



## Lecture 12

Quebec  
Pt. 1

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### Québec's Culture, Identity, and Language

- Settlers came from France to St Lawrence Valley 400+ years ago
  - Shaped a homeland for French-speaking people
- Collective memory recalls humiliations as well as hard fought victories
- Fear of loss of Québec's culture, identity, and language

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### Québec's Culture, Identity, and Language

- Francophones struggled to survive in predominantly English-speaking North America
- Québec also home to many anglophones and allophones
- Most Québécois have sense of dual loyalty
- Québécois recognized as a "nation" within Canada in November 2006

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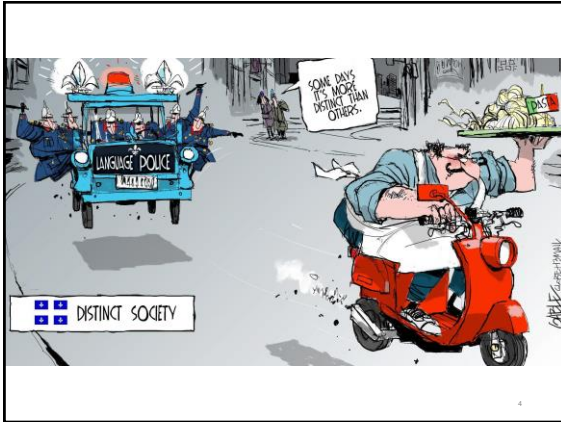
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## Québec's Place within Canada

- Québec second in terms of population and size of economy but losing ground to gains in BC and Western Canada
- Key questions about future position within Canada
  - Will downward trend in terms of Québec's share of population continue?
  - Will continued immigration result in pressure to "accommodate" minorities and threaten the standing of French?

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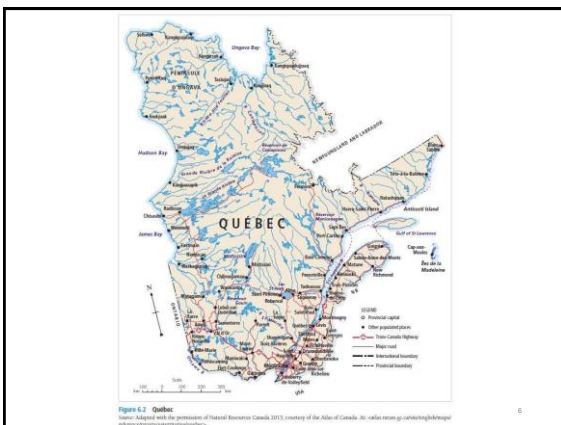
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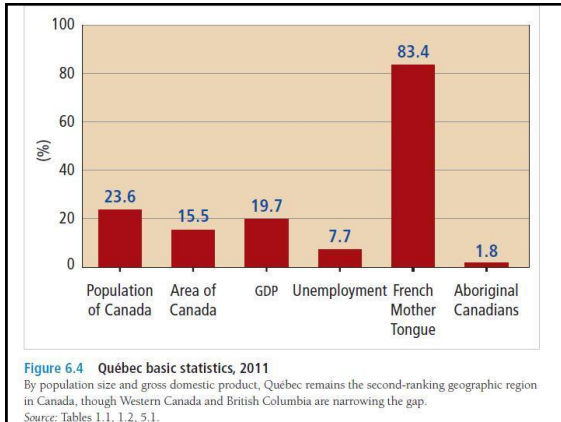
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### Québec's Place within Canada

- Status since Confederation weakened due to:
  - Change in geopolitical position (first one of four provinces, now one of ten provinces and three territories)
  - Reduction in demographic clout
  - Economic loss due to relocation of key financial businesses to Ontario in 1970s
- Economic position often compared to Ontario's
  - Economy expanded at slower rate
  - Unemployment rates high—equal to Ontario

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### Québec's Place within Canada

- Major industries—forestry and manufacturing—hit hard by sluggish demand for products from US
- Aerospace, metal refining, and pharmaceutical firms now serving North American and global customers
- Unlike rest of Canada, Aboriginal relations conducted on nation-to-nation basis
  - Shared benefit of natural resource development
  - Diminished dependency on government
- Emergence of Aboriginal regional governments in northern Québec benefited both province and First Nations

