



Introducing Laval...



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The Mayor's Message

Laval is a lively community, a place where women and men have chosen to live, work, raise their children and watch them grow up. Laval's many assets remain at the very heart of its community identity. They provide us with an opportunity to face the future. Laval residents may therefore have confidence in their city's economy that is open to the world, confidence in Laval's human resources and in its solidarity, which allows all residents to make respect for quality of life the corollary of its development.

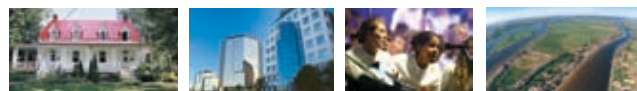
As you will be able to see in reading over the following pages, Laval is really and truly a city of today, a city whose development has always been balanced. Its environment and infrastructures are well adapted to present-day needs and are constantly being improved and modernized. The women and men who directly or



indirectly work with residents are also driven by the deep desire to provide good service so that you can find the best available in all regards. That, too, is part of the pride of being a Laval resident.

Gilles Vaillancourt

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Coat of arms and Emblem

Coat of arms

"Unité, Progrès, Grandeur" – that is the motto chosen to identify the steps in the rising development of Ville de Laval, with its coat of arms inspired by the one belonging to Monseigneur François de Montmorency-Laval, the first Bishop of New France.



From four blue points, separated by the chevrons of the blood-soaked Greek cross, the escutcheon is surmounted with a mural crown of silver, having six crenelled towers placed on a disk of the same tone; at its base, the winding ribbon, reduced in length and engraved with the motto, furls by itself; the scallops of the cross represent the five pioneer parishes of Île Jésus; the eaglets, aligned in fours, represent the sixteen municipalities inhabited by the islanders up until 1961, while the towers represent Ville de Laval's six districts.



The emblem

Adopted on May 5, 1975, Laval's emblem illustrates the modernism of a growing community. The set of cubes symbolizes Laval's development. The cubes build the "L" of Laval, making the emblem a logo as well. The colours also have an important significance. Purple traditionally symbolizes wealth; in a broader sense, it represents Laval's great economic potential. Blue symbolizes the quality of life and development of a human city. As for the letters of Laval's signature, they are joined together to evoke the merger of the 14 municipalities of Île Jésus.

Recollections

Established as a seignury and granted to the Jesuits in 1636, Île Jésus was one of the first domanial institutions created by La Compagnie des Cent Associés in the Hochelaga region. It was officially taken over in 1638, four years before Montréal was founded; however, Île Jésus' development was much slower than that of its neighbour. In fact, agricultural operations began there only in 1670, under François Berthelot, King's Counsel. According to a report written by Jean Talon, the first Intendant of New France, and dated March 13, 1673, there was a main manor on the island at the time and the crops for the two preceding

years had produced 600 pecks of wheat. In his diary for the years 1672-1674, Jesuit Father Dalmas also mentions the existence of a number of dwellings on Île Jésus.

The first land grants date back to 1675, or soon after, under Mgr. François-Xavier Montmorency de Laval, the first bishop of New France, who had acquired the Sulpicians' seignury and who later had to give it over to the Québec Seminary. The census of 1681 indicates that four families were living on the east end of the island at the time. In 1702, the growth of the small population warranted the foundation of the first parish, which was dedicated to Saint-François de Sales.



Saint-François-de-Sales church, at the beginning of the colony



Early stages of the village of Saint-François (circa 1865)

As more settlers arrived, land development gradually continued westward, thereby creating the need for new parishes, which, in 1845, formed the boundaries for the first four civic municipalities. As a result, for two centuries, Île Jésus was exclusively used as farm land. At that time, there was only one built-up area, which became the village of Sainte-Rose in 1850, and remained the island's main town until the end of the 19th century.

From rural to urban life

Urbanization of the island began slowly at the beginning of the twentieth century, with the founding of Ville de Laval-des-Rapides (1912), and Village de l'Abord-à-Plouffe (1915). At that time, Île Jésus was mainly an ideal resort for vacationing Montrealers. The head parishes began to break up at the same time, continuing through to 1960 and even accelerating during the following decade. This last period, which was marked by unprecedented prosperity, in fact coincided with a wave of metropolitan expansion that brought huge migration towards the suburbs, and particularly to Île Jésus.



