C-6.2) and Water Withdrawal and Protection Regulation (chapter Q-2, r. 35.2);

- Act respecting occupational health and safety (S-2.1) and Regulation respecting occupational health and safety in mines (S-2.1, r.14);
- Natural Heritage Conservation Act (C-61.01);
- Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (C-61.1);
- Parks Act (P-9);
- Act respecting land use planning and development (A-19.1);
- Municipal Powers Act (C-47.1).

These statutes and regulations can be consulted free of charge on the [Légis Québec](#)<sup>93</sup> website.

Canadian statutes and regulations (non-exhaustive list):

- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52) and its regulations, including the Physical Activities Regulations (SOR/2019-285);
- Fisheries Act (R.S.C. [1985], c. F-14) and Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations (SOR/2002-222);
- Nuclear Safety and Control Act (S.C. 1997, c.9) and various regulations.

These statutes and regulations can be found on the [federal legislation](#)<sup>94</sup> website.

N.B. The information in this section is for information purposes only and has no legal value.

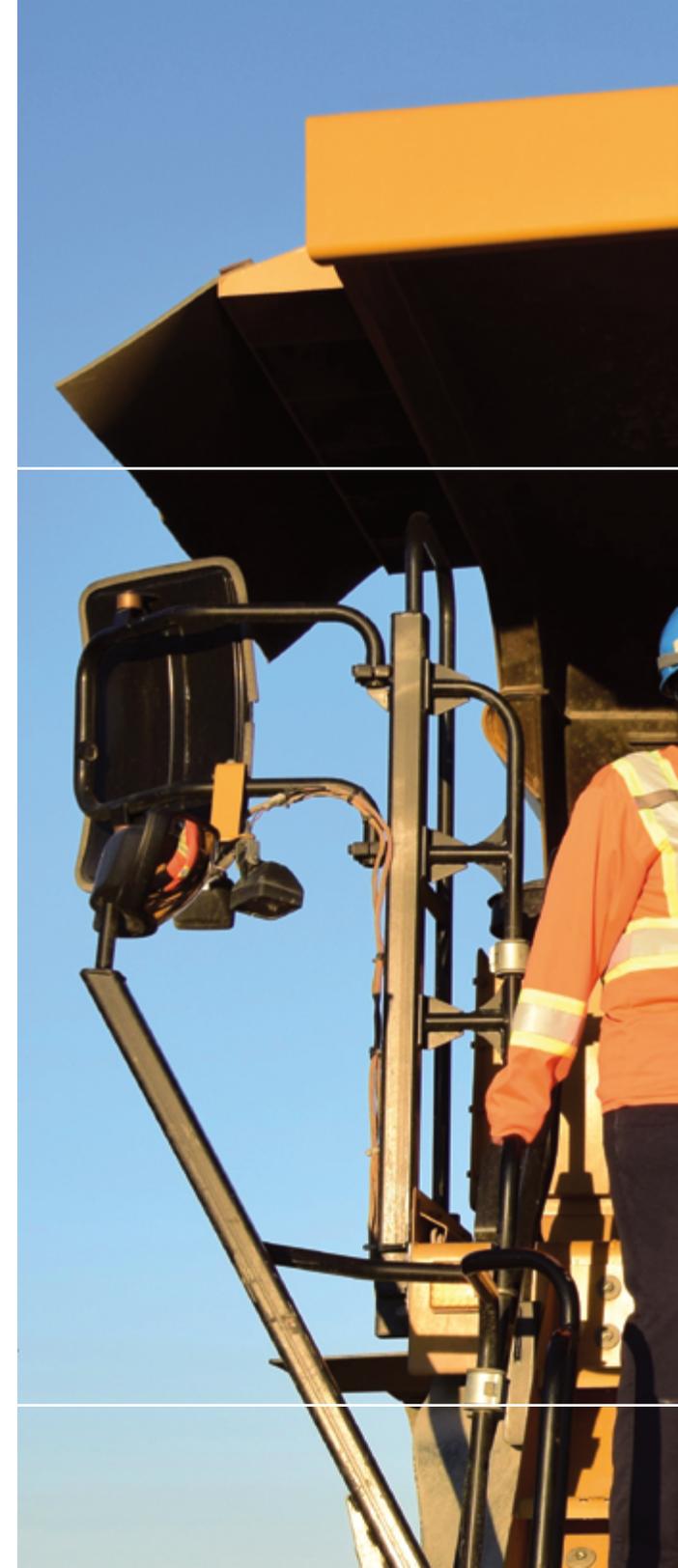
# Contact us

For additional information, contact the international offices of [Investissement Québec](#)<sup>95</sup> or the [Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie](#)<sup>96</sup>.

