

Radars

QUEBEC CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES (QCA)

Greater Quebec City Economic Newsletter

QCA ZONE economic indicators

Unemployment – 2008Q3

QCA ZONE:	4.8%
Quebec (province):	7.4%
Canada:	6.1%

Year-over-year, unemployment in the QCA ZONE rose slightly from **4.7% to 4.8%**.

Total employment – QCA ZONE

September 2008:	561,800
September 2007:	567,400

Net loss of 5,600 jobs year-over-year.

Average annual GDP growth – 2001Q3-2008Q3

Quebec City CMA:	2.9%
Quebec (province):	2.2%
Canada:	2.7%

Annual GDP will grow by 2.4%

for the Quebec City census metropolitan area in 2009 (estimate).

Office vacancy rate – 2008Q2

Quebec City:	3.3%
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Quebec City has the **third-lowest** office vacancy rate in Canada.

Per capita personal income – Quebec City CMA

2008Q3:	\$37,400
2006Q3:	\$34,336

Per capita personal income **has**

increased 8.9% over the past two years.

Proportion of QCA ZONE merchandise exports shipped to the US

2005:	89.4%
2001:	91.9%

Decrease of 2.5 percentage points.

Average annual capital investment growth – 1998-2007

QCA ZONE:	11.2%
Quebec (province):	6.1%

Since 2005, capital investment in the QCA ZONE has **grown by an average of 16.8% annually.**

STELLAR PERFORMANCE BY THE QUEBEC CITY REGION

RANKED SECOND AMONG THE “TOP CANADIAN METROS” BY *SITE SELECTION* MAGAZINE

The greater Quebec City region has moved from fourth to second place in the Canadian economic development rankings published by US-based *Site Selection* magazine. The rankings are based on an analysis of new construction and expansion projects carried out in the region by private companies. These projects were valued at \$7.3 billion for the June 1, 2007-May 31, 2008 period.



Edmonton



Québec



Montréal

Edmonton walked away with top honours, followed by Quebec City and Montreal in second and third place. This stellar performance by Quebec's two largest cities boosted the province to a third-place finish behind Alberta and New Brunswick in the Most Competitive Province rankings.

For the second year in a row, POLE was named Top Development Group, reflecting its key role as a national economic development driver.

For further information 

SECOND AND THIRD “BEST PLACES TO DO BUSINESS IN CANADA” (*CANADIAN BUSINESS* MAGAZINE)



Sherbrooke



Lévis



Québec

Lévis and Quebec City took a turn in the spotlight when they were named the second and third best places to do business in Canada by *Canadian Business* magazine (September 29 issue); Sherbrooke came in first.

For further information 

CREAFORM AND TERAXION IN THE TECHNOLOGY FAST 50

Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 includes two optical communications leaders: Lévis-based *Creaform*, with a 923% growth rate, and Quebec City-based *TeraXion*, with a 791% growth rate! Creaform and TeraXion are ranked 22nd and 25th among Canada's top-50 fastest-growing companies of the past five years.

For further information 

MAJOR INVESTMENTS AT QUEBEC CITY'S HÔTEL-DIEU

The refurbishment of North America's oldest hospital is underway. The project, valued at \$635 million, will help Quebec City's Hôtel Dieu hospital to reinforce its position as a national and international leader in the areas of cancer and kidney research.

For further information 



MEDICAGO COMMISSIONED BY PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL

The tobacco giant is investing \$16 million in Quebec City-based Medicago's efforts to develop vaccines against influenza pandemics and seasonal influenza.

For further information 



NATIONAL SCHOOL OF INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT OPENS

As the latest conduit to the world of cutting-edge business, the National School of Interactive Entertainment (ENDI) is welcoming its first crop of students. The school aims to meet mounting demand for qualified workers by interactive entertainment companies, which are experiencing breathtaking growth in the Quebec City region. The students in each group will work for 12 weeks on an annual multi-platform game project, which will be entered in various international competitions. This was one of 12 major projects selected under the ACCORD initiative. The ultimate goal is to train 500 professionals over the next five years.

For further information 

UNIPEX GROUP SHINES

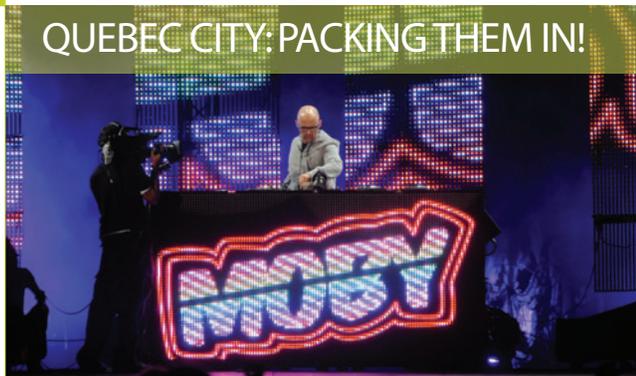
Atrium Innovations' active ingredients and specialty chemical division has become the Unipex Group. Led by CEO Charles Boulanger, Unipex will continue to be headquartered in Quebec City and will continue to manufacture and distribute active ingredients and specialty chemicals to international leaders in the fields of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, specialty chemicals and nutrition. With more than 150 employees based in five offices in North America and Europe and sales of over US\$220 million in 2007, Unipex is enjoying a wave of sustained growth.

For further information 

STAR RESEARCHERS



Every year, more than \$815 million is invested in R&D in the Quebec City region. Approximately 6,000 researchers and associates at 400 research laboratories, groups, centres and institutes are shaping the future, in keeping with the region's reputation for intellectual curiosity and innovation. The following links contain profiles of **Dr. François A. Auger** and **Dr. Lucie Germain**, the twin driving forces behind Canada's only experimental organogenesis laboratory (known as LOEX), and of **Dr. Yvan Bédard**, a world-renowned geomatics expert.



QUEBEC CITY: PACKING THEM IN!

After attracting huge crowds to a series of summer concerts marking the 400th anniversary of Quebec City's founding on July 3, 1608 (including performances by Céline Dion, Moby and Sir Paul McCartney), Quebec City has hosted 34 heads of state attending the 12th Francophone Summit and the Canada-EU Summit in October 2008.

For further information 



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