The Viau bridge in 1915



The Hochelaga bank in Sainte-Dorothée, early 20th century

The Birth of Laval

The ministère des Affaires municipales du Québec set up an inquiry commission, on February 7, 1964, to examine the intermunicipal problems of the fourteen municipalities on the island. The commission, headed by Judge Armand Sylvestre, tabled its report in December of the same year. This report recommended a pure and simple merger of all the municipalities on the island.

Ville de Laval was therefore officially incorporated on August 6, 1965, at 5:15 p.m. on the clock overlooking the Parliament Buildings, by assent to Chapter 89 of the Statutes of the Province of Québec (1965), which has since been amended a number of times. The new municipality therefore merged—into one single entity—all the municipalities on Île Jésus, including Îles-Laval.

From the time of its creation, Laval became the second largest city in the province of Québec, after Montréal, in view of its population of over 170,000. Today, Laval is the third largest city in the province. More information may be found on a museology website that is unique in all of Québec (www.info.ville.laval.qc.ca/expoarchives).

THE MUNICIPALITIES MERGED ON AUGUST 6, 1965

Cité de Chomedey
Ville de Fabreville
Cité de Duvernay
Ville des Îles-Laval
Cité de Laval-des-Rapides
Ville de Laval-sur-le-Lac
Cité de Laval-Ouest
Ville de Sainte-Dorothée
Cité de Pont-Viau
Ville de Saint-François
Cité de Sainte-Rose
Ville de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul
Ville d'Auteuil
Ville de Vimont



The Development of Laval

Today, with a population of 375,000, Laval has become a key centre of economic activity, equipped with strong, balanced and diversified commercial and industrial structures. There are approximately 11,000 businesses established in Laval, including 919 in the manufacturing sector, 705 in distribution, 95 in biotechnology and health sciences and 265 in information technologies. The businesses located in Laval employ no less than 122,000 people. In 2005, investments surpassed the billion-dollar mark for the fourth year in a row. Standard & Poors once again awarded Laval an A+ credit rating. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, Laval shares the title of Québec's entrepreneurial leader with the Centre-du-Québec region.

Although still young, Laval's community has acquired all the necessities of a dynamic city, such as an expanding university campus, a community college (CÉGEP), two school boards, a biotechnology city (Cité de la Biotech), a modern hospital, a development agency of local health and social services networks, four CLSCs, an economic

(Conférence régionale des élus-CRÉ), three metro stations and a project to build a new bridge (Autoroute 25) linking Laval to the metropolis of Québec, plus a number of other assets.

Laval is also twinned with the municipality of Laval in Mayenne, France as well as with Petatikva, Israel, and has entered

utilities—mainly water supply and sewage systems, maintenance of public roads and all other services of an urban nature. As for the school boards, they come under the Québec government's department of education, recreational activities and sports. The municipal corporations enjoy extensive autonomy in managing



into economic and cultural cooperation agreements with a number of communities, including Ribeira Grande in the Azores; San Salvador, El Salvador; the Midi-Pyrénées region of France; and Markham, Ontario.

Local government

Under the Canadian Constitution, local administration falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the provincial governments; consequently, the Federal government has no control over municipalities, even in matters relating to the implementation of financial assistance programs, other than through the provincial governments. In the province of Québec, the system of government is based on the principle of administrative decentralization.

There are two levels of local government—the municipal corporations and the school boards. The municipal corporations come under the authority of the Québec government's municipal affairs and regions department and are governed by the Municipal Code or the Cities and Towns Act. The municipalities look after such matters as land-use planning, protection of individuals and property (police-fire), public

their routine affairs. Provincial authorities generally don't intervene in local administration, apart from matters relating to loans. In that case, they exercise control through the Québec government's municipal affairs and regions department, whose responsibility includes approving the municipalities' proposed loans.