## QUÉBEC OFFICES ABROAD

### Investissement Québec

LOCATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
<a href="#">MONTRÉAL (CANADA)</a>	1-844-474-6367	<a href="mailto:info@invest-quebec.com">info@invest-quebec.com</a>
<a href="#">ATLANTA (UNITED STATES)</a>	1-404-584-2995	
<a href="#">CHICAGO (UNITED STATES)</a>	1-312-471-1126	
<a href="#">LOS ANGELES (UNITED STATES)</a>	1-310-824-4173	
<a href="#">NEW YORK (UNITED STATES)</a>	1-212-843-0950	
<a href="#">LONDON (UNITED KINGDOM)</a>	+44 20 7766 5900	
<a href="#">MUNICH (GERMANY)</a>	+49 89 25 54 931 18	
<a href="#">PARIS (FRANCE)</a>	+33 1 40 67 85 00	
<a href="#">BEIJING (CHINA)</a>	+86 10 5139 4000	
<a href="#">TOKYO (JAPAN)</a>	+81 3 5733-4001	
<a href="#">SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)</a>	+82 2 732-5175	







## Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie

	LOCATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
1	Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	+225 27 20 20 40 15	qc.abidjan@mri.gouv.qc.ca
2	Atlanta (United States)	1-404-584-2995	qc.atlanta@mri.gouv.qc.ca
3	Barcelone (Spain)	+34 93 476 42 58	qc.barcelone@mri.gouv.qc.ca
4	Beijing (China)	+86 10 51 39 40 00	qc.beijing@mri.gouv.qc.ca
5	Berlin (Germany)	+49 30 59 00 646 15	qc.munich@mri.gouv.qc.ca
6	Bogota (Colombia)	+57 601 657 9863	qc.bogota@mri.gouv.qc.ca
7	Boston (United States)	1-617-482-1193	qc.boston@mri.gouv.qc.ca
8	Brussels (Belgium)	+32 0 2 512 0036	qc.bruxelles@mri.gouv.qc.ca
9	Chicago (United States)	1-312-471-1126	qc.chicago@mri.gouv.qc.ca
10	Dakar (Senegal)	+221 33 849 82 16	qc.dakar@mri.gouv.qc.ca
11	Hong Kong (China)	+852 37 19 46 50	qc.hongkong@mri.gouv.qc.ca
12	Houston (United States)	1-346-547-8380	qc.houston@mri.gouv.qc.ca
13	London (United Kingdom)	+44 0 207 766 5900	qc.londres@mri.gouv.qc.ca
14	Los Angeles (United States)	1-310-824-4173	qc.losangeles@mri.gouv.qc.ca
15	Mexico City (Mexico)	+52 55 1100-4330	qc.mexico@mri.gouv.qc.ca
16	Miami (United States)	Unavailable	qc.miami@mri.gouv.qc.ca
17	Milan (Italy)	Unavailable	qc.milan@mri.gouv.qc.ca
18	Mumbai (India)	+91 22 6749 4484	quebecinindia@international.gc.ca
19	Munich (Germany)	+49 89 25 54 931 18	qc.munich@mri.gouv.qc.ca
20	New York (United States)	1-212-843-0950	qc.newyork@mri.gouv.qc.ca
21	Paris (France)	+33 01 40 67 85 00	qc.paris@mri.gouv.qc.ca
22	Philadelphia (United States)	1-212-843-0950	qc.philadelphie@mri.gouv.qc.ca
23	Qingdao (China)	8 653 266 950 965	qc.qingdao@mri.gouv.qc.ca
24	Rabat (Morocco)	+212 5 37 77 70 66	qc.rabat@mri.gouv.qc.ca
25	Rome (Italy)	+39 06 4203 4501	qc.rome@mri.gouv.qc.ca
26	São Paulo (Brazil)	+55 11 5509 4321	qc.saopaulo@international.gc.ca
27	Seoul (South Korea)	82 237 037 700	qc.seoul@mri.gouv.qc.ca
28	Shanghai (China)	+86 021 3279 2800	qc.shanghai@mri.gouv.qc.ca
29	Shenzhen (China)	8 675 582 809 584	qc.shenzhen@mri.gouv.qc.ca
30	Silicon Valley (United States)	1-310-824-4173	qc.siliconvalley@mri.gouv.qc.ca
31	Singapore (Singapore)	+65 3138 5551	Unavailable
32	Tel-Aviv (Israël)	Unavailable	Unavailable
33	Tokyo (Japan)	+81 03 57 33 40 01	qc.tokyo@mri.gouv.qc.ca
34	Washington (United States)	1-202-659-8990	qc.washington@mri.gouv.qc.ca

