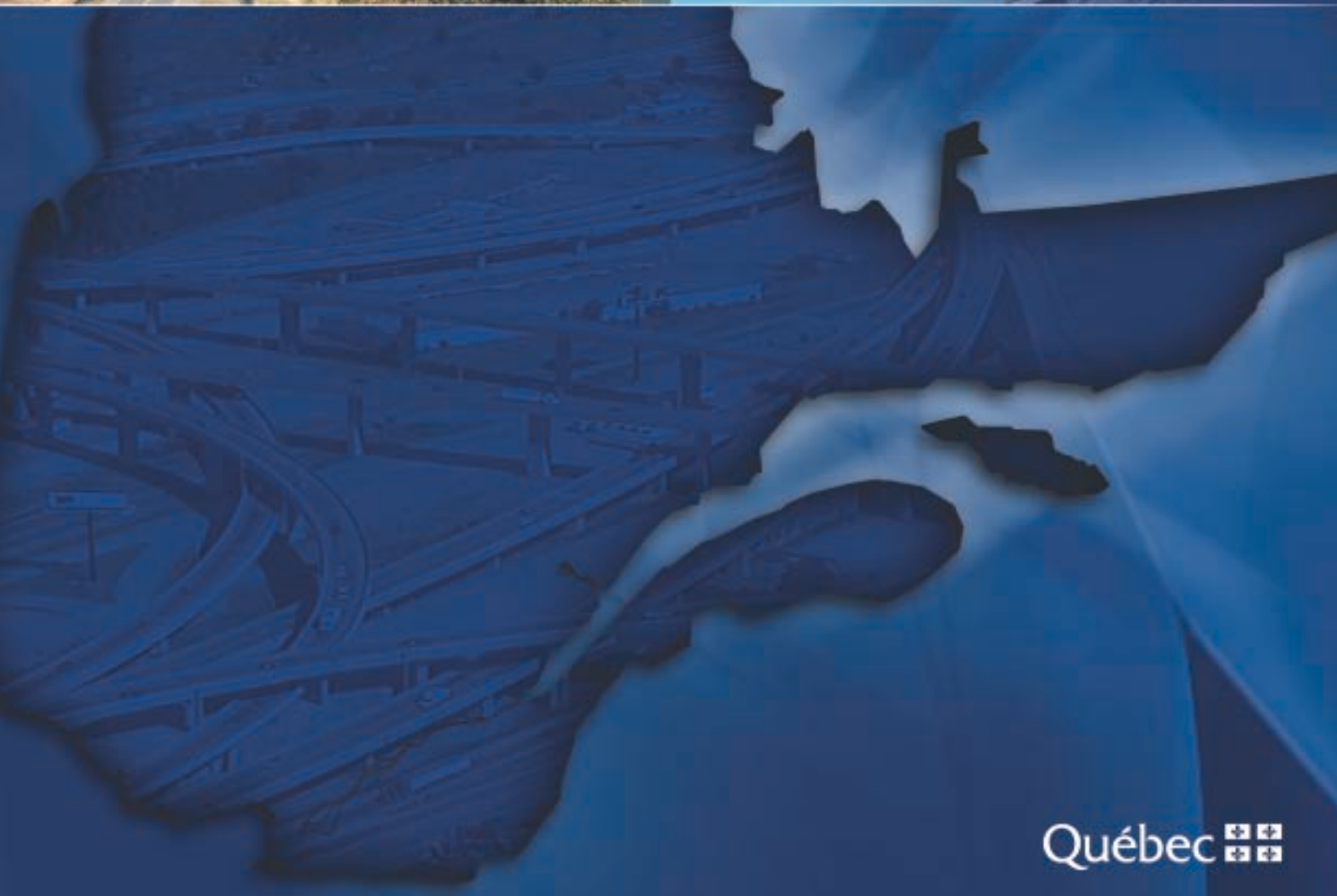


Québec



Animmense territory



- ▶ Québec is located in the northeastern part of North America. It has access to the Atlantic and extends from the United States border to the Arctic.
- ▶ It covers 1.7 million km², four times the area of Japan, three times the area of France and seven times the area of the United Kingdom.
- ▶ Its tens of thousands of lakes and rivers cover 170,000 km², equivalent to 3% of the world's freshwater reserves.
- ▶ The St. Lawrence River, one of the longest rivers in the world, crosses Québec from west to east and enters the Great Lakes, with which it forms a 3,700-km waterway that serves a territory bigger than Western Europe.