For urban municipalities, in addition to the general powers granted by the Cities and Towns Act, each corporation usually has certain special powers granted in its charter of incorporation or by means of subsequent amendments adopted by the laws of the Québec National Assembly.



development organization (Laval Technopole), ten public and private industrial parks, shopping centres, one of the best highway systems in Québec, a transit corporation, a library network, an arts centre (Maison des arts), a nature centre (Centre de la nature), many green spaces, nine arenas, drinking water treatment plants—including the one in the Sainte-Rose district, which is one of the most modern in North America, sewage treatment plants, a tourism promotion organization, a municipal housing bureau, a regional council of elected officers

The administrative system

The charter of Ville de Laval, as adopted by the Québec National Assembly, includes a special type of municipal government, particular to Laval and adapted to the needs of a large municipality. Subject to rapid development, the municipality must flexibly address and quickly resolve the many daily problems of modern living faced by the leaders of any urban community.

Although governed by the Cities and Towns Act, Laval in fact has a form of government that is considerably different from that of other municipalities in the province of Québec that are subject to the same law. Under this administrative system, powers are shared between the Executive Committee and City Council. The general election to choose the Mayor

and City Councillors is held every four years, on the first Sunday in November. The last election was on November 6, 2005.

City Council



City Council's main function is to adopt budgets and vote on the appropriations needed to manage the municipality, as submitted by the Executive Committee. It grants contracts when the Executive Committee is not empowered to do so on its own. It adopts all bylaws, creates the various municipal departments and establishes the scope of their activities. It has the power to reach a decision on any report submitted to it by the Executive Committee and also to require that this committee table it reports on any matter relating to the municipality's administration. And lastly, it may delegate to the Executive Committee, by bylaw, all powers conferred upon it by the Cities and Towns Act, except those granted to it under the Charter.

City Council is made up of the Mayor and 21 Councillors. It is presided over by one of its members, elected at the first meeting following the general election. Regular meetings of City Council are held at 8 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, except on statutory holidays and in the months of July and January. Since 2006, City Council has been occasionally holding its meetings in various districts. Further details in this regard may be found on the City's web portal (www.ville.laval.qc.ca).

Mayor: Gilles Vaillancourt

ELECTORAL DISTRICT

1. Saint-François
2. Saint-Vincent-de-Paul
3. Val-des-Arbres
4. Duvernay / Pont-Viau
5. Du Marigot
6. Concorde / Bois-de-Boulogne
7. Renaud
8. Vimont
9. Saint-Bruno
10. Auteuil
11. Laval-des-Rapides
12. Souvenir / Labelle
13. L'Abord-à-Plouffe
14. Chomedey
15. Saint-Martin
16. Sainte-Dorothée
17. Laval-les-Îles
18. L'Orée-des-Bois
19. Marc-Aurèle-Fortin
20. Fabreville
21. Sainte-Rose

COUNCILLOR

Jacques Saint-Jean
Sylvie Clermont
Madeleine Sollazzo
Michèle Des Trois Maisons
Francine Légaré ¹
Jean-Jacques Lapierre
Benoît Fradet *
Norman Girard
Yvon Martineau
Lucie Hill Larocque
Ginette Grisé
Jocelyne Guertin *
Ginette Legault-Bernier
Basile Angelopoulos *
Alexandre Duplessis ²
Pierre Cléroux
Jean-Jacques Beldié
Robert Plante
Yvon Bromley
André Boileau *
Denis Robillard

* Member of the Executive Committee

¹ City Council Chair

² Associate Executive Committee member

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is made up of the Mayor and four other members appointed by him and chosen from among the elected Councillors. The only member elected by the entire population, the Mayor automatically becomes the Chairman of the Executive Committee. He appoints one of the members Vice Chairman to fulfill all the Chairman's duties during his absence. The Committee holds as many meetings as deemed necessary to carry out its executive powers and efficiently manage the City.

Although in Ville de Laval's charter, it is stipulated that the Executive Committee meetings are to be held in private, Ville de Laval, through its concern for transparency, has decided to open these meetings to the public. They are generally held every Wednesday morning. Any communication between Council and Laval's municipal departments must go through the Executive Committee; a resolution from City Council is required for any dealings with the Executive Committee.

