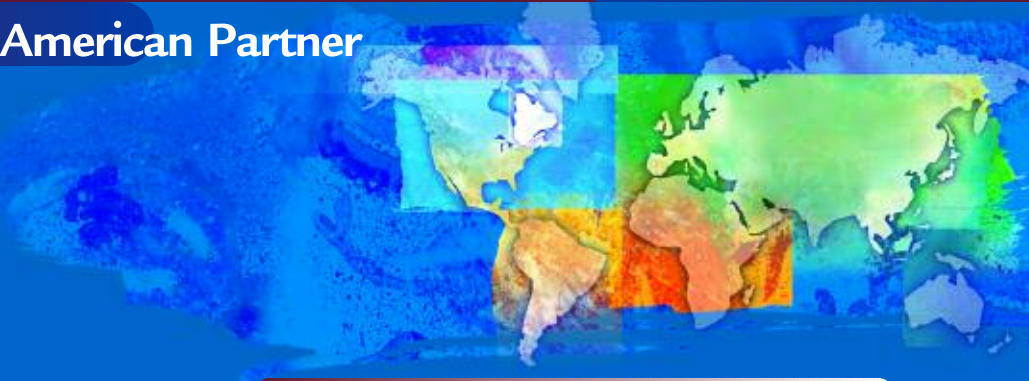


# QUÉBEC: a North American Partner in SECURITY



IN response to the changing security situation in North America, Québec has made increased security a priority. Public security, immigration, public health, and the fight against terrorism have become central concerns. Québec has made a contribution by reviewing its legislation and implementing various measures to improve domestic and continental security, especially in north-eastern North America. Since the economic prosperity of Québec is highly dependant on trade with the United States, the Québec government and other stakeholders are well aware of the need to ensure the free and secure flow of people and goods across the border, in collaboration with the border states. Québec's new International Policy confirms the intention of the Québec government to help make the North American continent more secure.

## Strengthening our capacity to act

Over the past few years, a number of measures have been taken by the Québec government to **strengthen its capacity to act** in the field of security. It has instituted far-reaching reforms that have improved the exchange of information and the coordination of police activities. In the **fight against terrorism and organized crime**, Québec has improved its provincial police services. In the **area of public health emergencies**, agroterrorism and bioterrorism, Québec has revamped its practices to ensure a better diagnosis and enable faster intervention.

In the area of **civil security**, Québec has invested in enhanced coordination between the responders in the event of major catastrophes or chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents, to ensure improved operational capacity.

With regard to **border security** issues, the government is participating in the implementation of Canadian and American federal initiatives under the *Smart Border Action Plan*. It has strengthened its own capacity to conduct investigations related to national security and is cooperating extensively in the fight against crossborder and harbour-front criminal activity.

Finally, Québec has amended the provincial regulations dealing with the authentication of documents, including the records of civil status used to apply for a Canadian passport, to prevent **identity theft and other similar types of fraud**.

## Principal security measures

- Updating of legislation to reflect new security imperatives
- Establishment of an integrated management centre for security information
- Support for measures implemented by Canadian federal authorities and tightening of immigration controls under Québec's jurisdiction
- Investment in infrastructure around the border crossings at Lacolle/Champlain (NY), Standstead/Derby Line (VT) and Armstrong/Jackman (ME)
- Coordination of commercial trucking monitoring and verification efforts, especially involving hazardous materials, and implementation of increased security measures on the approaches to the Port of Montreal
- Participation of provincial and municipal police in Montreal's Integrated National Security Team (INSET); cooperation between Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) and the National Port Enforcement Team (NPET)
- Province-wide anti-terrorism planning measures
- Deployment of additional resources for public health and agroterrorism detection
- Creation of a government operations centre to optimize governmental emergency response measures
- Establishment of specialized teams, a round table for all responders, and a response management plan for events involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear risks
- Improvement of the detection capability and analysis structure for animal health issues
- Implementation of a more advanced ovine and bovine traceability system, from birth to slaughter
- Investment to construct two new laboratories for epidemic control and animal pathology
- Publication of a Québec-wide plan to fight influenza epidemics, in the field of public health

## Cooperation with US partners

The government of Québec sees greater cooperation with its US partners as a major pillar of its security strategy. Since 2001, Québec has increased its cooperation with several US states.

In particular, it has made efforts to strengthen mutual support in terms of **civil security** during major disasters, to contribute to **crossborder security** and to fight **terrorism** by strengthening its coordination and intervention capabilities.

At the same time, the Québec government believes it is essential to improve discussion and cooperation with the north-eastern US states by promoting the sharing of information, expertise and know-how. It is participating fully in the development of **innovative practices and new technologies to improve security**.

### Principal measures

- Signing of the International *Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding* with member states and provinces of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers
- Since December 2003, signing of bilateral cooperation agreements with **Vermont, Maine, New York and New Hampshire** on security and information sharing
- Joint simulation exercises with US partners, including *Equinox* in March 2005, to coordinate efforts to fight a simulated outbreak of foot and mouth disease in several New England states, and *Double Impact* in October 2005, to test procedures with the state of Vermont to manage chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats following a terrorist attack
- Participation in the *Northeast Regional Homeland Security Directors Consortium*, which brings together the heads of domestic security for the north-eastern United States and eastern Canada, and organization of a meeting in Québec City in August 2004 to discuss the fight against terrorism, crossborder crime and emergency measures management
- Participation in the *Canada-United States Cargo Security Project*, the goal of which is to develop new technologies to increase container security
- Cooperation agreement between the Québec government and the *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*, an international research institution that specializes in security issues
- Participation in numerous multilateral and bilateral consultative committees to promote improved cooperation between partners in order to facilitate free flow of goods across the border

In addition, Québec's International Policy, which recognizes the importance of developing collaboration with US partners, includes measures to:

- Establish bilateral cooperation between the Attorney General of Québec and counterparts in bordering American states
- Collaborate scientifically with the *U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC)* and conclude technical collaboration agreements with east-coast American states aimed at preventing the spread of infectious diseases and pandemics
- Collaborate with the United States on making public information technology systems secure and protecting personal information
- Establish partnerships and enhance measures to control immigration-related crime

#### SOURCES

Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec:

[www.mri.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mri.gouv.qc.ca)

Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec:

[www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca)

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux:

[www.msss.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca)

Ministère de la Sécurité publique:

[www.msp.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca)