

Québec Municipal Organization



December 2006

*Affaires municipales
et Régions*

Québec 

Presentation of Québec municipal organization

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2. The foundations of Québec municipal organization

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7. Regional organization: Regional Conferences of Elected Officers

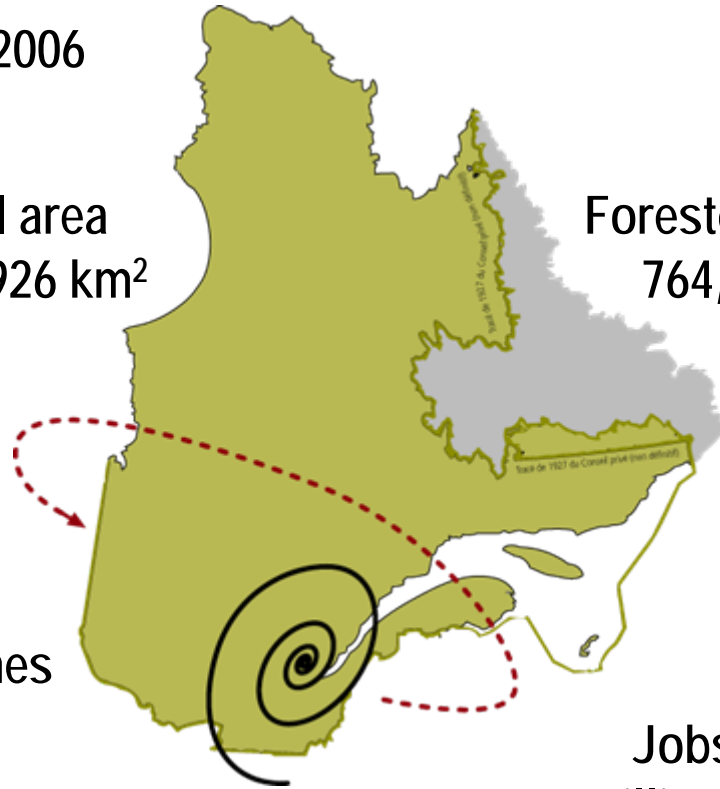


1. Québec statistics

Population in 2006
7.5 million

Total area
1,667,926 km²

Forested territory
764,897 km²



Urban and agricultural zones
33,530 km²

Jobs
3.76 million in 2006



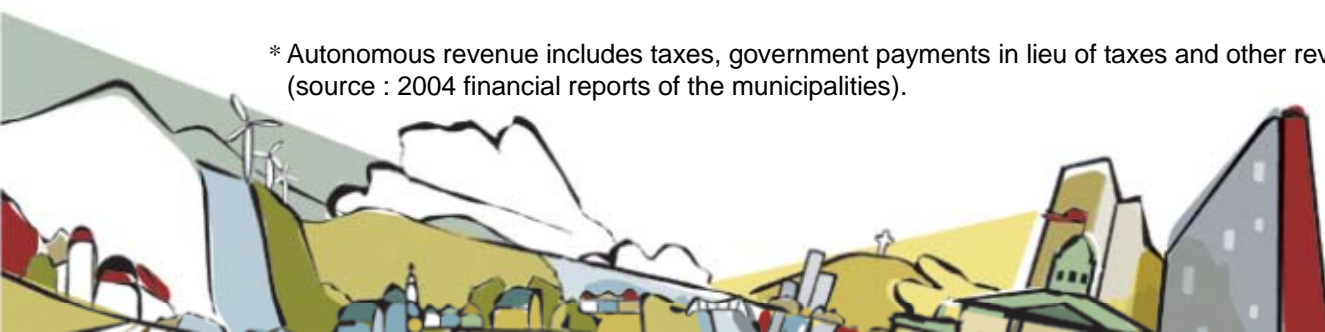
GDP
Over 275 billion Canadian
dollars in 2005



2. The foundations of Québec municipal organization

- **The municipalities are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Québec National Assembly**
- **The municipalities exercise the powers entrusted to them by law**
- **The municipal regime confers great political, administrative and financial autonomy on the municipalities (87% of their funding comes from autonomous sources*)**
- **Over 40 laws, including three main laws, the Municipal Code, the Cities and Towns Act and the Municipal Powers Act**

* Autonomous revenue includes taxes, government payments in lieu of taxes and other revenue from local sources (source : 2004 financial reports of the municipalities).