Chairman
Gilles Vaillancourt

Vice-Chairman
André Boileau

Member
Jocelyne Guertin

Member
Benoît Fradet

Member
Basile Angelopoulos

Associate Member
Alexandre Duplessis

Electoral Districts



Administrative Personnel

City Manager

The City Manager is the highest-ranking employee in the municipality; his duties and functions are specifically defined in the City charter. His main role is to manage the municipality's affairs under the authority of the Executive Committee and to exercise control, as the Executive Committee's authorized representative, over all department

managers, with the exception of the City Clerk and the City's Assessor. Any communication between the Executive Committee and the municipal departments must go through the City Manager; however, the Executive Committee may call on any department manager, at any time, to obtain any information it may want to have. Except when otherwise specified in the City charter, department managers answer first to the

City Manager and secondly, to the Executive Committee, for the administration of their department.

Apart from the City Manager, all department managers, their assistants and the assistants to the City Manager are appointed by City Council, following a report from the Executive Committee and upon recommendation from the City Manager, in the case of his assistants.

Residents' Services

Ville de Laval was the first municipality in Québec to adopt a "Declaration of Services", a statement of principles whereby the City agrees to offer residents

and the 600 or so partner organizations all necessary support within the areas of activity coming within the municipality's

jurisdiction. Over 2,300 municipal employees look after residents' well-being and improving their quality of life.

Municipal Departments

Police – fire

Protection des citoyens

Promotes and maintains law and order as well as public safety and security and also safeguards residents' lives and property by enforcing laws and providing the Laval community with a safe environment.

Public works / Travaux publics

Maintains the municipality's infrastructures: streets, boulevards, signs, parks, nature centre, arena, transportation, courier service and urban forestry and also provides technical support at special events to various departments, and mainly to *Vie communautaire, de la culture et des communications* and *Protection des citoyens*.

Environment / Environnement

Maintains the health and quality of the environment by protecting and developing natural surroundings, waterways and green spaces. Ensures the quality of the water, soil and air on Laval territory. Looks after production and monitoring of drinking water as well as sewage collection and treatment, management of residual waste and elimination of nuisances. Launches and develops activities aimed at cultivating habits and behaviours for a sustainable environment.

Urban planning / Urbanisme

Looks after the harmonious development of the territory, enforces urban planning bylaws and issues construction, renovation and subdivision (cadastre) permits, manages various municipal programs, including those relating to urban renovations and heritage protection, and is responsible for the toponymy of sites, buildings and municipal facilities (name of building, street, park, etc.). Also looks after implementing the regional county municipality (MRC) land use planning and development plan and manages land-use planning to ensure efficient use of the territory in order to meet the community's needs.

Community life, culture and communications

Vie communautaire, culture et communications

Concretely supports cultural, sports, outdoor, recreational and all other activities related to community life; provides information and support to residents, institutions

and organizations as well as to public and private corporations, in the steps they take with regard to activities and municipal bylaws.

Finances / Finances

Plans and controls all of the municipality's financial and administrative activities, such as tax collection, preparation of financial statements, payment of various expenses as well as analysis, development and management of financial information systems, in accordance with accounting standards, current legislation and City Council's decisions.

Legal affairs / Contentieux

Provides the municipality with the necessary legal support by responding to the various requests of a legal nature made by the City's general management staff or by the City's departments as a whole. Represents the municipality, upon the Executive Committee's request, in relation to all proceedings before the various courts. Assumes responsibility for the Municipal Court clerk's office and the lawyers acting on behalf of the City before this Court.

Assessment / Évaluation

Responsible for preparing and updating the real estate assessment roll as well as the acquisition and disposition of immovables. The real estate

Protection des citoyens **residents' protection**

Travaux publics **public works**

Environnement **environment**

Urbanisme **urban planning**

Vie communautaire, culture et communications **community life, culture and communications**

Finances **finance**

Contentieux **legal affairs**

Évaluation **assessment**

Greffe **registry office**

Ingénierie **engineering**

Ressources humaines **human resources**

Ressources matérielles **physical resources**

Systèmes et technologies **systems and technology**

assessment roll reflects the value of all immovables listed and located on the City's territory. This value forms the basis of municipal taxation.





