



INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN QUÉBEC :

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH
CENTRED ON LOCAL SOLIDARITY

Pierre Baril, deputy minister for policy
Quebec Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Environment and Parks, Quebec, Canada

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Quebec Water Resources

- Quebec province; 1 667 000 km²
- 10 % is covered by freshwater
- 3% of the world renewable water
- contains over 4,500 rivers,
- half a million of lakes, 30 of wich cover an area greater than 250 km²
- Ground water estimated at 2000 km³
- 430 major watersheds, including 100 with drainage areas in excess of 4,000 km².
- Status: « *common to all* »

Quebec Water Policy

- 1999-2000: extensive public consultation
- November 2002 : publication
- 3 major issues :
 - ✓ Recognition of water as a collective heritage of all Quebecers
 - ✓ Protection of public health and aquatic ecosystems
 - ✓ Integrated and sustainable water management

Integrated and sustainable water management



« ...governing water wisely to ensure good governance, so that the involvement of the public and the interest of all stakeholders are included in the management of water resources »



The Hague Ministerial Declaration, 2000



Collaborative approach : a tool for change in water governance

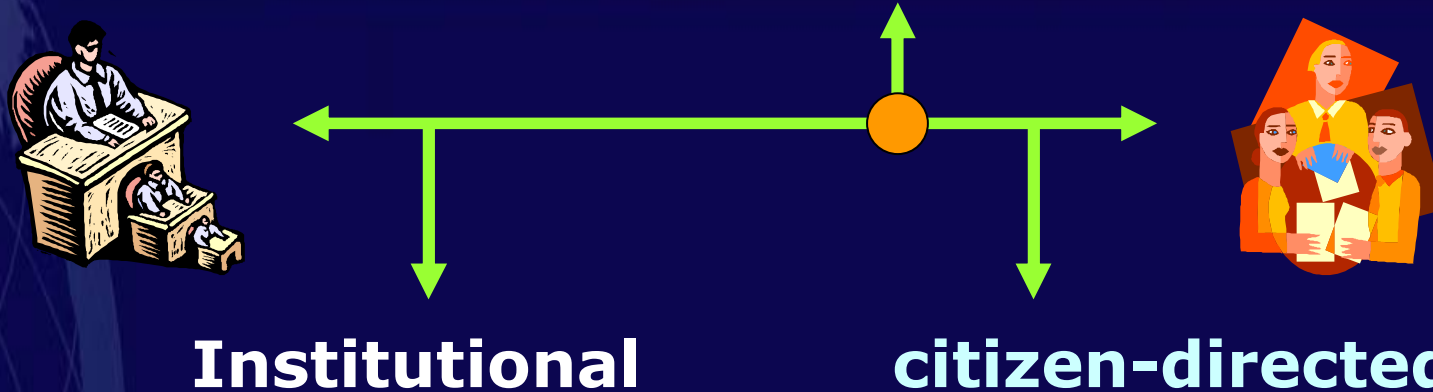
- The 3C of water governance :
 - conciliation (collective choice)
 - collaboration (collective action)
 - coordination (collective coherence)
- To build up collaboration capacities, trust links and seeking common values for water management
- To delimit roles and assignment of each water stakeholders



Collaborative approach : a tool for change in water governance

- To promote social involvement at diverse scales (project, watershed, province)
- To take into consideration the social dimension of water governance : no simple, elegant or all-purpose answers
- A place to share:
 - Informations
 - Problems and solutions
 - Tools of action

