

Canada Quebec



Quebec, Canada's largest province in area, encompasses some 1 540 680 square kilometres of the country's total of 9 922 330. The northern third of this territory, known as *Nouveau Québec*, is barren tundra, while the central region is forested and contains a wealth of mineral resources as well as many rivers with hydro-electric potential.

In the south lies the broad, fertile St. Lawrence Valley, where most of the province's population of 6.5 million is concentrated. The St. Lawrence River is the backbone of Quebec, linking its major cities and industries, and providing them with deep-water access to the sea. It was along this natural maritime highway that European colonists first settled in what is now Quebec.

Jacques Cartier's first expedition arrived in the Gaspé region in 1534, and explored the St. Lawrence as far as the future sites of Quebec City and

Montreal. Samuel de Champlain's explorations widely extended the boundaries of New France in the early 1600s, setting the stage for the establishment of French colonies along the St. Lawrence Valley during the next 150 years.

The fall of Quebec to British forces in 1759 brought an end to French rule, and thereafter Quebec took part in a succession of colonial governments leading to the self-governing Canadian Confederation established in 1867.

Today, Quebec remains the heart of French Canada, and Montreal, with a population of three million, is the world's second-largest French-speaking cultural centre after Paris. Approximately 80 per cent of Quebec's people are of French origin, giving the

province a cultural character quite unlike that of any other part of Canada. Elaborate facilities for the production of French-language television, films, theatre and publications, as well as music, dance and art are centred in Montreal, and serve French-speaking communities across the continent.

Laval University, the University of Montreal, *le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde*, *les Grands ballets canadiens*, *l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal* and the Quebec Winter Carnival are just a few of the very well-known French-Canadian cultural institutions.

Montreal, which has twice been host to the world as the site of Expo 67 and the 1976 Olympics, also dominates the Quebec economy, accounting for over 60 per cent of the province's output of goods and services. These include petrochemicals, textiles, automobiles, aircraft, railway equipment and heavy machinery. Montreal is also Canada's largest eastern seaport, and a major terminal for the country's transcontinental rail, road and air transportation networks.

Hydro-Quebec provides abundant energy for Quebec industries—as well as for export to the U.S.—from some of the world's largest hydro-electric installations on northern tributaries of the St. Lawrence and rivers flowing into James Bay.

Major iron, copper, asbestos and gold mining centres, as well as pulp and paper mills, are located both north and south of the St. Lawrence Valley. The province's principal agricultural products include feed grains, livestock, dairy products, fruits, vegetables and tobacco.