Registry office / Greffe

Looks after the legislative framework within which the decisions of City Council and the Executive Committee are reached and also looks after writing minutes, resolutions, draft bylaws and calls for tender. Through public notices, announces Ville de Laval's draft bylaws. Collects and stores documents that are then archived. Is responsible for requests for municipal documents made pursuant to the *Access to Information Act*. Also follows up on claims filed against the City, including the municipality's insurance portfolio.

Engineering / Ingénierie

Acts as consultant in relation to the design, execution and monitoring of the various construction, repair and rehabilitation projects concerning infrastructures and municipal buildings, including water supply and sewage systems, lighting

along public roadways and signs. Also responsible for designing and developing new parks, rest areas and bicycle paths. Coordinates the annual tree planting program and sets up acoustic structures along autoroutes. Issues connection permits and reserved parking permits in certain areas.

Human resources

Ressources humaines

Looks after providing the various municipal departments with responsible, competent women and men to work with residents. Effectively and efficiently supports activities in various City departments by making it possible for employees to work in a stimulating, respectful environment of integrity. Carries out various programs, including payroll, training and employee benefits management as well as health and safety interventions. Constantly appraises its employees' performance.

Physical resources

Ressources matérielles

Supplies the various municipal departments with quality goods and services at the best possible costs, in 'taxpayers' interests, in keeping with current laws, municipal bylaws and trade agreements. Looks after managing the automotive fleet, the municipal pound as well as the buildings division.

Systems and technology

Systèmes et technologies

Provides technological and organizational support to the municipal departments in carrying out their mandates; advises and guides the departments in relation to all information technology aspects; develops and installs computer applications and software; and also provides maintenance and manages all systems and information technologies, including communication and telecommunication systems.

Offices

The mandate of the various offices of Ville de Laval is to provide the necessary professional support to ensure that the municipal departments are run efficiently.

Bureau des juges / Bureau du budget

Bureau de la vérification interne / Bureau du régime des rentes

The Multiservice Counter 450 978-8000

The Multiservice Counter was set up to inform, direct and even support residents in their inquiries or dealings with the municipal departments. Whether to inquire about or pay a tax bill, obtain information, lodge a complaint, apply for a permit for construction, renovation, subdivision, sprinkler systems or connections or to consult the zoning plans, obtain a certificate of life or residence, a licence for your dog or oaths, or consult the real estate assessment role, submit applications for review of the assessment roll, or for a new driveway or to obtain a call for tender form, Laval residents will find all these services at one and the same place.



Support Organizations



In order to help elected municipal officials make the best decisions in the public interest, Ville de Laval has created various organizations over the years, such as committees and boards, a number of whose members include Laval residents:

Commission permanente de la protection des citoyens

Comités consultatifs (6) – postes de police communautaire

Groupe Action environnement

Comité consultatif d'urbanisme

Conseil de la culture

Commission consultative des arts

Commission consultative des bibliothèques

Commission consultative du patrimoine

Conseil consultatif conjoint sur l'accessibilité

Comité consultatif agricole

Comité de maîtrise de l'énergie

Comité de consultation sur les projets d'infrastructures

Administrative Divisions

Even though the electoral districts are the only official territorial divisions, administrative requirements make it necessary, for technical or social reasons, to use different territorial divisions depending on the nature of services provided by the municipality and the needs of the population. For instance, in order to run smoothly, the activities of the City's *Service de Protection des citoyens*, the *Service des travaux publics* and the *Service de la vie communautaire, de la culture et des communications* are decentralized in order to provide direct service to the public. There are six administrative sectors in Laval. In each of them, there is at least one community police station, one fire station, a library, a municipal recreation office (BML) and a local municipal garage.