## Other departments – offices in Québec

### MINISTÈRE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES ET DES FORÊTS

1 866 248-6936  
 services.mines@mrfn.gouv.qc.ca  
[quebec.ca/en/government/departments-agencies/ressources-naturelles-forets](http://quebec.ca/en/government/departments-agencies/ressources-naturelles-forets)

### MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE LA LUTTE CONTRE LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES, DE LA FAUNE ET DES PARCS

1 800 561-1616  
 info@environnement.gouv.qc.ca  
[quebec.ca/en/government/departments-agencies/environnement](http://quebec.ca/en/government/departments-agencies/environnement)

# NOTES

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- 4 Online: [[quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministeres-organismes/ressources-naturelles-forets/publications/strategie-quebecoise-valorisation-mineraux-critiques-strategiques](https://quebec.ca/gouvernement/ministeres-organismes/ressources-naturelles-forets/publications/strategie-quebecoise-valorisation-mineraux-critiques-strategiques)].
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- 31 Online: [[legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/document/cs/Q-2](https://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/document/cs/Q-2)].
- 32 The conditions to be met in order to apply for and hold a mining right are those prescribed by regulation. Section 18.1 of the Mining Act will come into force as a result of this regulatory amendment.
- 33 Online: [[legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/home](https://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/home)].
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- 37 The plan must comply with the standards that will be set out in the regulation. Pending this regulatory amendment, the standards to be met are those set out in this guide.  
Online: [[cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/ressources-naturelles/mines/Documents/restauration/GM\\_Restauration-sites-miniers.pdf](https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/ressources-naturelles/mines/Documents/restauration/GM_Restauration-sites-miniers.pdf)].
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- 39 The regulations under the Act (chapter M-11.5, r. 1) contain a list of these authorities. At the time of writing, the list includes Canada and the vast majority of European countries.
- 40 Online: [[environnement.gouv.qc.ca/lqe/autorisations/realie/index.htm](https://environnement.gouv.qc.ca/lqe/autorisations/realie/index.htm)].
- 41 Online: [[quebec.ca/gouvernement/politiques-orientations/bureau-de-coordination-des-droits](https://quebec.ca/gouvernement/politiques-orientations/bureau-de-coordination-des-droits)].
- 42 Online: [[cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/ressources-naturelles/mines/Documents/DP\\_Tables-interministerielles-regionale.pdf](https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/ressources-naturelles/mines/Documents/DP_Tables-interministerielles-regionale.pdf)].
- 43 Online: [[gestim.mines.gouv.qc.ca/](https://gestim.mines.gouv.qc.ca/)].
- 44 Online: [[amq-inc.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/amq\\_rapport\\_retombeeseconomiques\\_2024\\_fr-comprimee.pdf](https://amq-inc.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/amq_rapport_retombeeseconomiques_2024_fr-comprimee.pdf)].
- 45 Online: [[inmq.gouv.qc.ca/](https://inmq.gouv.qc.ca/)].
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- 47 Online: [[quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/mines/aides-financieres](https://quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/mines/aides-financieres)].
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