

# The St. Lawrence river

## Source of life

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# At the heart of who we are



- The gateway to America for the first Europeans
- 80% of our population lives on its shores and tributaries
- the bassin of the Great Lakes and St-Lawrence river = almost 1/4 of the world's freshwater resources (21%)
- source of drinking water for 40 million people





**In 2009, the Québec Government  
adopted a law that established water  
«as a collective resource, part of  
common heritage of the Québec nation».**



# Cooperation and collaboration: key to success for sound management



- 80% of water supplies from the St. Lawrence river comes from the Great Lakes
- «Great Lakes Basin compact agreement»  
- 8 USA states + Québec and Ontario
- Collaboration and exchanges  
of knowledge (World Water Forum, Regions Adapt, International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification...)

# Impacts of climate change

- projected decline in Great Lakes water levels will affect the St. Lawrence (and commercial shipping)
- more extreme meteorological events - more often, more powerful
- changes in precipitation regime = changes in flood regime = damages caused by flood
- rise of the saline front - could threaten the drinking water intake in Québec City
- less sea ice + rising sea level = coastal erosion
- temperature changes in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence = changes in marine currents = changes in the distribution of food



# Québec's initiatives

- regulation of water flows between Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence through a Canada-USA dam (with partners)
- a new maritime strategy 2015-2030 for sustainable growth of Québec's maritime economy:
  - economy, environment, tourism, social acceptability
- international leader in the fight against climate change (carbon market, transport electrification, international climate cooperation program, etc...)
- investment in science (Ouranos) and education





# Grazie per aver creduto!