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## Québec's Physical Geography

- Largest province in Canada
- Great variation in natural conditions
- Four physiographic regions
  - Great Lakes–St Lawrence Lowlands
  - Appalachian Uplands
  - Canadian Shield (largest)
  - Hudson Bay Lowlands (smallest)

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## Québec's Physical Geography, cont'd

1. Great Lakes–St Lawrence Lowlands
  - Best agricultural land in Québec
  - Cultural core
2. Appalachian Uplands
  - Subdued topography—rugged hills and rolling plains
  - Tourism fueled by spectacular scenery
  - Other activities include mining and forestry

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**Photo 6.3**

Estrie, formerly called the Eastern Townships, lies in the Appalachian physiographic region. Dairy farms are found in the rolling countryside, which is surrounded by wooded uplands. Hay is the principal crop and is used as feed for dairy cows.

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### Québec's Physical Geography

#### 3. Canadian Shield

- Occupies nearly 90% of province's territory
- Noted for forestry and hydroelectric production
- Home to Cree, Inuit, and Innu communities

#### 4. Hudson Bay Lowlands

- Extends from Ontario along southeast edge of James Bay
- Sparsely populated

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### Québec's Physical Geography

#### • Four climatic zones

- Arctic
- Subarctic
- Atlantic
- Great Lakes–St Lawrence

- Weather falls within predictable range for each zone with occasional extreme events

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### Environmental Challenges

#### • Sources of pollution include:

- Agricultural, industrial, and mining wastes
- Dam building
- Asbestos mining
- Fracking
- Sewage disposal and industrial wastes
- Invasive species (e.g. zebra mussel) wiping out local aquatic ecosystems

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## Environmental Challenges

- Trade-off: allure of jobs/economic opportunity vs. environmental cost
- Efforts to address environmental issues with help of federal government
  - 1988 effort to reclaim water quality and biodiversity
  - The St Lawrence Action Plan: 2011–2026

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## Québec's Historical Geography

- New France (1608–1760)
  - 1608: first permanent French settlement established with Samuel de Champlain's fur-trading post at site of Québec City
  - Territorial basis for French Empire in North America formed
  - After 100 years, populace identified as Canadiens rather than "French"

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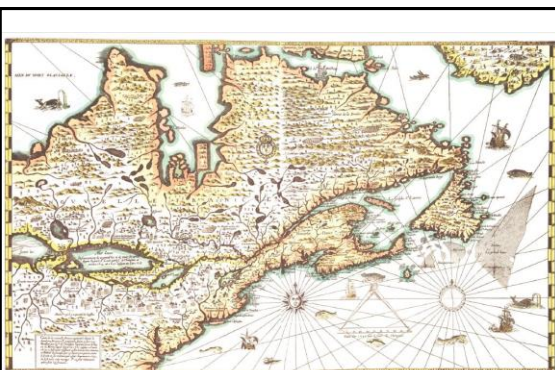


Figure 6.6 Champlain's map of La Nouvelle France, 1632  
Source: Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, at: [www.musee-montreal.ca/musee/montreal/1632/champlain.jpg](http://www.musee-montreal.ca/musee/montreal/1632/champlain.jpg)

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### Québec's Historical Geography

- By early 18th cen., inhabitants turned to farming
- Jean Talon imposed French feudal system of land ownership (seigneurial system):
  - Land granted to nobility, religious institutions, and military officers (seigneurs)
  - Peasant farmers(habitants) worked the land and paid the lords
- By 1760, 200 seigneuries adapted to St Lawrence Valley

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### Québec's Historical Geography

- British Colony (1760–1867)
  - British conquest of 1760 led to 100+ years of British rule
  - Seigneurial system retained for political reasons
  - High fertility rate caused French Canadians to migrate, mostly to US
  - Vast majority retained language and Catholic religion

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### Québec's Historical Geography

- Confederation (1867–present)
  - Sought to unite English and French cultures within British parliamentary system
  - Benefits for Québec
    - Economic union with Ontario, NS, and NB
    - Protection of language and religion
    - Provincial control over education and language
    - Expansion of boundaries

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### Québec's Historical Geography

