
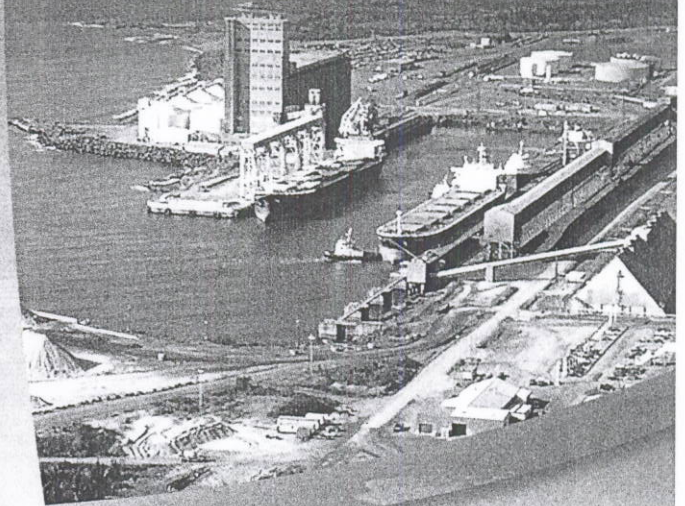


# PLAN NORD



**BUILDING NORTHERN  
QUÉBEC TOGETHER**

The Project of a Generation



HIGHLIGHTS

UN PLAN POUR  
LE QUÉBEC

Québec 





## MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

The 21st century is still young but it has already transported us to a different world. The advances made by the emerging countries are shifting major economic corridors. The emergence of environmental awareness and the fight against global warming are altering how we conceive of economic development.

The Plan Nord has been elaborated to take a stance in this new world, further broaden Québec's approach centred on openness to the world and strategic alliances, and develop our economic potential through a sustainable development partnership that respects the First Nations, the Inuit and local communities. Northern Québec is fascinating because of its immense territory and the scale of its potential. Today, the context lends itself to its rediscovery.

The Plan Nord is the project of a generation of Quebecers.



Jean Charest



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER, MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLAN NORD

The Plan Nord is one of the most ambitious projects that Québec has undertaken. It is unique in its scope and in its approach. For over a year, a number of Aboriginal and local communities have sought to define conditions in Northern Québec and establish new methods of collaboration. This consensus-building approach that mobilized communities whose populations total over 120 000 residents is unprecedented. Between the James Bay and Côte-Nord regions, between the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region and Nunavik there are, of course, thousands of kilometres and a great deal to share: a northern culture, proximity to nature, boundless development potential, and social, economic and environmental challenges to be met.



Nathalie Normandeau

# FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

The Plan Nord is the project of a generation. It first offered a perspective of sustainable development in Québec and is now one of the biggest economic, social and environmental projects in our time.

The Plan Nord will be carried out over a period of 25 years. It will lead to over \$80 billion in investments during that time and create or consolidate, on average, 20 000 jobs a year, equivalent to 500 000 man-years. The Plan Nord will be to the coming decades what the development of La Manicouagan and James Bay were to the 1960s and 1970s.

## THE TERRITORY THAT THE PLAN NORD COVERS:

- encompasses all of Québec's territory north of the 49th parallel and north of the St. Lawrence River and the Gulf of St. Lawrence;
- covers nearly 1.2 million km<sup>2</sup> and accounts for 72% of Québec's geographic area;
- has one of the world's biggest fresh water reserves;
- accounts over three-quarters of Québec's installed hydroelectric power generation capacity and the potential of its untapped water, wind and photovoltaic<sup>1</sup> resources is at least just as considerable;
- encompasses over 200 000 km<sup>2</sup> of Québec's commercial forest;
- has outstanding wildlife resources, including internationally renowned salmon rivers;
- offers, among vast intact natural territories in the world, some of the last potential for preservation;
- comprises 63 towns, villages and communities linked to the rest of Québec by road, rail, maritime or air transportation infrastructure.
- is governed, by and large, by the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* and the *Northeastern Quebec Agreement*.
- produces all of Québec's nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals, zinc, iron ore and ilmenite, and accounts for a significant portion of gold production. Lithium, vanadium and rare-earth metals,<sup>2</sup> are also found there.