Several million inhabitants



- ▶ Most of Quebec's 7,334,000 inhabitants live along the St. Lawrence River.
- ▶ Nearly 80% of the population lives in cities, of which Montréal (3,575,000 inhabitants) and Québec City (705,000 inhabitants) are the biggest.
- ▶ French is the mother tongue of roughly 80% of the population. Many Quebecers speak English, which can easily be used in business. Québec is a pluralistic society comprising several cultures.
- ▶ Québec's population includes 10 Amerindian nations and one Inuit nation.
- ▶ The inhabited portion of Québec is less than 1,000 km from the biggest urban and industrial centres in the northeastern United States, with a population pool of over 100 million.

An economy open to the world



- ▶ The Québec economy is in line with the global economy from the standpoint of the internationalization of production, market globalization and investment in technology-intensive sectors with high value added.
- ▶ With a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of more than 210 billion dollars in 2003, Quebec is among the 20 most important industrialized countries of the OECD in terms of the size of its economy.
- ▶ In 2003, Québec's external trade in relation to GDP stood at just over 55%.
- ▶ The United States is Québec's principal trading partner: over 80% of its international exports by value are destined for the US, equivalent to roughly C\$53 billion per year.
- ▶ In less than 10 years, the value of the international exports of transportation equipment, electrical and electronic products, primary metal processing, lumber and paper industries have increased of 20%.
- ▶ Québec's aeronautics sector is the sixth largest in the world. Montréal ranks second worldwide in this industry.
- ▶ The extent of its hydroelectric power generation assures Québec of energy self-sufficiency and makes it highly competitive from the standpoint of energy costs. Moreover, hydroelectric power means that Québec emits less CO₂ per capita than its Canadian and American neighbours.



Transportation in Québec

The road, air, maritime and rail transportation networks serve as a backbone, allowing the movement of passengers and freight and linking Quebecers together. They also guarantee Québec's integration into the North American and global economies.

The Québec road network

Québec's vast territory, numerous waterways, rigorous climate and the constantly growing number of vehicles and trips pose daunting challenges from the standpoint of development, management and protection of the road network. The Ministère des Transports du Québec has always successfully met these challenges and Quebecers now have access to a solidly structured road network spanning over 135,000 km



The Québec road network



Autoroutes	4,960 km
Provincial highways	10,210 km
Regional highways	5,860 km
Collector highways	7,910 km
Local roads and streets	105,000 km

- ▶ Between 1995 and 2002, the number of road vehicles increased by more than 8%, from 3,800,000 to 4,105,000.
- ▶ The distance travelled by cars and trucks has doubled in 15 years.
- ▶ The automobile is used in 93.3% of intercity trips and in 85% of urban trips.
- ▶ Nearly 100 million tonnes of merchandise are transported each year on the Québec road network. An increase of almost 40% is anticipated for the period from 2000 to 2015.
- ▶ The value of the merchandise transported by truck accounts for about half of the total value of Québec trade. This is indicative of the importance of road transport to the vitality of the Québec economy.

Shared responsibility



In Québec, the federal and provincial governments share jurisdiction over transportation. Québec is, by and large, responsible for regulating road transportation, while the federal government is mainly responsible for maritime, air and rail transportation. However, in recent years, the federal government has gradually transferred the ownership and management of extensive maritime and air transportation infrastructure to local private interests and the municipalities.

The Québec government also shares responsibility for transportation with the municipalities, which manage local roads and public transportation and transit-related services.



A network that increasingly banks on intermodality

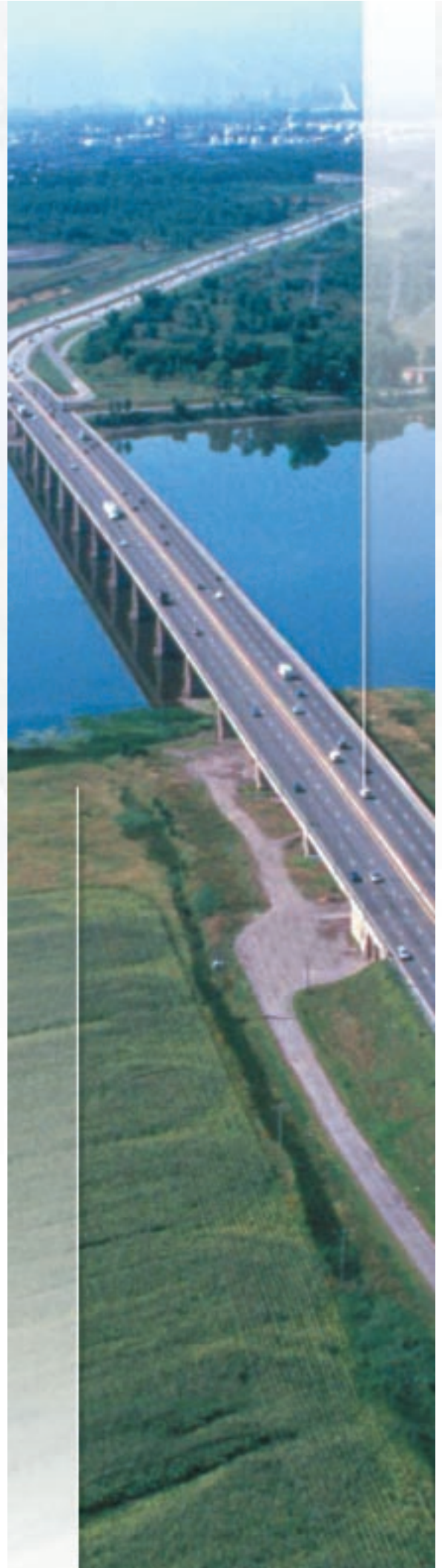
The Québec road network is part of a set of transportation infrastructures. Québec has 6,678 kilometers of railway lines, a 1,800-km maritime network that encompasses 21 commercial ports, as well as 91 public airports, three of which are international: Montréal-Dorval, Montréal-Mirabel, and Jean-Lesage, in Québec City.