- Quiet Revolution (1960s)
  - Transformed Québec's image of rural, inward-looking, Church-dominated society
  - Provincial government replaced Catholic Church as protector of French culture/language
  - Reforms hinged on:
    - State intervention in economy
    - Expansion of French-speaking civil service

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### Québec's Historical Geography

- Government's principal achievements:
  - Nationalization of private electrical companies under Hydro-Québec
  - Modernization/secularization of education
  - Stimulation of francophone business sector
  - Est. of Maisons du Québec (quasi-embassies)
- Rising Québec nationalism

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### Québec Today

- Modern industrial society operating within francophone environment
- Dependent on exports to rest of Canada, US, and global markets
- More natural sites for production of hydroelectricity than Ontario
- Geographic advantage because of position along St Lawrence River
  - Low-cost access to heart of North America

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### Québec's Economy

- Second largest in Canada but struggling in context of global competition
- Québec as major manufacturing hub: aerospace industry, apparel and textiles, high tech, metal refining, printing, and transportation
- Shifting towards knowledge-based economy
- Similar industrial structure to Ontario

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**Table 6.5** Employment by Industrial Sector in Québec, 2011

Industrial Sector	Workers (000s)	Workers (%)	Percentage Change from 2005
Primary	90.9	2.3	-0.4
Secondary	756.3	19.1	-3.1
Tertiary	3,106.4	78.6	+3.5
Total	3,953.6*	100.0	6.4

\*Number of workers in 2005 was 3.72 million.  
Source: Statistics Canada (2012d).

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### Southern Québec

- Economic, social, and political core of Québec
- Contains 90%+ of Québec's population and agricultural land
- Composed of two physiographic regions:
  - Appalachian Uplands
  - St Lawrence Lowland

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### Northern Québec

- Sparsely populated resource hinterland
- Troubled by declining forest economy, waning population, and high unemployment
- Two physiographic regions:
  - Canadian Shield
  - Hudson Bay Lowland

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### Key Topic: Hydro-Québec

- Hydro-Québec central to province's industrial economy and energy export strategy
- Strength due to:
  - Usage of vast water resources of Canadian Shield
  - Proximity to energy-short New England
  - Transmission technology that enabled conduction of electrical power to markets in Quebec and New England with minimum levels of energy leakage

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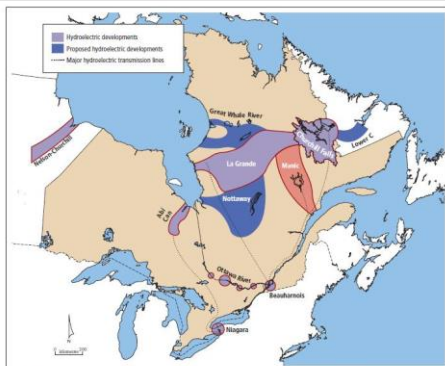
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**Figure 6.9 Hydroelectric power in Central Canada**  
 Québec dominates role in the production of hydroelectric power in Canada is due to three natural factors found in Québec's Canadian Shield: (1) abundant precipitation, (2) natural barriers, and (3) high elevations. Geography dictates that the Churchill Falls hydroelectric facility, while located in Labrador, only exports all its electric power to Hydro-Québec.

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### Key Topic: Hydro-Québec

- Québec's industrial strategy
  - Low electricity rates attract energy-hungry industries
  - Export of surplus power to energy-hungry utilities in New England
  - Based on core/periphery model where hinterland supplies energy for industrial users in the core

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### Key Topic: Hydro-Québec

- James Bay Project (1972)
  - Called for harnessing of power from all rivers that flow into James Bay from Québec
- Complicating factors:
  - Crown lands are home to Cree and Inuit First Nations
  - Environmental concerns about loss of wilderness and ecosystems

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Photo: Hydro-Québec

**Photo 6.7**

Construction work for the Sarcelle powerhouse. The Eastmain River diversion will generate more electricity at power stations located on La Grande Rivière. Note the steep rock walls carved out of the Canadian Shield by construction workers.

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### Key Topic: Hydro-Québec

- James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (1975)
  - Involved both federal and provincial governments
  - Aboriginal land claims surrendered in exchange for land, cash, and control over cultural matters
- Further lawsuits launched by Cree regarding second phase of James Bay Project
  - In 2001, lawsuits dropped in favour of seeking economic opportunities for disadvantaged community

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