Transportation

Buses

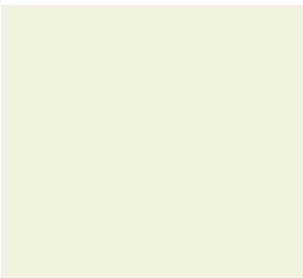
On December 21, 1984, a bill was adopted creating Laval's public transit corporation, the Société de transport de la Ville de Laval (STL), and entrusting its control to the City's elected officers. The STL's Board of Directors therefore consists of five members, including the Chairman, chosen by City Council, from among its members, for a two-year term of office. The Executive Director of this transit corporation is appointed by the Board of Directors, for a five-year term, to manage the STL's affairs, under the responsibility of the Board. A meeting of the Board of Directors must be held once a month and, at the start of each



meeting, there is a question-and-answer period for transit users. The STL's role is to provide and promote efficient, competitive public transit services in keeping with the needs and expectations of its transit users and the community as a whole. The STL's fleet of 229 buses annually covers 13.8 million kilometres on 34 bus routes. The 2005 budget was \$85 million. All in all, users make over 18.9 million bus trips per year. For information, phone: **450 662-5400**.

The metro and commuter trains

The Agence métropolitaine de transport manages three metro stations on Laval territory (start-up of operations in summer 2007) as well as two commuter train lines.



Metro

- Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT)
- Three stations in Laval (starting July 2007): De la Concorde, Cartier and Montmorency (intermodal with STL terminus)

Passenger trains (commuter trains)

- Montréal-Deux-Montagnes line – AMT – Canadian National right-of-way – Train stations in Laval: Île Bigras and Sainte-Dorothée
- Montréal-Blainville-Saint-Jérôme line* – AMT – Canadian Pacific right-of-way – Train stations in Laval: Sainte-Rose and Saint-Martin

* Operation of the Blainville-Saint-Jérôme segment is scheduled for late 2006.

Freight trains

- Canadian Pacific: Montréal-Blainville
- Canadian Pacific: Montréal-Terrebonne-Trois-Rivières-Québec City

Autoroute system

- Autoroute Chomedey (A-13)
- Autoroute des Laurentides (A-15)
- Autoroute Papineau-Leblanc (A-19)
- Autoroute 25 (A-25)
- Autoroute Laval (A-440)

Bridges and other major roads:

- Major roads: 117, 125, 148 and 335
- Total number of bridges over Rivière des Prairies: 9, including one twin bridge and 2 railway bridges
- Total number of bridges over Rivière des Mille-Îles: 10, including 3 railway bridges

Bikeways

- Total: 150 kilometres
- Route verte – North-South and East-West: 32 kilometres



The MRC

Created in 1979 by the Government, pursuant to the *Act respecting land use planning and development*, the *municipalités régionales de comté* (MRC)—regional county municipalities—form regional structures for planning, coordinating and managing certain services. By definition, they group together all the local municipalities in the same region. In Québec, there are

86 regional county municipalities and 17 administrative regions. The MRCs were initially designed to meet regional needs, such as land use planning and the sharing of certain services. Also in accordance with this Act, the MRCs are formed by elected officers of the local municipalities, who elect a warden. Over the years, the MRCs were granted additional powers. The MRC Laval is unique to Québec in

that it is not only a city, but also an administrative region and an island, and its warden is the Mayor of the municipality. Like the other MRCs, Laval must develop and update a land-use planning and development plan that establishes the major land-use planning and development policies on its territory.



The *Conférence régionale des élus*

The *Conférence régionale des élus*-CRÉ de Laval (regional conference of elected officers) was created within the scope of the *Act respecting the ministère du Développement économique et régional et de la Recherche*. For the Laval region, the CRÉ is the primary interlocutor of the Government with regard to

regional development. CRÉ's mandates include promoting concerted action among partners in the region; establishing a consultation mechanism with socio-economic groups in their territory; and promoting economic, social and cultural development of the region, pursuant to the memorandum of understanding

reached with the Québec government, within the *Forum des générations*, held in October 2004. Its Board of Directors is made up of all the members of City Council presided over by the Mayor. Its offices are located at 1555 Boulevard Chomedey, Suite 200.