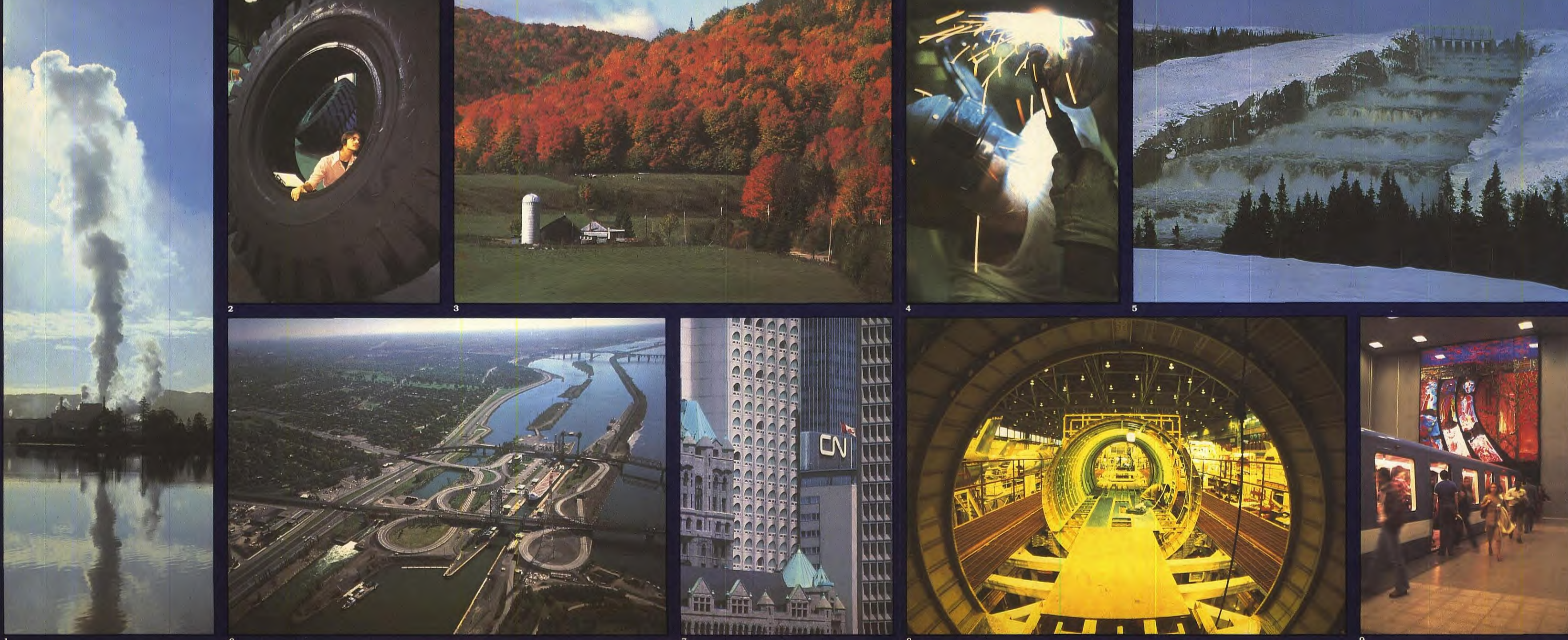


Geography



1. Percé Rock looms off the east coast of Quebec's Gaspé region, a lightly populated, scenic area rich in forests and fisheries.
2. Stands of mixed deciduous and evergreen trees like these in the Gatineau (Ottawa Valley) region are typical of Quebec's southern farming areas.
3. Leaves tinged with the colours of autumn are reflected in a lake near Mt. Tremblant. Quebec's Laurentian region, a part of the Canadian Shield, contains thousands of lakes, some 1 000 square kilometres in area.
4. Mount Royal rises in the centre of an island where the Ottawa River joins the St. Lawrence. The city of Montreal spreads around its flanks, while St. Joseph's Oratory stands on the mountain's north slope.
5. A cliff-top religious statue looks out over the St. Lawrence at the mouth of the Saguenay River, which is actually a large flord. Its wide, deep channel allows ocean shipping access to the Lac Saint-Jean region, Quebec's northernmost major populated area.

Economy



1. Quebec is a major producer of pulp and paper products. This mill is on the placid Saint-François River near Richmond, in the Eastern Townships region.
2. Tires for heavy equipment are produced in a factory near Montreal.
3. Most of Quebec's 45 000 farms are located in the St. Lawrence Valley, but dairy farms like this one are also found in the lower Laurentians.
4. A welder works on an auto chassis in a large assembly plant north of Montreal.
5. A diverted river cascades down a man-made chute at one of Hydro-Quebec's massive power projects in the James Bay region.
6. Some 5 000 vessels a year carry about 60 million tonnes of cargo through the St. Lawrence Seaway, which begins at Montreal.
7. Downtown Montreal houses the headquarters of Canada's first transcontinental railway, Canadian Pacific (foreground), as well as Canadian National.
8. *Challenger* executive jets are the main product of this aircraft plant in Montreal.
9. Commuters in the Montreal Métro enjoy an underground feast of colourful art and architecture.

Culture



1. Professional baseball and football (*shown here*) are among the attractions at Montreal's Olympic Stadium.
2. Bicycle racing, especially the gruelling *Tour du Saint-Laurent*, is a popular sport in Quebec.
3. Quebec City's Lower Town, dating from the seventeenth century, looks more European than North American.
4. *Les Grands ballets canadiens* is one of Canada's leading dance companies.
5. Dozens of resorts within an hour's drive provide residents of the Montreal region with superb skiing.
6. Ile Notre-Dame, a man-made island in Montreal harbour created for Expo 67, is now a public recreation complex.
7. Quebec City's Winter Carnival features a challenging boat race across the ice-choked—and fast-flowing—St. Lawrence.
8. Among Montreal's hundreds of churches, Notre-Dame Cathedral is one of the oldest and most beautiful.
9. Hockey, Canada's national sport, is nowhere more popular than in Montreal, home of the illustrious *Canadiens*.

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