

WATER. OUR LIFE. OUR FUTURE.
QUÉBEC WATER POLICY

The Québec Approach to Managing Water Resources

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**Integrated Watershed Management Symposium
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Québec 

**Ministry of Sustainable
Development, Environment
and Parks**



Le Québec méridional, hydrographie

Divisions territoriales

- Frontière internationale
- Frontière interprovinciale
- Frontière Québec – Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador
(cette frontière n'est pas définitive)

Projection cartographique Conique de Lambert avec deux parallèles d'échelle conservée (48° et 60°)

0 100 km



Réalisation

Production Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
Direction générale de l'information géographique
Note : Le présent document n'a aucune portée légale.

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Ressources naturelles
et Faune

Québec



- ◆ **Triggering events**
 - **Saguenay River flooding (1996)**
 - **Ground water conflicts**
 - **Water exportation projects**
 - **Water quality degradation (point source pollution and large-area pollution)**
 - **Population's will to participate in water management**

Genesis



Quebec Water Policy (QWP)

◆ 3 Issues

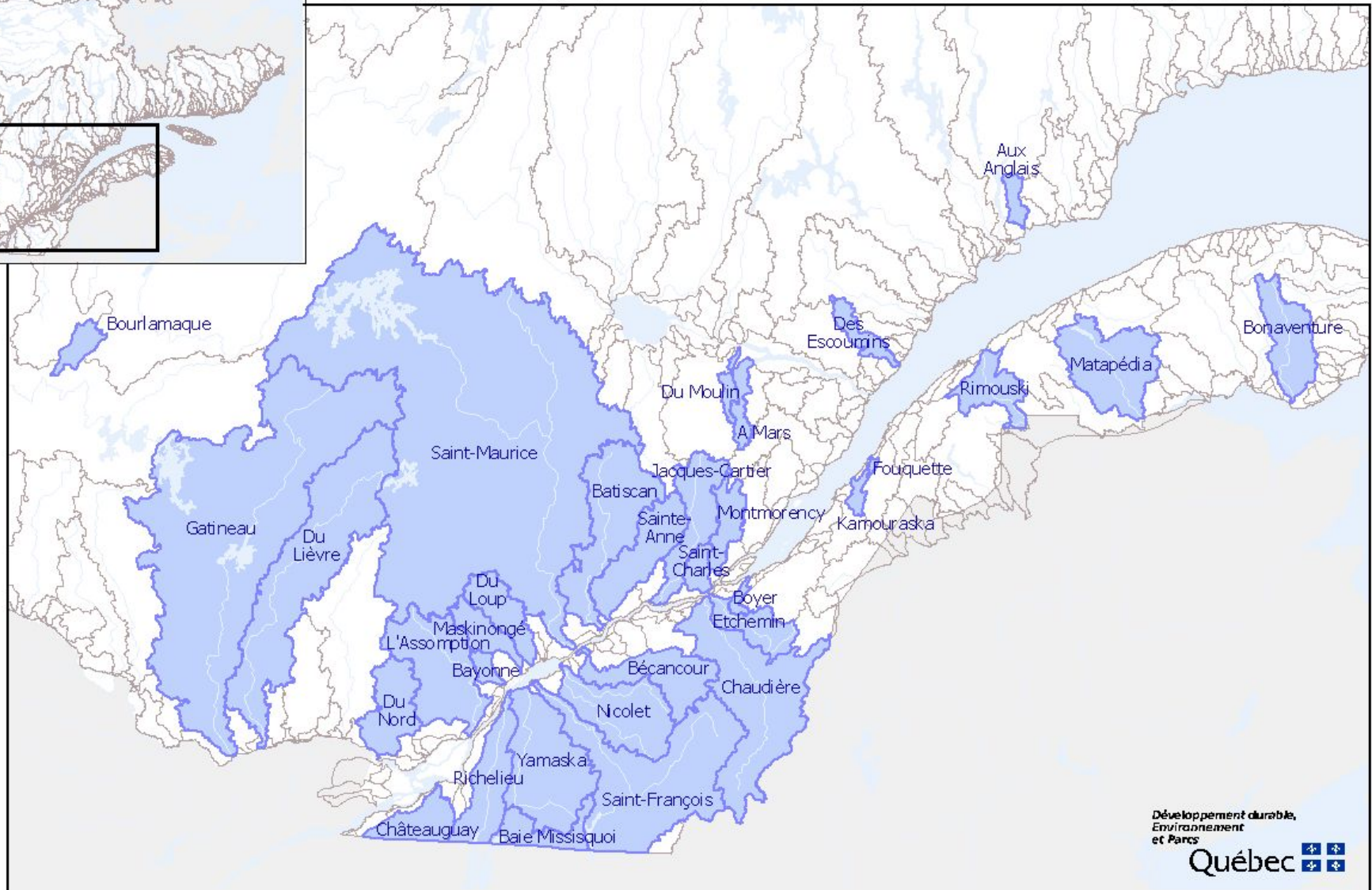
- **Recognition of water as a collective heritage of all Quebecers**
 - Essential to the environment, economic and social well-being of the province
- **Protection of public health and aquatic ecosystems**
 - Human consumption, activities involving contact with water and preserving aquatic ecosystems for all other forms of life
- **Integrated and sustainable water management**
 - Shifting from the sectoral way of doing things to real, integrated and coordinated management based on watersheds