Quebec Approach of IWM

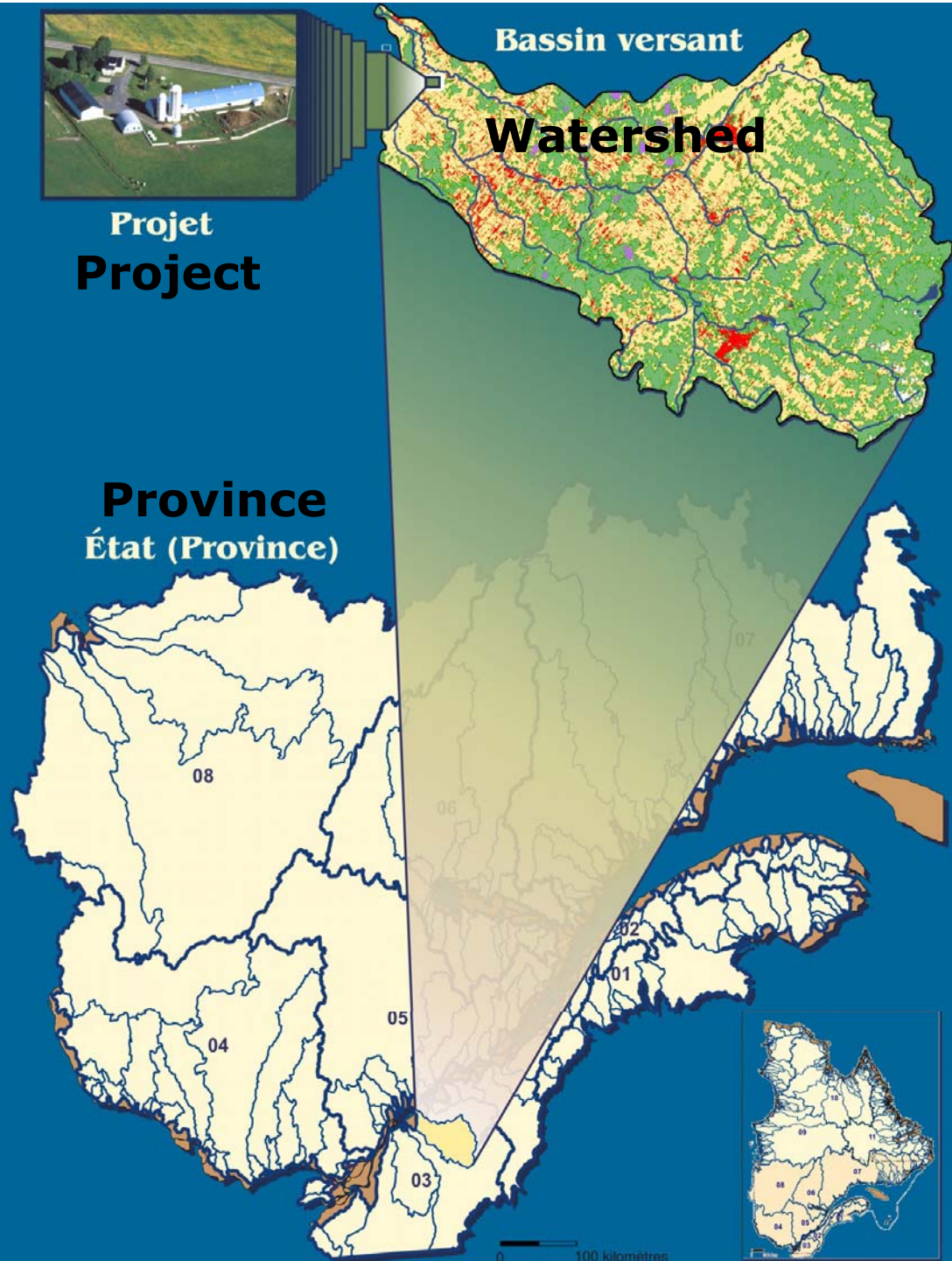


- o based on decentralized participatory structures that are maintained and supervised by the government, with no separate legislative provisions
- o operate in cooperation with all public and private stakeholders within a particular watershed to coordinate actions and in respect with the powers and responsibilities of each stakeholder involved.

Involvement of
all stakeholders
at diverse scales



Projet
Project



Bassin versant

Watershed

Province
État (Province)

0 100 kilomètres

Watershed scale

- Scale of collaboration
- Watershed organizations level
- To develop solutions depending on the objectives
- To facilitate projects
- To coordinate achievement of projects on the watershed

Project scale

- o Scale of action
- o The stakeholders level
- o To realize projects fixed in the Water Development Plan under the coordination of the Watershed Organization according to the results to reach at the watershed scale

Province scale

- Scale of coherence
- Government level (national leadership)
- To implement politic, administrative and legal requirements
- To provide funds, scientific and technical advise