Management of the Québec road network

The Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) manages the primary road network comprising 29,200 km of autoroutes and provincial, regional and collector roads, including 4,900 bridges and viaducts. The department is also responsible for over 1,400 km of natural resource access roads.

In 1993, the MTQ transferred responsibility to the municipalities for over 30,000 km of roads, streets and local roads. However, it continues to offer them technical support and financial assistance programs covering the maintenance and enhancement of the local road network and repairs to bridges and other civil engineering structures.

The MTQ oversees the economic and technical regulatory framework governing the road transportation industry, with a view to maintaining safety, fairness, the protection of road structures and environmental conservation, which demands rigorous control.



Preservation and maintenance



Most of the primary road network was designed over 30 years ago. Since then, the total authorized loads, which have increased by 10% to 40%, are straining and hastening the deterioration of roads and structures. Québec winters, with lengthy periods of heavy frost (to a depth of 1.2 m to 3 m) and daily temperature changes of up to 25°C, are gradually warping the roads, a situation that is exacerbated during thawing.

To ensure that the quality of the road network and its infrastructure meets current demand with respect to the transportation of passengers and freight, each year the Ministère des Transports earmarks over \$1 billion to preserve, maintain and enhance roads.



Le ministère des Transports du Québec

Mission

The MTQ's mission is to ensure the mobility of people and goods throughout Quebec with efficient and safe transportation systems that contribute to the economic, social and sustainable development of Quebec.



Services

The MTQ is a leader with respect to the design, construction and operation of transportation infrastructure and systems. It is responsible for a 29,200 km road network on which it carries out maintenance, enhancement, construction, snow-removal, de-icing, road sign installation and other work. It also manages port and airport infrastructure.



Strategic choices

- ▶ More efficient transportation systems geared to Québec's economic, social and environmental development.
- ▶ Safer transportation, through the collaboration of all of the private and public agencies concerned.
- ▶ A more efficient organization geared to the enhancement of public services.

Partners



The Ministère des Transports du Québec maintains close ties with other government agencies, municipalities, passenger and freight transportation associations, shippers, major road contractors, research organizations and police departments.

The MTQ increasingly works with the private sector to build, repair and operate transportation infrastructure. This public-private partnership, in addition to keeping expenditures at a socially acceptable level, is enabling businesses to acquire worthwhile, exportable expertise.

International influence



The MTQ is very active on the international scene, welcomes foreign delegations, participates in missions and research projects, and distributes various products.

For more 30 years, the MTQ has represented the Government of Québec at the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses (PIARC). It is also a member of different associations as the Northeast Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (NASTO), which assembles road authorities in northeastern North American.

Finally, the Centre québécois de transfert des technologies des transports (CQTTT), set up by the MTQ in 1994, serves as Canada-Québec's relay within the World Interchange Network. The CQTTT's mission is to disseminate information on new technologies and the results of research and experimentation in transportation, and to enhance the know-how of the MTQ and its partners. It offers publications, information and online documents.



The Association québécoise du transport et des routes

Founded in 1964, this Association's mission is to mobilize the transportation community to promote the interchange of knowledge and training in the field. The AQTR has nearly 1,000 members, from engineers to transportation users, and including the full range of specialists from the private and public sectors.