3. The State and the municipalities

- Division of powers
- Relationships among the State, the municipalities and the regions



Division of powers between the Québec State and the municipalities

	<i>Québec State</i>	<i>Municipalities</i>
Health and social services	●	
Social solidarity	●	*
Housing	●	●
Education	●	
Road network	●	●
Public transit	**	●
Police services	●	●
Firefighting services		●
Drinking water		●
Water purification		●
Residual materials		●
Recreation and culture	●	●
Parks and natural spaces	●	●
Land use planning and development	●	●

* The Ville de Montréal administers social assistance within its territory under an ad hoc agreement

** In the Metropolitan Montreal area, a government agency, the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT), is primarily responsible for increasing public transit services in order to improve the efficiency of human mobility within the territory.



Relationships among the State, the municipalities and the regions

Table Québec-municipalités

- composed of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions and representatives of the Ville de Montréal and the two municipal associations, i.e., the Fédération québécoise des municipalités and the Union des municipalités du Québec
- preferred body for consultation and discussion between the government and the municipalities

Table Québec-régions

- composed of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions and the Chairs of the 21 Regional Conferences of Elected Officers
- preferred body for consultation and discussion between the government and the regions on regional development



4. Municipal democracy

- Election of the mayor and the councilors by universal suffrage
- Regular elections: every four years on a fixed date, simultaneously in all Québec municipalities since 2005
- Participation rate in 2005: 45%
- Referendum: loan by-law, urban planning
- Municipal elected officers (in 2006)
 - Women 24.8%
 - Men 75.2%