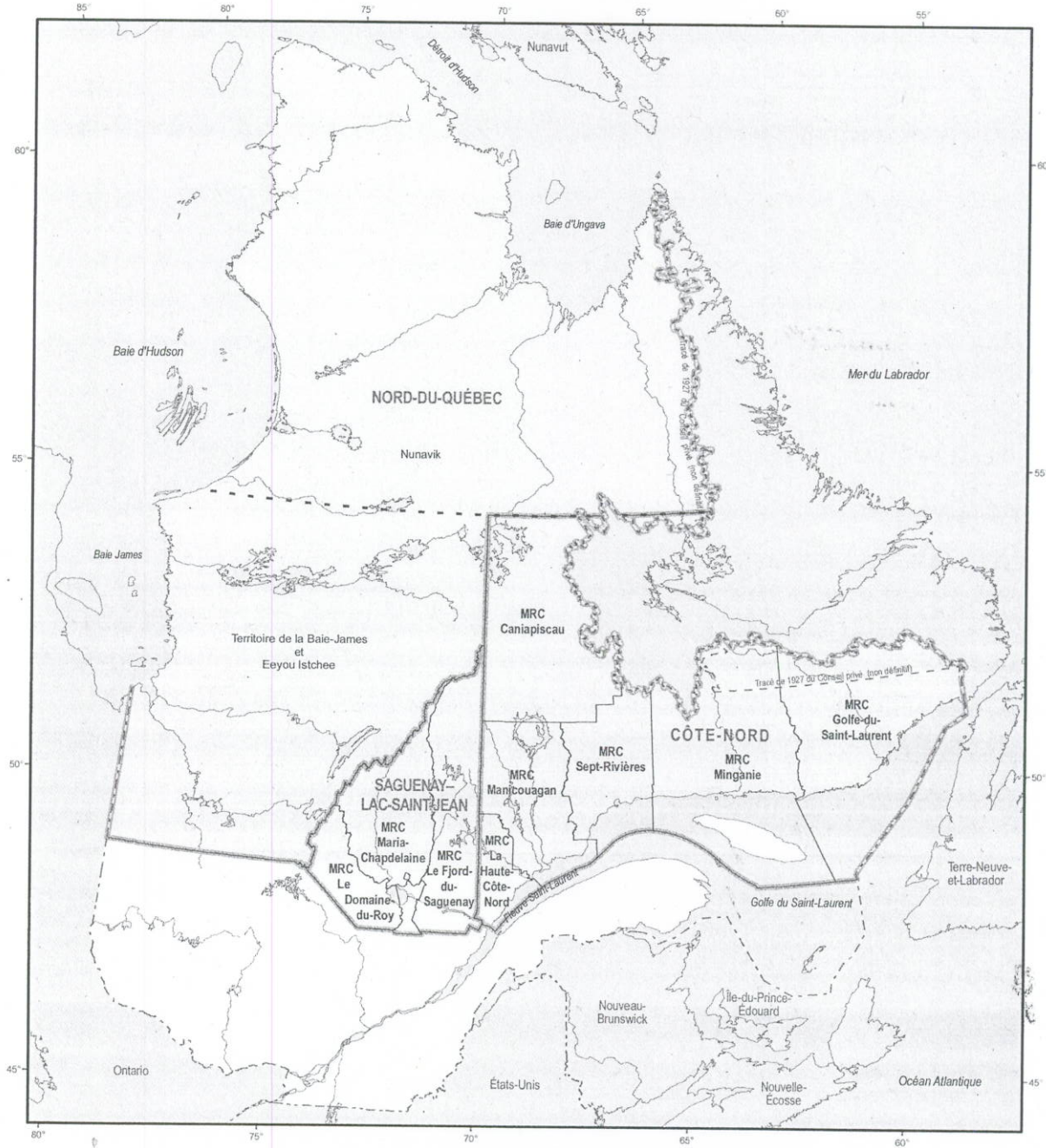
1. Electrical energy generated by means of sunlight.

2. Rare-earth metals encompass chemical elements, i.e. lanthanides, scandium and yttrium, which are fairly abundant in the earth's crust.



FIGURE 1

Area Covered by the Plan Nord



**Territorial boundaries**

- Area covered by the Plan Nord
- Administrative region boundary
- Regional county municipality (RCM) boundary
- - - Southern boundary of Nunavut

**Borders**

- - - International border
- - - Interprovincial border
- - - Québec – Newfoundland and Labrador border (non-definitive)

**Sources**

Data	Organization	Year
Territorial divisions	MRNF	2010

**Production**

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### THE TERRITORY'S POPULATION:

- accounts for less than 2% of Québec's population overall, equivalent to just over 120 000 people, including 33 000 Aboriginals;
- includes residents of the James Bay, Saguenay and Côte-Nord regions, 30% of whom are under 24 years of age, a proportion that reaches 50% in the Aboriginal communities;
- lives in 63 towns, villages and communities grouped together in five regional conferences of elected officers (RCEOs) and nine regional county municipalities (RCMs). However, there are no RCMs in the Nord-du-Québec region, which is divided, at the 55th parallel, into two major areas, i.e. James Bay/Eeyou Istchee and Nunavik.

### THE INUIT AND THE FIRST NATIONS:

- Nearly 10 000 **Inuit** live mainly in 14 Northern villages, with between 200 and 2 200 inhabitants. The Northern villages are located on the coast of Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay.
- The **Cree Nation**, with a population of some 16 000 people, is concentrated, above all, in nine communities located on the east coast of James Bay and inland from the drainage basin.
- The **Innu Nation** encompasses nine communities (eight in the Côte-Nord region and one in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region) with a total population of over 16 000, of whom more than 9 300 live in the territory that the Plan Nord covers.
- The **Naskapi Nation** numbers nearly 1 000 people in the community of Kawawachikamach, 15 km north of Schefferville.

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION:

- Between 1991 and 2006, while Québec's population increased by nearly 10% during the period, that of the territory that the Plan Nord covers declined by nearly 3%, from 124 500 to 121 000 inhabitants.
- At the same time, the Aboriginal population grew markedly and its demographic weight rose from 17.7% to 27.1% of the total population in the territory that the Plan Nord covers. In the Aboriginal communities, young people up to the age of 14 are twice as numerous, while the proportion of individuals 65 or over stands at 4.5%, half that in Québec overall (13.2%).