Components of Quebec's watershed management structure

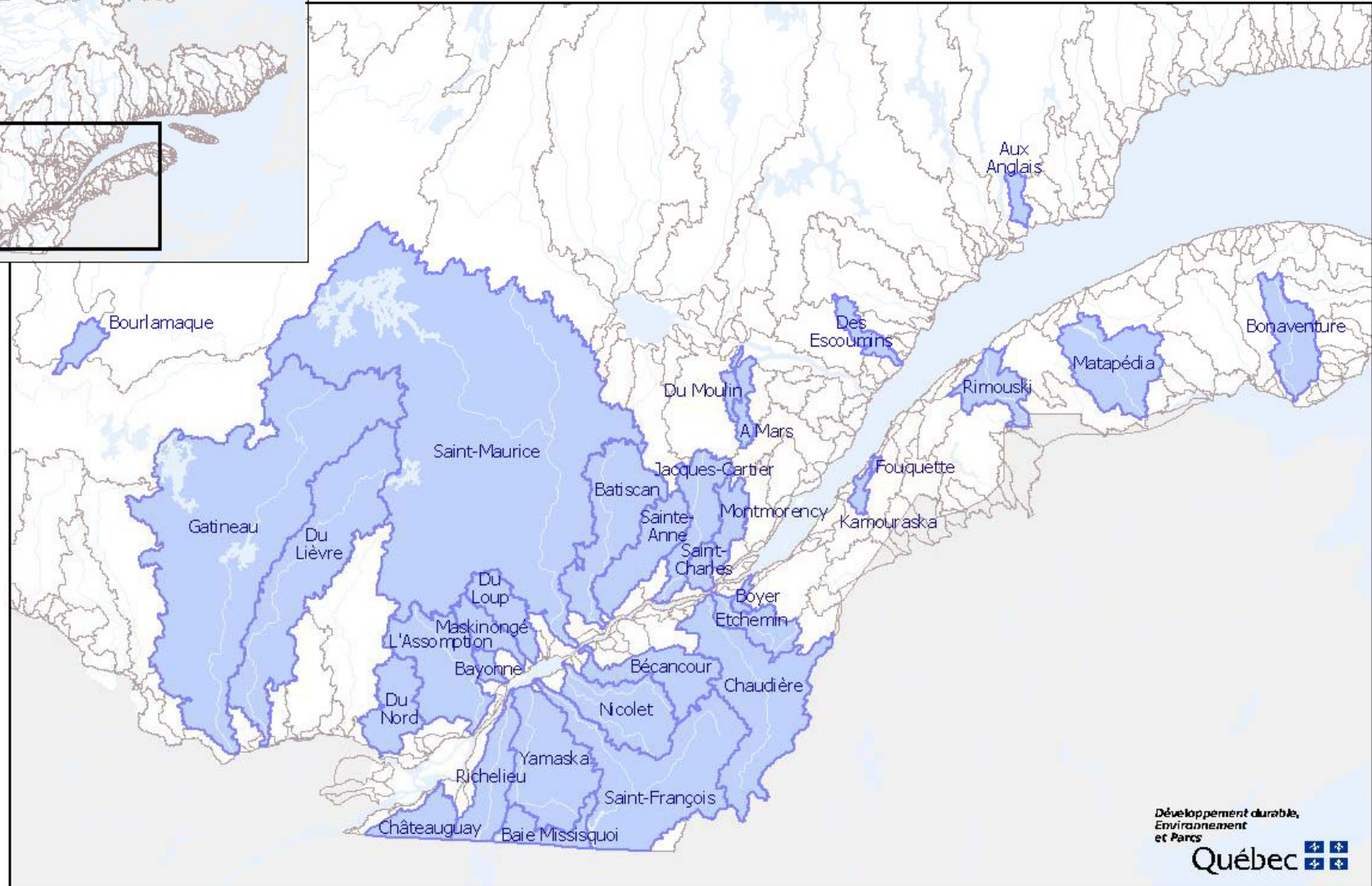
Formation	Created by interested parties in basins chosen by the government and with governmental financial help
Membership	Stakeholders voluntary participation with a guidance of representativeness and a governmental participation
Authority	No regulatory authority but some stakeholders have it (Quebec government, local governments)
Funding	A base funding by central government (program), funding by grant and sometimes by local government
Implementation	Each stakeholder (include provincial and local governments, private companies, NGO, citizens) have the <i>voluntary</i> opportunity to act for implementing the plan established in a participative process

Characteristics of the quebec IWM model

1st Component :

- o Identification of priority watersheds on the basis of environmental issues:
 - Pollution
 - Protection and conflicts over use
 - Budgetary situation of the gouvernement

The 33 priority watersheds



Characteristics of the quebec IWM model

2nd Component :

- A gouvernement that backs grassroots initiatives and support mobilization of stakeholders and civilians in the form of funding and technical assistance
- Annual grants of 65 000\$ to maintain the permanent operations of each of the 33 watershed organizations
- Technical assistance: guides, GIS, information kits, ...

Characteristics of the quebec IWM model

3rd Component :

- o The Watershed Organization : a consultative organization set up by local stakeholders to initiate and ensure dialogue among them
- o Include representatives of all public and private users, NGOs and water managers from within the watershed – a non-profit organization
- o To prepare a Water Development Plan (WDP) for sustainable development of water resources in the watershed (profile, diagnosis, challenges, strategies, objectives, action plan, monitoring and evaluation)

Characteristics of the quebec IWM model



3rd Component ...

- o Its board of directors must be representative of all public and private stakeholders present in the watershed. The government of Québec is also represented by different departments
- o not a substitute for current stakeholders, but a forum for developing local solidarity on water through the sharing of information, problems, solutions and channels of action available to each stakeholder

Characteristics of the Quebec IWM model

4th Component :

- o A flexible framework result-oriented
- o To operate according to an adaptive management method and within the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the watershed
- o ...according to a management cycle: a structured procedure that sets out guidelines

The management cycle



CONCLUSION

IWM ties with :

- o the Quebec Water Policy strategy dealing with the « Reform of the Water Governance »
- o An approach designed to be non-regulatory, flexible, targeted, collaborative and result-oriented
- o A need to shift from a regulatory paradigm to a collaborative paradigm – to move from centralized to decentralized decision-making, from an administrative to an ecosystemic view of the watershed, from a conflict of powers to a power of solutions.

CONCLUSION

With the coming experience :

- Is there a need to develop specific regulatory instruments?
- At which scale the government would be better acting for water management?
- Is there a need to expand implementation throughout the province?
- How to integrate the management of the St-Lawrence River with that of the watersheds?

CONCLUSION



Quebec Approach of *IWRM* :

To gather and share the powers of solutions of all the stakeholders to secure the sustainability of a common resource, vital and with no substitute.



**WATER,
OUR LIFE,
OUR FUTURE**