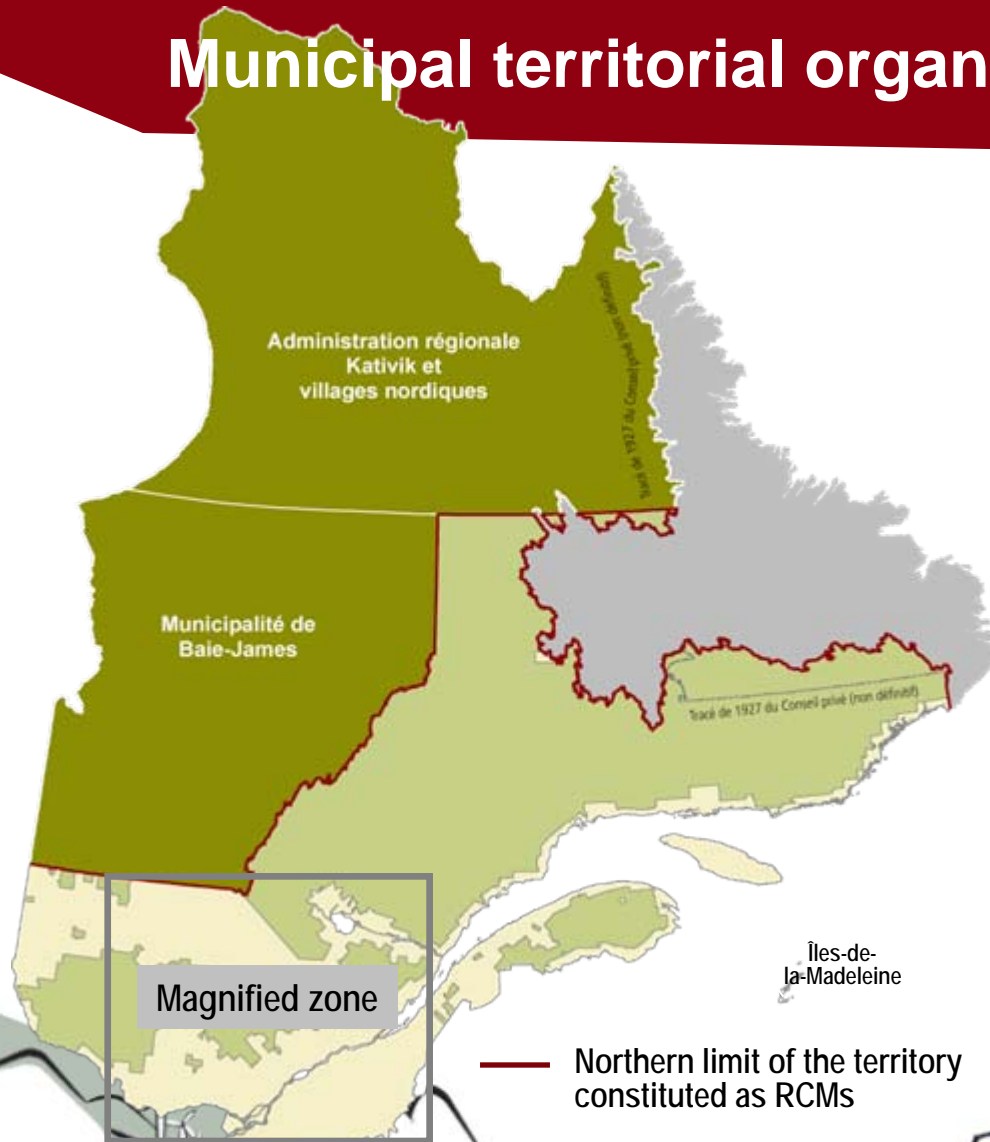


5. Municipal territorial organization

- Municipal organization
- Local municipalities
- Boroughs
- Agglomerations





Municipal territorial organization



The 9 major cities with 100,000 or more inhabitants



-  Unorganized territories included in the RCMs
-  Local municipalities (as a general rule, the local municipalities are included in the RCMs)

Two metropolitan communities, one in Montréal and one in Québec, are also constituted

Municipal organization

2000-2003 Amalgamations

- 213 municipalities and parts of municipalities were amalgamated to form 42 new municipalities
- The number of municipalities in Québec decreased from 1328 to 1110
- Establishment of two metropolitan communities

2003-2005 Reconstitutions

- In June 2004, 31 of the 213 amalgamated municipalities chose by referendum to reconstitute themselves in their former territory