◆ 5 Orientations

- Reform of water **governance**
- **Integrated management of the St. Lawrence River**
- **Protection of water quality and aquatic ecosystems**
- **Continuation of water clean-up and improving management of water services**
- **Promotion of water related recreotourism activities**

QWP: Integrated Watershed management

- ◆ **Water governance reform**
 - 2) Gradually implement integrated watershed-based management
 - 3) Provide financial and technical support for the establishment of 33 watershed organizations



IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

- ◆ **IWM principles (general reference framework)**
 - **Watershed unit of planning**
 - **Participatory approach**
 - **Better decision-making based on sound-information**



IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

◆ Watershed organizations

- Operating core of the Quebec approach
- A **non-profit organization** that includes representatives of all public and private users within the watershed
- Set up by local stakeholders to initiate and ensure dialogue amongst them
- Develop a **vision** for sustainable development of water resources in the watershed area

IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

- ◆ **Watershed organizations (continued)**
 - Must be representative of all public and private stakeholders
 - They are not environmental groups; they are consultative organizations
 - They are not a substitute for current stakeholders

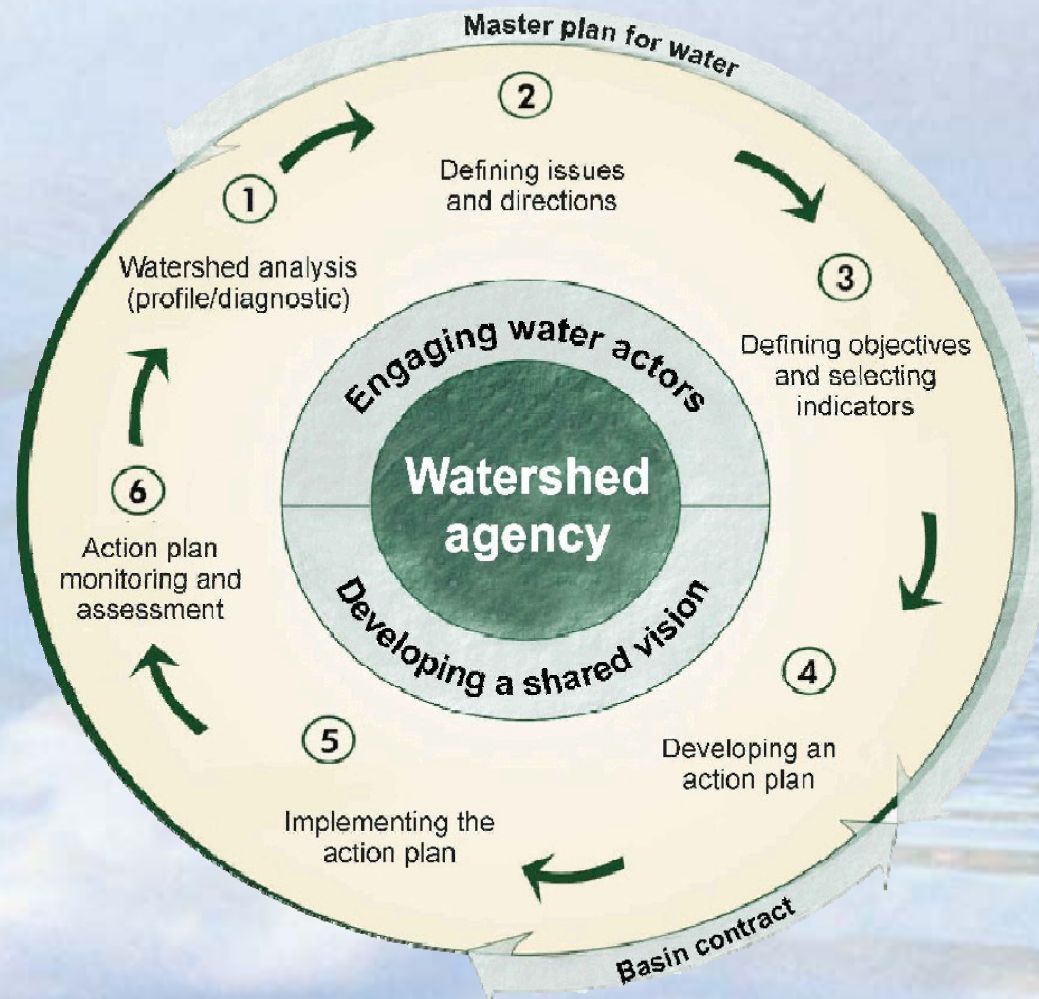
IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

