

The Port: dedicated to serving Québec

Over the past few weeks, many people have asked me why I chose the Port. My answer is that everything was leading me here, my own story as much as the challenges of our times. When my parents first came here from Iran, dreaming of freedom, they settled in Rivière-du-Loup. I grew up with this river that connects Québec to the ends of the earth... where my parents came from. So I have a personal connection with the Port. More than that, the world is changing. The turmoil caused by the pandemic showed us all just how fragile our global supply chains truly are. That's just one of the fascinating issues that led me to take a more direct interest in the Port, becoming a member of its board of directors in 2020, then Chair in 2024. As I begin to settle into my new role, trade issues are taking centre stage due to the United States' aggressive tariff policy.

I have selected three main priorities that will guide the actions of the Port of Québec team over the coming months and years.

First, I want to reinforce the role of the Port of Québec as a strategic partner for the future of our supply chains. The Port of Québec is much more than just a port. It's an essential driver of the Québec, Canadian and international supply chain, and a key partner for the future of trade in this country. In the face of global competition, it's important to highlight the distinctive advantages of the Port of Québec, most notably its exceptional water depth, its strategic position on the St. Lawrence River and its ability to play a pivotal role in the diversification of our markets.

Second, I intend to renew dialogue with the community and make the Port of Québec a symbol of pride for our city. We already have numerous tools at our disposal, such as "Good Neighbour" roundtable discussions, the "I participate" platform and the collaboration committee. Let's make the most of these tools for innovation and exchange. My aim is for the Port and the port community to establish a genuine partnership with the local population, to understand their concerns and build a harmonious future.

Québec is a multi-faceted city shaped by our history, culture, government, university...and our port! The Port is one of the defining features of our city. I want the community to be proud of our port, its role in the economy and its openness to the world. This sense of renewed dialogue and shared pride will be at the heart of every choice I make. Let's work together to make the Port of Québec a model of cohabitation, an engine of prosperity and a symbol of pride.

Thirdly, I want to position the Port of Québec as a source of economic prosperity for the Capitale-Nationale region, one that will benefit local people and businesses. Québec's maritime industry generates \$2 billion in revenue and 12,000 jobs across Canada, including 10,000 in Québec. We work with thousands of suppliers in the greater Québec City-Lévis area and eastern Québec. We want to build on this partnership to make an even greater contribution to the exceptional dynamism of the Capitale-Nationale region. We will strive to maximize the benefits of our activities for the region, while working ever more closely with the other ports in the St. Lawrence Corridor. And we'll be there with governments and industry to help find new business partners.

The Port of Québec is an organization that serves its city, administering waterfront spaces made available to partners who, in compliance with strict rules, are authorized to handle products that are essential to our quality of life. The Port finances itself through the collection of various fees and charges that enable it to ensure compliance with the relevant rules and regulations, minimize the inconvenience of its activities for locals, maintain its infrastructure, and develop recreational areas and river access for residents.

The new political and international business context that is taking shape before our very eyes will influence the future of the Port of Québec and that of its partners. So, through our port, I pledge to always proudly support our region in the face of future uncertainties.



Olga Farman
President and CEO, Port of Québec