- The number of municipalities in Québec increased from 1110 to 1139 as of March 22, 2006
- Establishment of eleven agglomeration councils in territories where reconstitutions occurred in order to manage certain jurisdictions of collective interest



Local municipalities in October 2006

Breakdown of local municipalities by population bracket

Population bracket	Number of municipalities	Population	
Under 2,000	753	648,163	8.6%
2,000 to 9,999	294	1,147,270	15.3%
10,000 to 49,999	74	1,578,828	21.1%
50,000 to 99,999	9	603,739	8.1%
100,000 and over	9	3,515,699	46.9%
Total	1 139	7,493,699	100.0%

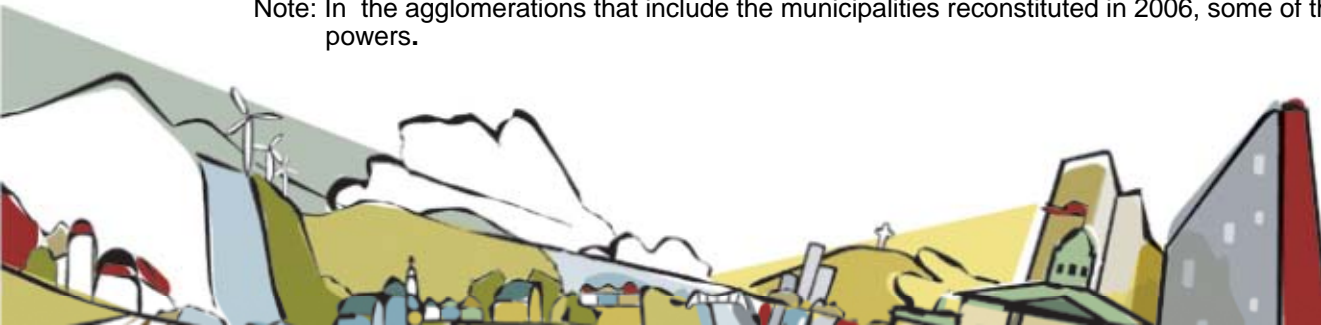
Data established according to the 2006 official population in the December 2005 Order-in-Council. This table excludes Indian reserves, lands under federal jurisdiction, unorganized territories and Inuit lands.



