



A laker, — a cargo ship specially designed for the Saint Lawrence Seaway, — passing through the Saint Lambert lock

97 percent coming from hydro-electric power plants. As a consequence, electricity rates in Quebec are among the lowest in the industrialised world; many US and European competitors pay up to twice as much as Quebec-based firms for electricity.

Oil accounts for about 40 percent of Quebec's energy needs, down from 70 percent ten years ago. Much of it is transported from the UK North Sea oil fields to be refined at Ultramar's installations near Quebec City. Natural gas supplies most of the rest of the province's energy requirements, much of it coming by pipeline from Alberta.

In addition, the provincial government is supporting research and development into alternative energy sources, such as biomass, wind power and the conversion of solid waste into energy.

Financial centre with a good life style


Montreal has long been noted as a leading financial centre. It is home to Canada's second most important stock exchange, and four of Canada's top nine banks have their headquarters there.

Financial activity has been intensified in recent years by the development of IFCs (international financial centres). These are businesses involved in bank loans and deposits, foreign exchange, portfolio management, securities dealing and financial engineering, which benefit from provincial tax exemptions at the corporate level and which also offer individual employees tax advantages.

Some 14 international financial institutions have been licensed so far, including the Banque Nationale de Paris, Schroder, Dunedin Fund

Managers and Warburg Investment Management.

Yet although Montreal is right at the heart of things, living costs in the city are lower than those in many other industrial and commercial centres in the western hemisphere. Elsewhere in the province, living costs are even lower.

The quality of life is excellent, with first-class entertainment, good food, plenty of sports facilities, and fine scenery literally on the doorstep. The end result? From a foreign investor's point of view, Quebec has much to offer. 

Main UK companies with manufacturing investments in Quebec

Aquascutum	Low and Bonar
BICC	Lucas Aerospace
British Petroleum	Maxwell Communications
British Telecom	Reckitt & Colman
Beecham	Rio Tinto Zinc
Coates Viyella	Rolls-Royce
Cookson Group	Scapa Group
Courtaulds	Smith & Nephew
General Electric Company	Tioxide
Hawker Siddeley	Trebor
Hillsdown	Ultramar
Howden	Weir Group
ICI	Wellcome

High Quality Products Exported Around the World

Right from the early days, Quebecers have looked beyond their borders for trading opportunities; and they continue to do so today. About 40 percent of the province's production is exported, either to other provinces in Canada or to more than 150

countries around the world.

In 1987, international exports from the province were worth more than £10 billion. The US is the province's most important customer; in second place is Britain.

With commercial forests covering roughly half of Quebec's territory, wood, pulp and paper exports are a major source of revenue. Newsprint remains the main export item, but the processed wood products industry is also making its mark thanks to investment in the latest technology.

The province also has an important mining sector; it exports gold, iron, zinc, copper and silver all over the world and there are largely untapped reserves of cobalt, chromite, apatite and tungsten.

The agricultural and food sector has also progressed in leaps and bounds, making Quebec a major exporter of livestock, meats, dairy and fisheries products.

Leading role in transportation equipment and aerospace

However, while primary products represent a

Quebecers believe in well done work

