

# REGION

## QUEBEC AND LÉVIS

### Topic Sheets

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The cities of Quebec and Lévis are part of the *Communauté métropolitaine de Québec* (CMQ), which includes a total of 28 municipalities. These two cities represent 85% of the total population of the CMQ which numbers 751 990 inhabitants in all. The special feature of this region is that it is divided by the St. Lawrence River, a natural barrier crossed by 35% of the residents of Lévis daily as they go to work in Quebec City! In 2006, 80% of the active population active of the CMQ travelled to work by car. More specifically, 5%<sup>1</sup> of the population of Lévis and 10%<sup>2</sup> of the population of Quebec used shared transportation for these trips.

Did you know that ridership on the *Réseau de transport de la Capitale* (RTC) increased from 375 to 456 million passengers between 2004 and 2008, an increase of more than 20% ?

## LAND TRANSPORTATION

Before the construction of the Quebec Bridge, it was necessary to take a ferry or wait for the winter to cross the St. Lawrence, when an ice bridge joined the two shores. Quebec's two bridges were built at the narrowest point of the river, about 10 km upstream from Old Quebec.

The name "Quebec" comes from the Algonquin word "kebec," which means "where the river narrows."

### THE QUEBEC BRIDGE

From the time that construction began in 1904, the bridge collapsed twice, before finally being opened in 1919. Some debris from the bridge can still be seen today at low tide. To remind engineers of the serious consequences which could arise from their responsibility, the metal used in the official rings awarded to engineers in Quebec is taken from the metal debris of the first Quebec Bridge.

### PIERRE-LAPORTE BRIDGE

This bridge, constructed at the end of the 60's, was supposed to be called the Frontenac Bridge. However, it was named in honor of Pierre Laporte, a Quebec cabinet minister who was kidnapped and murdered on October 17, 1970.

### THE STLÉVIS... LET'S TRAVEL TOGETHER

After the municipal amalgamation in 2002, the *Corporation intermunicipale de transport de la Rive-Sud de Québec* became the *Société de transport de Lévis*<sup>3</sup>. It services a population of 132 609 on a territory of 551 km<sup>2</sup>. Passengers served by STLévis travel mostly to work (35%) and to school, CEGEP or university (43%). To carry out this task, the STLévis provides 45 regular bus lines, ten collective taxis and nine integrated transportation lines.



The STLévis also employs 130 employees, including 65 drivers, and owns 110 buses. Five park-and-ride lots have been set up on the territory serviced by the company, providing in all 1 390 parking spaces. These parking spaces are situated at the Lévis ferry, at Galeries Chagnon, at the Irving station of Saint-Jean-Chrysostome, at Mégacentre Rive-Sud and at Parc-O-Bus du Pont at Saint-Nicolas.

A park-and-ride lot is usually located at the outskirts of a city and is serviced by a shared transportation system. It is located there to encourage car drivers to use shared transportation for their trips into the city.

1. Communauté métropolitaine de Québec. *Vivre et se déplacer à Québec* (2009) [www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/apropos/vie\\_democratique/participation\\_citoyenne/consultations\\_publicques/mobilite/docs/document\\_consultation\\_plan\\_mobilite.pdf](http://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/apropos/vie_democratique/participation_citoyenne/consultations_publicques/mobilite/docs/document_consultation_plan_mobilite.pdf)  
2. Réseau de transport de la Capitale 2011. Available online: [www.rtcquebec.ca](http://www.rtcquebec.ca)  
3. Société de transport de Lévis. Available online: [www.stlevis.ca](http://www.stlevis.ca) (2011)



The **Sécuribus** service. Young people less than 14 years old, women, and elderly persons may ask to be let off the bus near their final destinations. This shouldn't be considered a door-to-door service, because bus drivers are not authorized to deviate from their routes<sup>3</sup>.

**Adapted transportation.** In 2009, the STLévis provided more than 3.6 millions regular passenger trips and 109 000 adapted transportation trips<sup>4</sup>.

**Transportation offered by volunteers** is organized around social services and coordinated by the CSSS. It provides, for example, trips for people with handicaps to receive health services<sup>5</sup>.

## THE RTC... LET'S MAKE THE TRIP TOGETHER

In Quebec City, shared transportation is administered by the *Réseau de transport de la Capitale*<sup>6</sup>. The company offers more than a hundred bus circuits supported by eight terminuses. Today, the Quebec fleet has more than 500 vehicles, including eight powered by electricity, and it transports more than 44 million passengers annually.



The RTC also offers the Taxibus, the Abonne-bus, Couche-tard service and adapted transportation services. Many park-and-ride lots, called Parc-O-Bus, have been set up on its territory and are identified on the company's website.