For information: **450 686-4343**

Social Housing

Laval's municipal housing bureau is a non-profit organization whose main role is to manage housing projects for families and retired people who are eligible for financial aid for housing, as determined by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ). Within the low-rental housing program, this hous-

ing bureau manages fifteen housing projects providing 429 dwelling units for families and people living alone as well as 691 dwelling units for retirees or the disabled, for a total of 1,120 low-rental housing units. Within the Rent Supplement Program, this office also manages 389 dwelling units for families

and people living alone. The Office municipal d'habitation de Laval is located at 3090 Boulevard Le Carrefour, Suite 200. Further information may be obtained by phone (at **450 688-0184**) or by e-mail (at omhlaval@bellnet.ca).

Economic Development

Created in 1995, LAVAL TECHNOPOLE is a non-profit organization mainly funded by Ville de Laval. Its 20-member Board of Directors comes from various business sectors in Laval and includes two elected municipal officers and one representative of Laval's chamber of commerce and industry. Its Executive Committee is made up of 5 Board members, one of whom is a member of Laval's City Council.

The role of LAVAL TECHNOPOLE is to promote and develop Laval's economy by seeking new investments, welcoming new businesses and supporting those already located on its territory, in its areas of excellence: the BIOPOLE, the e-POLE, the AGROPOLE and the INDUSTRIAL POLE. Over 11,000 businesses are located in Laval, employing approximately 120,000 people. LAVAL TECHNOPOLE also has the role of developing the Cité de la biotechnologie de Laval et de la Santé Humaine in addition to municipal industrial parks. LAVAL TECHNOPOLE is positioned



in these four areas of activity, corresponding to its main fields of excellence: The BIOPOLE—home to over 95 businesses and research centres—employs over 3,723 people, mainly in the health, pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries. The e-POLE—the information technologies and telecommunications sector—is based on the activity of over 265 businesses, employing nearly 4,370 people. The INDUSTRIAL POLE consists of a wide variety of 2,520 small and medium-sized industrial firms,

including 1,062 manufacturing firms in various economic sectors. The Parc industriel Centre is one of the largest municipal industrial parks in Canada. The AGROPOLE is a development sector in Laval, with its agropark covering 7,000 hectares and representing nearly 30% of Laval's territory. Over 1,000 businesses marketing agricultural products and services have helped Laval earn its name as the capital of horticulture in Québec. For information, phone **450 978-5959**.

Tourism

Created in 1988, Tourisme Laval is a non-profit organization representing some 225 Laval businesses related to the tourist industry. It is recognized as the primary interlocutor of Tourisme Québec in tourism-related matters. Leading the way in an expanding industry, Tourisme Laval is pursuing the objective of positioning Laval on the provincial, national and international tourism scene. In keeping with its role of welcoming tourists as well as developing

and promoting tourism, Tourisme Laval is very active in strategically planning the development of the tourism supply, soliciting business and leisure markets as well as handling press relations, advertising and promotion in order to stimulate Laval's economy. A partner of Laval's economic organizations and of Ville de Laval, Tourisme Laval has become the real nerve centre of a growing activity and plays a leading role in Laval's economic development.

Laval's well-known tourist sites include the Cosmodôme, Centre de la nature, Maison des arts, Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, Salle André-Mathieu, Théâtre Marcellin-Champagnat, Armand Frappier Museum, the Route des fleurs in the Sainte-Dorothée district, the Château Taillefer Lafon vineyard, Bio-Ferme Laval, Parc des Prairies and Complexe Centropolis.

For information, phone: **450 682-5522**.



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Statistics

Population estimate (in 2005): **375,000 people**



GEOGRAPHY

Position	Latitude	45° 35' N	
	Longitude	73° 45' W	
Altitude above sea level	metres	feet	
Maximum	59.4	195	
Minimum	6.1	20	
Area	km ²	sq. mi.	hectares
Land only	245.84	94.92	24,584.3
Île Jésus	242.42	93.60	24,242.4

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Surrounded by Deux-Montagnes lake as well as Mille-Îles and Des Prairies rivers

Islands and islets	Total no. (including Île Jésus)	77	Rivière des Prairies	14
	Lac des Deux Montagnes	3	Rivière des Mille-Îles	59

Approximate distance from major city centres

	Road		Rail		Straight line	
	km	miles	km	miles	km	miles
Montréal	19	12	14	9	13	8
Toronto	534	332	529	329	521	324
Ottawa	188	117	161	100	154	96
Québec City	257	160	241	150	235	146
Trois-Rivières	137	85	129	80	126	78
P.E. Trudeau Airport	22	14	-	-	-	-

CLIMATE

Cold, temperate zone. Rainfall patterns characterized by high humidity levels due to vast surrounding expanses of water.