Sector represented	Participation
Citizens groups	20 – 40 %
Economic	20 – 40 %
Municipal	20 – 40 %
Governmental (no right to vote)	variable

IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

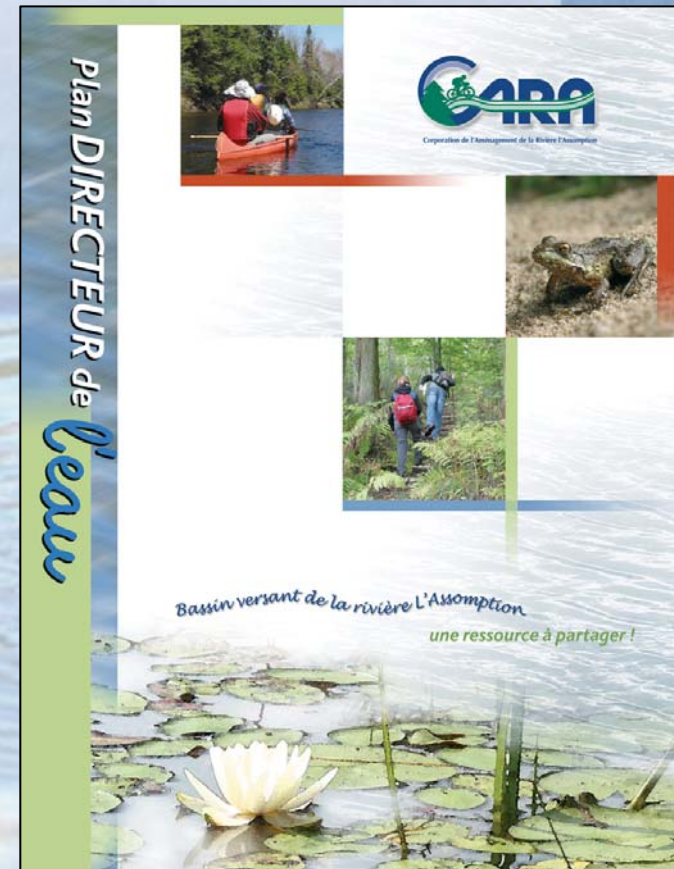
- ◆ **Watershed organizations : Mandates**
 - **Prepare a Master Plan for Water (MPW) using a participatory approach (information)**
 - **Sign watershed agreements with concerned actors**
 - **Update the MPW**
 - **Inform continuously watershed actors and population**
 - **Participate to implement integrated management of the St. Lawrence River**

IWM : Integrated Watershed Management



IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

- ◆ **Watershed plans**
 - Must be analyzed by all ministries and approved by the minister of environment
 - 10 are completed and 7 are approved



IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

- ◆ **Blue-green algae Action Plan (2007)**
 - *Undertake a redistribution of southern Québec into integrated water management districts so that all watersheds can be taken into account in the process of knowledge development, protection and governance; evaluate required resources and means of development.*

IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

- ◆ **Bill 27 – An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection**
 - Confirms the legal status of water
 - Defines water governance rules
 - Create a knowledge oriented office on water
 - Establishes a new water withdrawal authorization scheme
 - Provides Québec's implementation of the Great Lakes River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement

IWM : Integrated Watershed Management

◆ Conclusion

- 33 watershed agencies are in operation
- Mobilization and collaboration is developing at the watershed scale
- The concept is beginning to emerge in other ministries, but still work to do at the national scale
- IWM-related studies and research are in progress
- Funding is in progress
- IWM will cover all Southern Quebec with 40 watershed districts

Questions and answers to come

- ◆ **Is the voluntary approach sufficient ? Do we need the equivalent of your Conservation authorities Act ?**
- ◆ **How do we harmonize Watershed plans with other plans ?**
- ◆ **How to integrate the management of the St-Lawrence River with that of the watersheds ?**
- ◆ **What strategy do we need for the Ottawa River Basin ?**
- ◆ **How IWM will adapt to take into consideration climate change ?**

Questions

Thank you !

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