- To encourage shared transportation and make the lives of passengers easier, lines and schedules of RTC buses can be found [www.rtcquebec.ca](http://www.rtcquebec.ca) et [www.stlevis.ca](http://www.stlevis.ca).
- The organization Accès transports viables offers a personalized service to help with trips using shared or active transportation at [www.jembarque.org](http://www.jembarque.org).
- Many local and provincial organizations work in the transportation domain, particularly for shared and active transportation, such as *Vivre en ville*, *Vélo Québec*, *Équiterre*, etc. They organize large-scale projects such as the *Semaine des transports collectifs et actifs*, the *Mon école, à pied à vélo!* program, the *Station-service* page on Facebook, etc.
- Local initiatives have taken place in recent years, encouraging people to use their bicycles; these include such organizations as VéloCentrix and the Coop Roue-Libre, as well as about a hundred bicycle racks installed on the two ferries.

# MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

## THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER AND THE FERRY

Once, the river was called Magtogoek which meant "the moving road," by the native peoples living in the region. Named the "fleuve Saint-Laurent" by the French, it owes this name to St. Lawrence (whose saint day is August 10), the day when Jacques Cartier navigated its waters for the first time. Today it is still one of the great natural waterways leading into the interior of the North American continent.

The Quebec-Lévis ferry has been managed by the *Société des traversiers du Québec* (STQ) since its creation in 1971. The Quebec-Lévis ferry covers a distance of one kilometer in ten minutes. The company employs 99 people. It uses two vessels named N.M Alphonse-Desjardins (founder of the Caisse populaires Desjardins) and N.M Lomer-Gouin (premier of Quebec from 1905 to 1920). Both were constructed in 1971 and renovated in 2003.

In 2006-2007, the ferries made 25 258 crossings carrying 1 834 727 passengers, with a daily average of 69 crossings and 5026 passengers. Also, 120 459 bicycles and 367 913 vehicles were transported between Quebec and Lévis in 2006-2007<sup>7</sup>.



© Société des traversiers du Québec

3. Société de transport de Lévis. Available online: [www.stlevis.ca](http://www.stlevis.ca) (2011)

4. Association du transport urbain du Québec. Available online: [www.atuq.com](http://www.atuq.com) (2010)

5. Conseil régional des élus Chaudière-Appalaches Available online: [www.chaudiere-appalaches.qc.ca](http://www.chaudiere-appalaches.qc.ca)

6. Réseau de transport de la Capitale. 2011. Available online: [www.rtcquebec.ca](http://www.rtcquebec.ca)

7. La Société des traversiers du Québec. 2011. Available online: [www.traversiers.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.traversiers.gouv.qc.ca)



## THE CHAUDIÈRE RIVER

The Chaudière River runs into the St. Lawrence at Lévis. Originally called *Kikonteku* “river of the fields”) by the Abenakis, this river was a strategic route between the French and British colonies for a long time. Today, the Chutes-de-la-Chaudière Park offers hiking and cycling trails as well as a suspended walking bridge over the river.

## THE SAINT-CHARLES RIVER

The mouth of this river is historically important because it was there that the Amerindian village of Stadacona was located, where Jacques Cartier and his crew spent their first winter on Canadian soil (1535-36). The Huron-Wendat name of this river is *Akiawenrahk*. After being given the name of Sainte-Croix, the river was given the name Saint-Charles by the Recollet missionaries around 1620.

# INTERCITY TRANSPORTATION

Quebec City has a bus terminus at the Gare du Palais as well as in Sainte-Foy, part of the intercity system of Orléans Express and InterCar. Rail service is offered to passenger in Quebec and in the rest of Canada by Via Rail.

Less than 20 minutes from the city centre, the international Jean-Lesage Airport services a million passengers annually. The city also has its own port which 100 000 passengers pass through every year; it is the third most frequented port in Canada<sup>8</sup>.



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8. Port de Québec. Available online: [www.portquebec.ca](http://www.portquebec.ca) (2011)



## ...QUIZ...

- 1 • What is the distance in kilometers between your home and your school? Unless you take an airplane to school, be careful not to measure the distance as the crow flies!

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As the crow flies” or “in a beeline” are idioms for the shortest distance between two points, measured as a straight line on a map. This route resembles the one taken by a bird or a bee, since once you’re in the air, nothing forces you to make a detour.

- 2 • What is the average walking speed of an eight year old child?

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- 3 • How many minutes does it take to walk from your home to school?

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- 4 • What is the daily exercise time recommended for a child of your age?

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- 5 • Have you used the shared transportation system of your town or city? If so, where did you go and with whom?

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- 6 • How many buses does your town or city transportation system own? What color are they?

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- 7 • Other than buses, name two other shared transportation methods. Other than walking, name two other methods of active transportation.

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- 8 • How do your parents travel to work? Is this a shared, active or solo transportation method? How long does it take your parents to travel between home and work?

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- 9 • How long does it take your parents to travel to work from home?

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- 10 • Have you visited the internet site of the company or organization which manages the shared transportation system of your town or city?

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Answers.

**Question 2:** 4 km/h (source: Vélo-Québec. *Transports actifs*. Available online: [www.velo.qc.ca](http://www.velo.qc.ca)).

**Question 4:** 60 minutes (source: Kino-Québec. 2011. *L'activité physique: le sport et les jeunes, Avis du comité scientifique de Kino-Québec*. Available online: [www.kino-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.kino-quebec.qc.ca). 104 p.)