Weather conditions

Annual precipitation

Temperature	* Average	2004		* Average	2004
Twelve months	6.1°	6.2°	Total	960.8 mm	899.4 mm
January	-10.3°	-7.3°	Rain	760.1 mm	763.0 mm
July	20.8°	21.1°	Snow	214.2 cm	133.8 cm

Winds

Prevailing winds from the west	* Average	2004
Average velocity	14.2 km/hr	16.4 km/hr
Annual sunlight	2,028.6 hrs	2,231.4 hrs

Main weather station: P.E. Trudeau Airport

** Refers to the 1971-2000 average*

HYDROGRAPHY

Flow	Rivière des Prairies		Rivière des Mille-Îles	
	m ³ /s	cu. ft./s	m ³ /s	cu. ft./s
Avg	1,047.7	37,000	197.7	6,980
Maximum	3,171.5	112,000	1,265.8	44,700
Minimum	399.8	12,000	15.9	560

Light aircraft airport	Saint-François district
Hydroplane airport	Sainte-Rose and Pont-Viau district
Ferry	Île Bizard – Laval (Laval-sur-le-Lac district)
Manufacturing companies	No. of businesses: 919 No. of employees: 28,383
Distribution firms	No. of businesses: 705 No. of employees: 11,377
Food and accommodations	Hotels and motels: 15 - 1,502 rooms Restaurants: 422
Banking services	Bank branches: 59 Credit union branches: 45 (includes service centres)



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Commission scolaire de Laval
Sir-Wilfrid Laurier School Board

No. of schools

LEVEL	No.
Kindergarten and elementary	79
High school	24
General and vocational college (CÉGEP Montmorency)	1
Centre d'études universitaires de Laval (UQAM)	1
Université de Montréal - Laval campus	1

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Académie chrétienne Rive-Nord – French elementary and high school
Collège Laval - French high school
Collège Letendre - French high school
Académie lavalloise - French kindergarten and elementary school
Demosthenes School - Greek elementary school
École Charles-Perrault - French kindergarten and elementary school
Socrates School - Greek elementary school
École Notre-Dame de Nareg - Armenian elementary school
École Vanguard - French high school
École Montessori Ville-Marie

PLACES OF WORSHIP	Religious denominations	No.	Religious denominations	No.
	Adventist	1	Mennonite	1
	Anglican	1	Mormon	1
	Apostolic	2	Muslim	3
	Baptist	4	Pentecostal	3
	Catholic	28	Presbyterian	1
	Greek Orthodox	2	Protestant	1
	Jehovah's Witnesses	2	United	1
	Jewish	5		

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Social institutions

Institutions recognized by the health and social services network

	No.	Capacity
Hospitals	3	584 pl.
CHSLDs	17	1,817 pl.
Rehabilitation centres	9	95 pl.
Youth centres	9	293 pl.
CLSCs	4	

Institutions under the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec

Adapted work centres	1	32 pl.
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Private residences for adults and autonomous seniors

Foster homes	19	585 pl.
Foster families	48	260 pl.

HOUSING

	No.	Capacity
- low-rental	15	1,120 units
- non-profit (seniors)	10	1,041 units
- private homes (retired and semi-retired)	13	2,596 units

DAYCARE CENTRES

	No.	Capacity
Childcare centres (infants) with services at a facility	50	3,091
Childcare centres (infants) in family surroundings	37	4,196
Non-profit daycare centres	2	141
Private daycare centres	43	2,637

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Water treatment plants: 3

Daily production capacity: 425,000 m³

MEDIA

Newspapers

Courrier Laval (Sunday and Thursday editions)
Les Éditions de quartier (4)
The Chomedey News
Journal L'Extra

Radio stations

Rythme FM 105.7
Radio Boomer AM 1570

TV station

Télévision régionale de Laval (TVRL)