The Québec national committee of the PIARC or PIARC-QUÉBEC

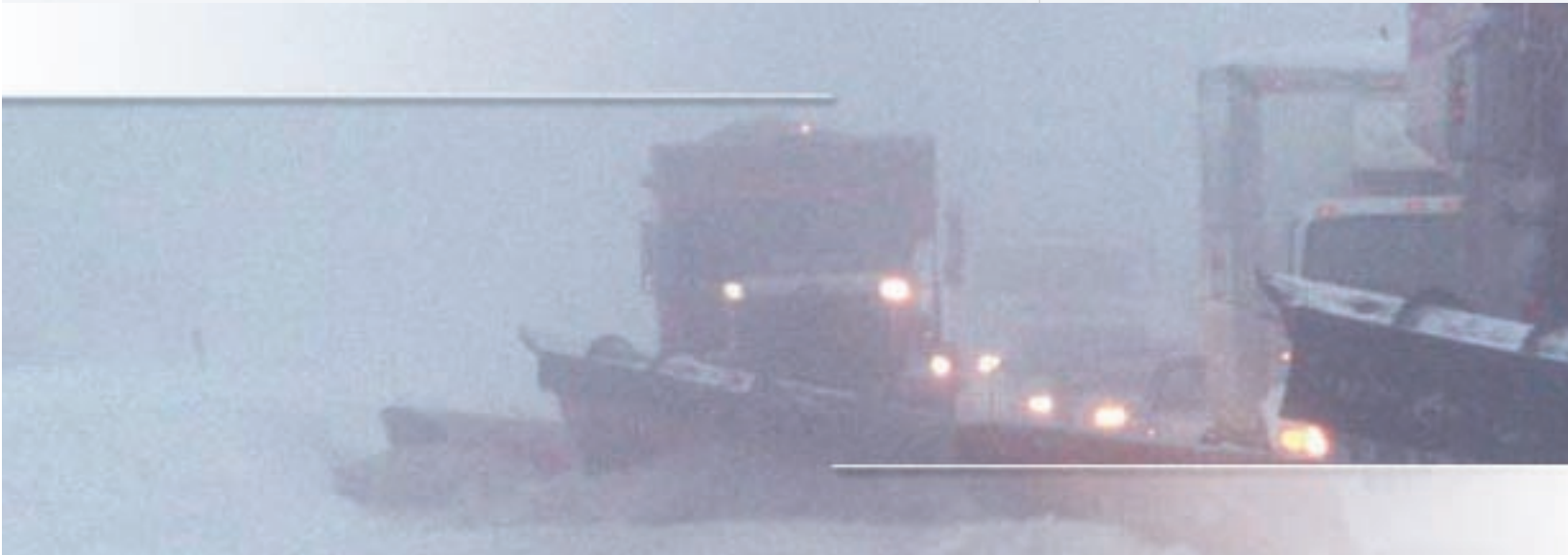
Founded in 1995, PIARC-Québec serves as the link between the World Road Association (PIARC) and the Québec road community. The Committee assures Québec participation in the PIARC's activities, particularly its conventions, and disseminates the results of the technical committees' work. The Committee is integrated into the Association québécoise du transport et des routes.



Climate

Québec has some of the heaviest snowfall in the world. However, the Québec winter is anything but dreary. Lengthy periods of sunshine make winter a marvellously luminous season.

- From the 45th parallel in the south to the far north, Québec covers 15 degrees of latitude and roughly 70% of its territory is located in the northern zone.
- Four climatic zones are found in Québec's vast territory covering near 1,700,000 km², i.e. maritime in the east, humid continental in most of the inhabited territory, and sub-arctic and arctic to the north.



- ▶ Quebecers come by their reputation as experts in weathering winter honestly. Winter is the longest season. Depending on the region, it lasts from 18 to 25 weeks. The number of days with snowfall varies from 50 to over 100. More snow falls in Québec City, the capital, than in Moscow or Oslo.
- ▶ The ground freezes for at least four months to a depth ranging from 1.2 m to 3 m. In some regions, the frost season may even extend from September to May.
- ▶ On average, Québec receives 300 cm of snow a year, although snowfall can reach between 7 m and 8 m in some mountainous areas. However, the number of centimetres of accumulated snow does not depend directly on latitude: Kuujjuak (58°06') gets only 2.7 m of snow, while Québec City (46°48') receives, on average, 3.37 m, and Montréal (45°28'), 2.14 m.
- ▶ Daily temperature variations can reach 25°C.
- ▶ The Ministère des Transports du Québec allocates over \$180 million a year to the winter maintenance of the road network for which it is responsible, to which must be added the funds earmarked by the municipalities for the maintenance of their road networks.

The Québec winter in a nutshell



City	Latitude	Average temperature in the coldest month (°C)	Depth of snow (cm)
Kuujuaq	58° 06'	-23.5	270
Gaspé	48° 47'	-17.1	391
Val-d'Or	48° 04'	-23.3	318
Québec City	46° 48'	-12.4	337
Montréal	45° 28'	-10.3	214

Important dates

1924:

Invention by Quebecer Arthur Sicard
of the first snowplough.

1929:

The first winter maintenance program
was carried out on 77.2 km of roads.

1949:

Winter maintenance was extended to
the entire road network.

Contacts *and links*

National Committee of the PIARC, PIARC-QUÉBEC
www.aqtr.qc.ca/groupe/aipcr/aipcr.html

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