Principal powers of local municipalities

- Urban planning and zoning
- Culture, recreation, community activities and parks
- Local economic development
- Energy production and community telecommunication systems
- Environment
- Sanitation
- Nuisances
- Safety
- Transportation

Note: In the agglomerations that include the municipalities reconstituted in 2006, some of these powers are agglomeration powers.



The nine cities or agglomerations with over 100,000 inhabitants

9 cities or agglomerations

52% of Québec's population



62% of jobs



61% of local municipal expenditures



All these cities or agglomerations exercise some of the usual powers of an RCM.



The nine cities or agglomerations with over 100,000 inhabitants

	-----City -----		Reconstituted municipalities		City or agglomeration
	Population	Boroughs	Number	Population	Population
● Montréal	1,637,563	19	15	239,369	1,876,932
● Québec	492,937	8	2	33,555	526,492
● Laval	364,756	---	---	---	364,756
● Gatineau	243,998	---	---	---	243,998
● Longueuil	230,678	3	4	153,826	384,504
● Sherbrooke	146,372	6	---	---	146,372
● Saguenay	146,332	3	---	---	146,332
● Lévis	127,352	3	---	---	127,352
● Trois-Rivières	125,711	---	---	---	125,711
Total	3,515,699			426,750	3,942,449

2006 population according to the December 2005 Order-in-Council

Boroughs

A representative, decision-making and consultative body close to the citizens

- Created more particularly within the territory of the cities of Montréal, Québec, Longueuil, Lévis, Saguenay and Sherbrooke
- Instituted to preserve local characteristics, make decisions and manage proximity services locally



Principal responsibilities of the boroughs

- Local parks and sports, cultural and recreational facilities
- Local roads
- Public consultations on zoning
- Minor derogations from urban planning by-laws
- Issuance of permits
- Removal of residual materials
- Local economic, community and social development
- In Montréal, the boroughs have more extensive powers, particularly regarding land use planning and development, management of human resources and finance

Note: These powers can differ from one municipality to another



Agglomerations

In the demerged municipalities, all the municipalities continue to be related after some of them were reconstituted and together form an agglomeration. The law provides that certain powers of collective interest are managed and funded at the agglomeration level, for reasons of equity and efficiency.

These 11 agglomerations are:

Cookshire-Eaton

La Tuque

Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Longueuil

Mont-Laurier

Montréal

Mont-Tremblant

Québec

Rivière-Rouge

Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts

Sainte-Marguerite–Estérel



Agglomerations (continued)

- The agglomeration council is composed of representatives of all the related municipalities.
- The allocation of votes within the agglomeration council is established on the basis of the demographic weight of each member municipality.
- For Longueuil, the law states that council decisions are made by a double majority (Longueuil and the reconstituted municipalities). Special rules apply when the double majority is not achieved.
- The law establishes the agglomeration powers.

