



# Québec's international presence



Picture: William James Topley, Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, PA-026613.

## THE QUIET REVOLUTION: THE STARTING POINT FOR A STRUCTURED INTERNATIONAL POLICY FOR QUÉBEC

Québec's first steps on the international stage occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when its first overseas representative, Hector Fabre, was appointed to a position in Paris in 1882. Next, the first permanent office abroad, the Québec Delegation General in New York, opened in 1940.

Hector Fabre in 1879.



Picture : Fonds Gabriel Desmarais (Gaby), Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, P795,S1,D6055.

In 1965, Québec's international actions entered a new era. The Gérin-Lajoie doctrine, which affirms Québec's determination to "take its rightful place", was named after Paul Gérin-Lajoie, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education in the government of Jean Lesage, and adopted in 1965. It became the legal foundation for what is still Québec's international policy.

In a speech given in 1965, lawyer and politician Paul Gérin-Lajoie stated that the areas of provincial jurisdiction defined by the Canadian Constitution, such as healthcare, education and culture, could be extended to the international arena.

## A HISTORIC AGREEMENT

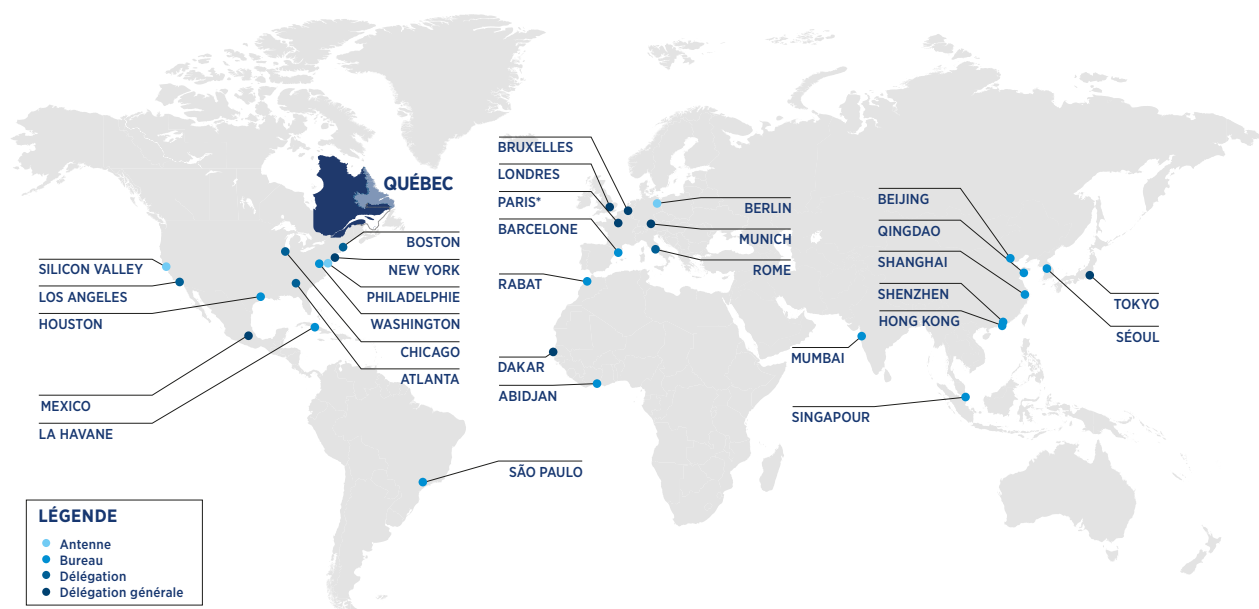
Québec's international outreach was given new impetus in the 2000s. On May 5, 2006, the Québec government and the Government of Canada signed a historic agreement concerning the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), founded in 1945, which brings together 193 member states, including Canada.

## THE RIGHT TO MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD

Recognizing that "the specificity of Québec leads it to play a special role internationally," the Québec-Canada Agreement on UNESCO gave Québec, for the first time, a recognized right to express its views at UNESCO.

Under the agreement, Québec obtained a representative on Canada's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO in Paris, and the Québec government is represented "in full and according to its wishes" in the work of UNESCO, with the ability to express its cultural and linguistic specificity.

## LES REPRÉSENTATIONS DU QUÉBEC À L'ÉTRANGER



## QUÉBEC'S INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

The Québec-Canada Agreement on UNESCO, along with the network of 33 Québec Government Offices in 18 different countries, ensures the international outreach of the Québec state.