



QUEBEC CITY CELEBRATES ITS 400TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2008

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QCA zone economic indicators

Unemployment

December 2007: 5.6%

December 2006: 6.5%

Down 0.9 points year-over-year

Total employment

December 2007: 568,500

December 2006: 546,400

Net total of 22,100 jobs created
year-over-year

Average annual GDP growth (2003-2007)

Quebec City CMA: 3%

Montreal CMA: 2%

Quebec (Province): 2.1%

Average annual GDP growth of 3% for
the Quebec City census metropolitan area
through 2009. (estimate)

Office vacancy rate (2007)

Quebec City: 3%

Downtown Montreal: 8.8%

Quebec City has the **second-lowest**
office vacancy rate in Canada

Per capita personal income (Quebec CMA)

Q4 2007: \$37,674

Q4 2006: \$34,230

Per capita personal income
increased 10.1% year-over-year

Merchandise exports (QCA zone)

2005: \$4,552,000

2004: \$4,763,000

Exports fell 4.4% from 2004 to 2005

Average annual investment growth (1998-2007)

QCA zone: +9.2%

Montreal region: -0.1%

Quebec (Province): +5.7%

Private investments have risen
9.5% on average

Across the ages, Quebec City has provided a beautiful natural setting for gatherings both large and small. In addition to a wide range of construction and renovation projects, a 12-month program of events has been organized to celebrate Quebec City's founding by Samuel de Champlain 400 years ago. Newly elected Mayor Régis Labeaume officially kicked off the festivities on New Year's Eve. Check the calendar link below and enjoy the fun!

<http://monquebec2008.sympatico.msn.ca/MonQuebec2008/?module=home&id=1>

QUEBEC CITY METRO REGION AGAIN IN THE TOP 5, ACCORDING TO THE CONFERENCE BOARD

For the second year in a row, a Conference Board study of 20 metropolitan regions in Canada and the U.S. Northeast ranked Quebec City in the top 5 based on its economic vitality. The Quebec City region continues to perform well in terms of productivity, low business costs and non-residential investment growth (up 7.6% on average over the past five years). To view the study on line, please click the following link:

http://www.pole-qca.ca/entreprises/fr/media/publications/1_Portrait_2007_Fr.pdf



BEENOX EXPANDS

Beenox-Activision's studios will soon take up five floors of a new 10-storey building currently under construction in Quebec City's Saint Roch district. After several years of explosive growth, the company plans to add 200 new jobs by 2009, thereby tripling its staff.

In other news, Activision and Vivendi Games recently announced that they have signed a definitive merger agreement. The merged companies will have the largest and most diversified portfolio in the worldwide interactive entertainment industry.

www.beenox.com

THE LOUVRE COMES TO QUEBEC CITY!

Following "Picasso at the Château d'Antibes," 271 of the Louvre's priceless artworks will be on display as part of "Living Arts" ("Les Arts et la Vie"), an exclusive exhibition running from June to October 2008 at Quebec's National Museum of Fine Arts. Featuring items from various Louvre collections (including Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan, Roman and Oriental antiquities, Islamic arts, art objects, sculpture, painting and graphic arts), the exhibition will take visitors on a dazzling tour of 5,000 years of world history.

www.mnba.qc.ca/expo_le_louvre_a_quebec.aspx

PREVOST CAR INVESTS \$149 MILLION IN THE QCA ZONE

Prevost Car will be upgrading its manufacturing facilities in Ste. Claire and St. Anselme as part of a large-scale modernization project in the Chaudière-Appalaches region. This multi-million-dollar investment will enable the company to maintain close to 1,200 jobs and to hire 70 new employees over the next five years. Prevost Car, a division of Volvo Group, is the second-largest manufacturer of intercity coaches in North America.

<http://www.prevostcar.com/cgi-bin/pages.cgi?page=home&lang=fr>



NEUROCITÉ WELCOMES ITS FIRST TWO TENANTS

Chlorion Pharma and Neuropsychiatry, Discovery & Innovation (NDEI), both founded by university researchers, have set up operations at the heart of the NeuroCité academic and science complex. Focusing on neuron and brain disease research, NeuroCité will comprise two research centres, together with a specialized science and technology park aimed at promoting research and attracting pharmaceutical and biotech companies to the region. NeuroCité hopes to become the operating base for 20 multinational pharmaceutical and high-tech firms over the next decade. Investments are expected to top \$250 million.

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