

## Canada–Quebec co-operation

### Essential For the St. Lawrence

- ✔ **A positive partnership** that began in 1988 and continues today
- ✔ **A pooling** of expertise and resources to conserve and promote the St. Lawrence
- ✔ **Joint action** by many government organizations

### Financial commitments For 2011–2016

- ✔ Government of Canada: \$49 million
- ✔ Government of Quebec: \$20.6 million



## Participating government organizations

### Québec

- ✔ Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire
- ✔ Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation
- ✔ Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs
- ✔ Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
- ✔ Ministère de la Sécurité publique
- ✔ Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- ✔ Ministère du Tourisme
- ✔ Ministère des Transports

### Canada

- ✔ Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- ✔ Parks Canada
- ✔ Public Health Agency of Canada
- ✔ Canada Space Agency
- ✔ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- ✔ Environment Canada
- ✔ Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- ✔ Health Canada
- ✔ Transport Canada
- ✔ Public Works and Government Services Canada

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Canada 

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Canada–Quebec Agreement on the St. Lawrence 2011-2026



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Canada 

Québec 

## The St. Lawrence River

### A priceless heritage

### Rich in biodiversity, the St. Lawrence is

- ✔ 1600 km long;
- ✔ home of wetlands of international importance (four RAMSAR sites);
- ✔ a UNESCO-designated Lake Saint-Pierre Biosphere Reserve; and
- ✔ a natural habitat for over half the species of plants and animals in Quebec.

### At the heart of our development, the St. Lawrence is

- ✔ a drinking water source for over half the population of Quebec;
- ✔ home to the 60% of Quebecers living along its banks;
- ✔ a force channelling our national history;
- ✔ a major North American waterway;
- ✔ an international tourist destination; and
- ✔ a region supporting multiple and diverse activities, including fishing and recreational boating.



# State of the St. Lawrence

A continuous monitoring program

## Sound scientific information

- ✓ Twenty-one environmental indicator monitoring sheets;
- ✓ Forum Rendez-vous St. Lawrence, a place where experts and stakeholders can exchange ideas; and
- ✓ an overview of the health of the St. Lawrence every five years.

# Environmental numerical prediction of the St. Lawrence

A helpful tool in decision making

Prediction, using cutting-edge technologies, of the change in variables describing the state of the St. Lawrence, such as water levels and quality.



Photo: Catherine Dion



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## Issues For 2011–2026

### 1. Conservation of biodiversity

The St. Lawrence is home to many different types of living organisms (microorganisms, plants and animals). To help preserve the biodiversity of the St. Lawrence, the governments involved plan to carry out the following actions by 2016:

- ✓ identify, protect, restore and promote areas of ecological interest;
- ✓ prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and control their dispersion; and
- ✓ evaluate the impact of climate change on the ecosystems.

### 2. Sustainability of uses

The St. Lawrence is used for recreational, commercial, industrial and public purposes. The governments involved intend to contribute to the harmonious development of uses and will work on the following until 2016:

- ✓ promote sustainable management of fishery resources;
- ✓ list and promote public access sites;
- ✓ maintain and promote sustainable navigation; and
- ✓ promote the sustainable management of water levels and flows.

### 3. Water quality improvement

Pollution from various sources affects the water quality of the St. Lawrence. The government initiatives to address this by 2016 are:

- ✓ the reduction of agricultural sources of background pollution;
- ✓ the improvement and development of contaminated sediment management technologies; and
- ✓ the evaluation of the presence in, and effects of toxic substances on the ecosystems.

## Objectives For 2011–2016

# Community initiatives

Stimulating action

- ✓ **Community Interaction Program (CIP):** through its financial support, this program fosters the realization of community projects associated with the St. Lawrence ecosystems.

# Integrated management of the St. Lawrence

An inclusive approach

- ✓ **Implementation of the integrated management of the St. Lawrence:** joint action by the decision-makers, users and others involved in the main issues concerning the St. Lawrence.
- ✓ **Twelve regional working groups,** from the fluvial section to the gulf, to which the ZIP (zones d'intervention prioritaire, or Priority Intervention Zones) committees actively contribute.
- ✓ **Forum Rendez-vous St. Lawrence:** an annual meeting of St. Lawrence stakeholders for co-development, sharing information and finding solutions.