

Policy on privacy at the Quebec government's portal

Thank you for visiting our site and finding out about our policy on confidentiality. The Québec government portal does not write permanent cookies onto user's hard discs. However, when a temporary cookie is required for navigation with ASP (Active Server Pages), it is entered in random access memory and automatically erased when the visitor leaves the site. The government portal contain links to other government sites, however.

Certain government sites may write temporary or permanent cookies onto visitors' hard discs. For more information, read the policy on confidentiality of those sites. No personal information is gathered without the prior consent of the internaut.

You cannot be identified personally from the information transmitted automatically between computers. This information is gathered solely to meet the technological requirements of using the Internet and is used for statistical purposes.

Information transmitted automatically

You should be aware that, as soon as you access the site www.gouv.qc.ca information is automatically exchanged between your computer and the server of the government's portal, without your intervention. The information does not identify you personally. It consists of:

1. Your Internet domain name (for instance, "xcompagny.com", if you use a private Internet access account, or "university.edu", if you obtain access via a university) and your IP address (in general, your IP address is a unique number, assigned to your computer when it is connected to the Internet, which makes it possible to transmit documents to you without error);
2. The type of browser and operating system used to access our site;
3. The date and time you access our site;
4. The pages you visit; and
5. If you access www.gouv.qc.ca from another site (referral site), its address.

This exchange of information is necessary if the server is to transmit to you a file compatible with the computer equipment you are using. The government keeps the required information in order to have a record of the number of visitors, the pages visited most often, the technology used by the portal's clientele, the referral sites and the countries of origin of visitors to the site.

If you transmit personal information to us

In accordance with the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information, a department or agency requesting you to provide personal information must be sure that it needs the information (section 64), must identify itself and must inform you (excerpt of section 65):

- of the name and address of the public body on whose behalf the information is being collected
- of the use to which the information will be put;
- of the categories of persons who will have access to the information;

- of the fact that a reply is obligatory, or that it is optional;
- of the consequences for the person concerned or, as the case may be, for the third person, in the case of a refusal to reply;
- of the rights of access and correction provided by law.

If you decide to send us personal information -- by e-mail to the mail box, or by filling in a form and submitting it through our site -- we will use only the information we require to answer your message and to follow up on it. Electronic messages are treated as confidentially as regular mail.

The personal information transmitted is not disclosed to any other government body unless your request is addressed to it or disclosure is required by law. In no case is the information transmitted used to draw up a profile of users or communicated to a private organization.

Links with other sites

Our portal provides links to the sites of all the Québec government organizations and several private organizations. When you leave the government portal, a message informs you that you are leaving the government's virtual space and that information exchanged is no longer subject to the government's policy on confidentiality, but to the policy of any private site you access.