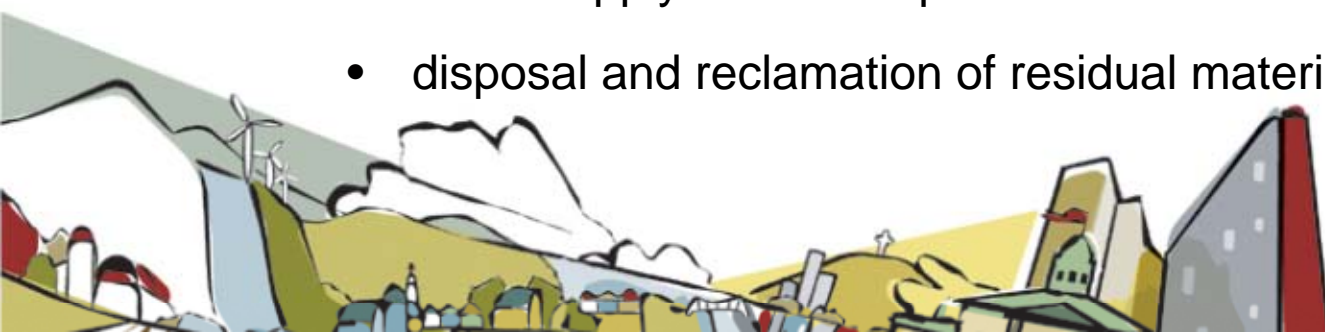


Agglomerations (continued)

Examples of agglomeration powers

The agglomeration powers concern matters and objects that affect the entire territory of the agglomeration

- certain aspects of public security, namely police, civil protection and fire protection
- municipal assessment
- public transportation
- the thoroughfares forming the arterial road system of the urban agglomeration
- water supply and water purification
- disposal and reclamation of residual materials



6. Supralocal organization

- Local municipal organizations are amalgamated in 86 regional county municipalities (RCM).

Fourteen municipalities and agglomerations do not belong to any RCM; they exercise some of the usual powers of RCMs.

These are: Montréal, Québec, Gatineau, Saguenay, Trois-Rivières, Sherbrooke, Laval, Mirabel, Longueuil, Lévis, Shawinigan, Rouyn-Noranda, Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine and La Tuque.

- The municipalities of the two main metropolitan regions are also part of the Montréal and Québec metropolitan communities.



Regional country municipalities (RCM)

- Generally constituted in the early 80s
- 86 RCMs
- 14 cities and agglomerations exercising certain RCM powers



RCM Council

The Council is composed of the mayors of each member municipality and sometimes other elected officers.

The decisions of the RCM Councils are subject to rules intended to assure a rural-urban balance. To some extent, these rules are specific to each RCM.



The RCM warden

- In general, the RCM warden is designated by the members of the Council from among the member mayors.
- Except for the ten RCMs located within the territory of the Montréal Metropolitan Community, all the RCMs may choose to have their warden elected by universal suffrage.
- Currently, eight wardens have been elected by universal suffrage. These are the wardens of the following RCMs: Haut-Saint-François, Pays-d'en-Haut, Témiscouata, Granit, des Basques, La Haute-Gaspésie, La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau and Kamouraska.



Principal powers of the RCMs

Mandatory powers

- Land use planning and development plan (Including the set out of a strategic vision of economic, social, cultural and environmental development, except for the RCMs located within the territory of the metropolitan communities)
- Residual materials management planning
- Fire protection and civil defense planning
- Administration of unorganized territories
- Management of local development centres (LDC)



Principal powers of the RCMs (continued)

Mandatory powers (continued)

- Real estate assessment¹
- Watercourse management

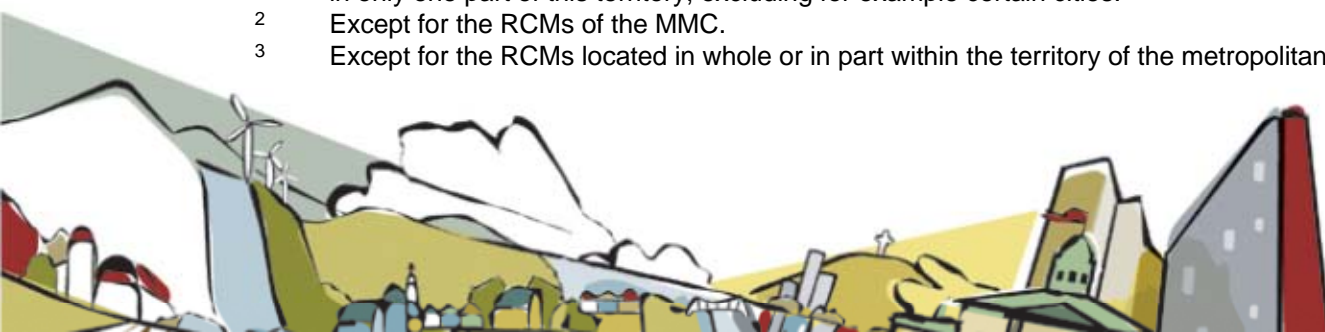
Optional powers without right of withdrawal by the subject local municipalities

