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## Our region

Quebec is Canada's largest province, with a land mass of more than 1.7 million square kilometres. Water is a prominent feature of Quebec's landscape. The province has over half a million lakes and 4500 rivers, along with the St. Lawrence River, a major shipping route that links the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. The St. Lawrence dominates the province and provides drinking water to over 40% of its population. Quebec's forests cover more than 750 000 square kilometres and are home to a large variety of species. Our region also has 28 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and 8 National Wildlife Areas, including the Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area, renowned for the display of huge flocks of geese taking off during migration season.

## Who we are

Environment Canada's Quebec Region has over 925 employees in Montréal and greater Quebec City, as well as in Rimouski and Harrington Harbour. Our staff includes many employees with scientific and technical training in the fields of water, wildlife, air, climate change and meteorological science. Our workforce includes biologists, chemists, engineers, enforcement officers and employees with a general education in natural sciences, social sciences or the humanities who focus on implementing national programs and providing internal services.



## Our team

*"Environment Canada employees in the Quebec region are driven by a passion for the environment and their work. They are dedicated to delivering quality results and services, and working in partnership. They care about putting their knowledge and expertise to work to conserve and protect the environment using a more sustainable development approach."*

- Regional Director General,  
Quebec Region

Canada

## What we do

The Quebec Region includes several Meteorological Service of Canada centres. The *Quebec Storm Prediction Centre* continuously monitors meteorological and environmental conditions, produces weather forecasts and issues weather watches, warnings and alerts as needed. Also in Montréal is the *Canadian Meteorological Aviation Centre - East* team, which serves the aviation industry in central and eastern Canada and part of the North Atlantic. This includes the airports in Montréal and Toronto, which see more than 600 000 itinerant aircraft movements. At the *Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre*, the region's employees also monitor Canadian airspace and issue advisories when volcanic

ash could pose a threat to aviation in Canada. Finally, the *Canadian Meteorological Centre* in Dorval is one of the world's top facilities for modelling weather and climate science. The Centre is home to one of the most powerful supercomputers in Canada; this computer is at the core of our national weather forecasting system.

Enforcement is another key mandate. Working with several provincial, national and international partner programs, our employees strive to ensure that businesses and individuals comply with environmental and wildlife legislation and regulations.

Canadian Wildlife Service employees are responsible for the protection and management of migratory birds, species at risk and habitat. Their work includes

acquiring scientific knowledge, promoting compliance with legislation and collaborating with many government and non-government partners.

Covering nearly 1000 kilometres, the St. Lawrence River occupies a large part of Quebec's territory. At the St. Lawrence Centre, a Montréal-based research and development facility, our employees conduct research to measure water quality, study the organisms that live in the river, examine the effect of various chemical substances on the ecosystem, and look at the impact of exotic and invasive species on biodiversity.

The St. Lawrence Plan, a joint Canada-Quebec program in which Government of Canada departments have invested more than \$356 million to conserve,

protect and enhance the St. Lawrence River, coordinates a substantial proportion of the activities in our region. Our employees share the responsibility for this plan and regularly report on results.

Many staff members work on environmental protection and compliance promotion. Their jobs include providing technical and scientific advice to facilitate environmental assessments. Employees also participate in managing federal contaminated sites. Teams are also dedicated to managing environmental risks, and they are trained to step in during environmental emergencies. Our employees form a multidisciplinary team that is supported by partnerships with various governments and bodies.

Our employees are also in regular contact with environment sector

stakeholders from other tiers of government, the private sector, community groups and Aboriginal governments. One team is dedicated to coordinating and fine-tuning our relations with partners, in particular by gathering and analyzing information. We also provide direct support through our community financing programs.

In addition, our region is home to the Biosphère, North America's only environment museum, which informs Canadians and encourages them to get involved in environmental issues. Along with exhibits, special events and guided activities for the general public, the museum offers programs for school groups.

## Over the years

Since 1988, the St. Lawrence Plan has achieved the following results:

- ▶ A 96% reduction in the toxicity of liquid waste discharged into the river by 50 of the most polluting industries.
- ▶ The development of a sustainable navigation strategy to harmonize commercial and pleasure craft navigation practices with the protection of the river's ecosystems.
- ▶ The restoration of 52 000 m<sup>3</sup> of sediment contaminated by the dumping of untreated industrial and municipal effluent from 1920 to 1970, with the help of the industrial sector and communities.
- ▶ The use of protection and restoration measures since the end of the 1990s to ensure the survival of the Copper Redhorse fish, an endangered species that is found only in the St. Lawrence.

Since 1993, ZIP (priority intervention zone) committees have been bringing together the primary users of the St. Lawrence to foster coordination in order to resolve river ecosystem and usage problems. In conjunction with other community organizations, these committees have carried out nearly 400 projects under the umbrella of the Community Interaction Program: bank clean-up and stabilization, creation of wildlife habitat, and enhancement of river access sites.



## Did you know?

- ▶ More than one and a half million people have visited the Biosphère's exhibits or participated in the museum's off-site educational activities since it opened in 1995.
- ▶ Built on the site of the Expo 67 U.S. Pavilion, the Biosphère boasts a number of green technologies, including wind turbines, green roofs, a geothermal system and a natural wastewater treatment system.
- ▶ Over 300 species of birds have been identified in the Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area. Some 40 000 people visit this wildlife area each year, and up to 50 000 Greater Snow Geese can be observed in a single day during the migration season.
- ▶ Since 1995, Environment Canada has partnered with Americana, the biggest environmental technology trade show in North America.
- ▶ It would take 1.1 million 3G smartphones to match the raw processing power of our weather forecasting supercomputer.



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