- Adoption of a territory development plan²
- Regulation of tree cutting in privately owned forests³

¹ Some RCM's exercise power on the real estate assessment throughout their territory, while others exercise this power in only one part of this territory, excluding for example certain cities.

² Except for the RCMs of the MMC.

³ Except for the RCMs located in whole or in part within the territory of the metropolitan communities.



Principal powers of the RCMS (continued)

Optional powers without right of withdrawal by the subject local municipalities (continued)

- Establishment and management of regional parks
- Management of residual materials, local roads, public transportation and social housing
- Municipal funding of social housing
- Determining of supralocal facilities, infrastructure and activities and establishment of the conditions of their management and funding



Principal powers of the RCMS (continued)

Optional powers with right of withdrawal by the subject local municipalities

- Assistance to economic development bodies
- Acquisition of powers from local municipalities
- Delegation of certain powers by local municipalities



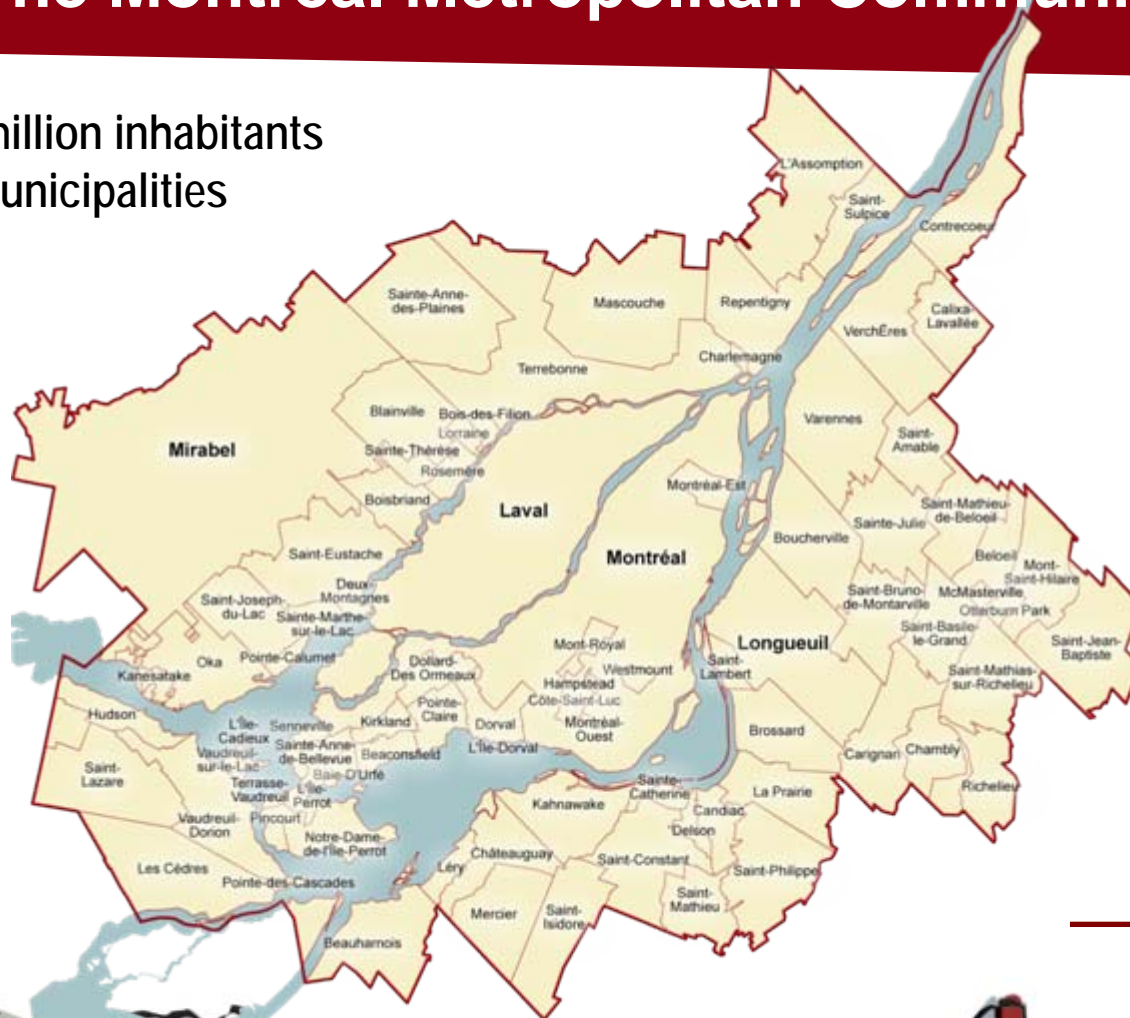
The two metropolitan communities

- The Montréal Metropolitan Community (MMC) created in January 2001
- The Québec Metropolitan Community (QMC) created in January 2002
- The Council of each community is composed of elected officers from the constituent local municipalities
 - MMC Council:
28 members; chaired by the Mayor of Ville de Montréal
 - QMC Council:
17 members; chaired by the Mayor of Ville de Québec



The Montréal Metropolitan Community

3.5 million inhabitants
82 municipalities



Council

28 members

- Mayor of Montréal
- Mayor of Laval
- Mayor of Longueuil
- 13 elected officers designated by the Montréal Agglomeration Council
- 2 Laval councillors
- 2 elected officers designated by the Longueuil Agglomeration Council
- 4 Mayors from the northern suburbs
- 4 mayors from the southern suburbs

- Limits of the Montréal Metropolitan Community
- Municipal limits

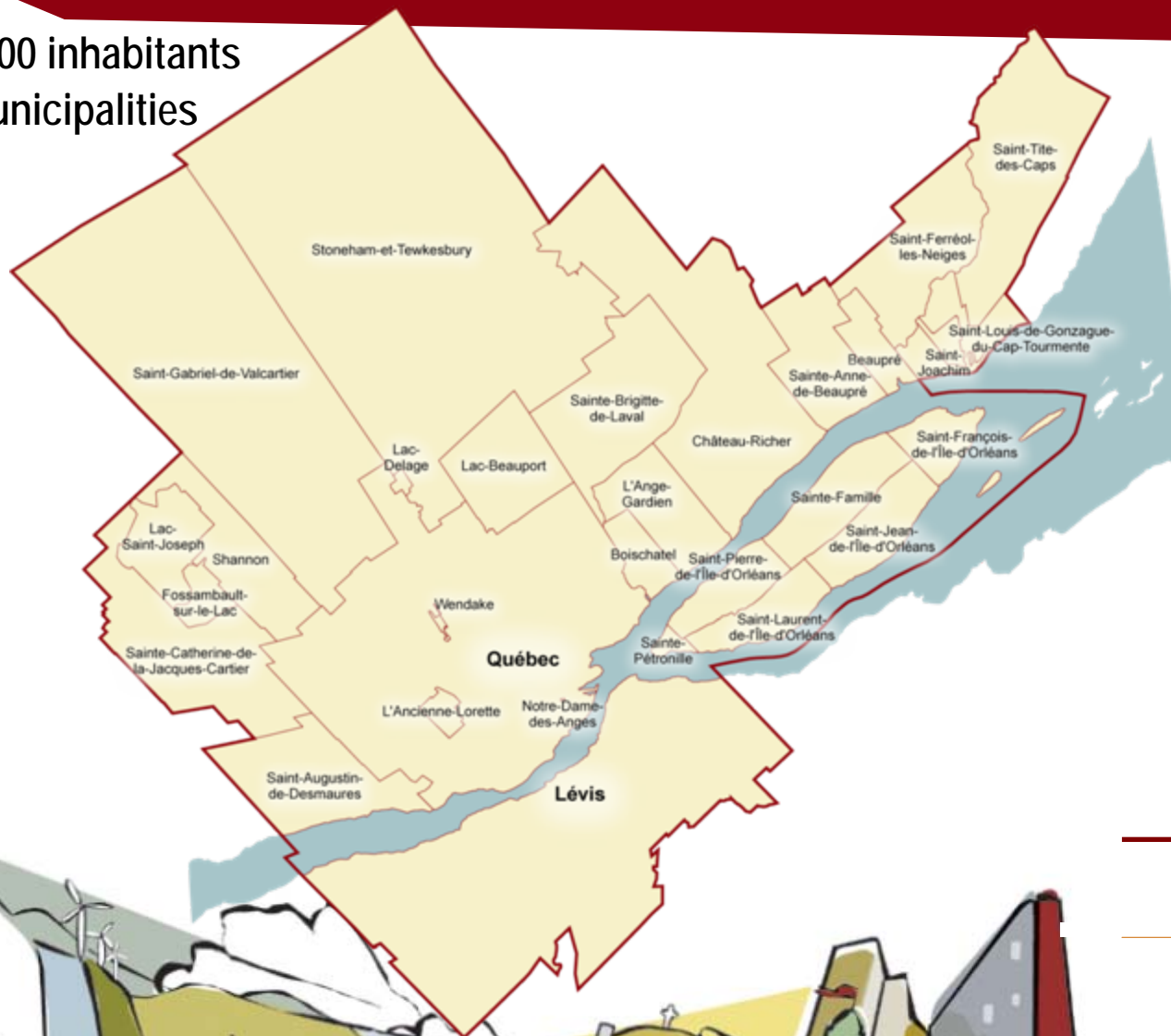
Affaires municipales
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Québec



The Québec Metropolitan Community

712,000 inhabitants
28 municipalities



Council

17 members

- Mayor of Québec
- Mayor of Lévis
- 8 elected officers designated by the Québec Agglomeration Council
- 4 Lévis councillors
- Warden of La Côte-de-Beaupré RCM
- Warden of L'Île-d'Orléans RCM
- Warden of La Jacques-Cartier RCM

- Limits of the Québec Metropolitan Community
- Municipal limits

Affaires municipales
et Régions

Québec



Principal powers of metropolitan communities

- Land use
- Economic development
- Artistic and cultural development
- Metropolitan facilities, infrastructure, services and activities
- Public transit planning
- Residual materials management planning



7. Regional organization: Regional Conferences of Elected Officers

- Within the context of the renewal of regional governance, 21 Regional Conferences of Elected Officers (CRE) were created in 2004 to:
 - act as the governments privileged intervener in regional development matters;
 - exercise powers defined by the law in concerted action and planning of regional development.
- The law institutes a CRE in each of the 17 administrative regions of Québec. However, there are three CREs in the Montérégie region and three authorities acting in this capacity in the Nord-du-Québec region.



Composition of a CRE

- A CRE is a body for concerted action by community partners and planning of regional development. It is a legal person established in the public interest.
- As a general rule, two thirds of the board of directors of a CRE is composed of municipal elected officers (mainly RCM wardens and mayors of local municipalities of 5,000 or more inhabitants) who call upon representatives of various socioeconomic sectors.



Principal responsibilities of the CREs

- Promote concerted action by the partners in the region;
- Express opinions on the region's development, as the case may be, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions;
- Perform any other mandate specifically assigned to them by the Minister;
- Establish a five-year development plan defining the general and specific objectives of the region's development within a sustainable development perspective;
- Enter into specific agreements with government departments and agencies and, as the case may be, with other partners.

