

Naturally...

Témiscamingue



What is it about Témiscamingue that captivates the heart of people?

There's often mention of the quality of life, the beauty of the scenery, quick access to a vast number of lakes and forests for recreational activities, numerous events and shows that liven up the cultural life, efficient service networks, a diversified economy...

but mostly, it's the vitality and warmth of the local people.





Source of data

- ☒ • Web site www.temiscamingue.net
- ☒ • The best employment opportunities in Abitibi-Témiscamingue from now until 2009, Emploi Québec
- ☒ • Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, L'Observatoire de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

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A privileged rural territory

Situated at the extreme western part of the province of Québec, in the south of the Abitibi region, on the boundaries of Ontario, and bordered by a lake of the same name, Témiscamingue is one of the most beautiful rural regions of Québec. This huge territory, where life is pleasant, has productive natural resources, lavish summers and white winters.



Vieux-Fort
photo: Société d'histoire du Témiscamingue

Land settlement in Témiscamingue began in 1850 following the fur trade period, the mass arrival of loggers and the establishment of forestry companies. Moreover, logging and land settlement are closely knit in the history of Témiscamingue. The intentional land settlement movement supported by the Société de colonisation du lac Témiscamingue, is what gave rise to present-day Témiscamingue. Eventually, the Gordon and Vautrin land settlement plans helped to complete the populating of the territory.



Distances (km)

	Ville-Marie
Québec	918
Montréal	675
Ottawa	495
Toronto	473
North Bay	160

- The Regional County Municipality of Témiscamingue is part of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region. It has 17,600 inhabitants and a geographic area of 20,000 km²;
- The municipal organization is composed of three cities, 17 municipalities and one unorganized territory;
- The Algonquin communities of Hunter's Point, Eagle Village, Timiskaming and Long Point represent close to 13% of Témiscamingue's total population.
- Ninety-five percent of the territory is covered by forests and 7,500 lakes and rivers.
- There are five big lakes: Témiscamingue, Simard, Des Quinze, Kipawa and the Décelles Reservoir;
- Mean temperature varies between -21.5°C in January and 25°C in July.



Témiscamingue is the area with the most hours of sunshine and the least amount of precipitation in all of Québec.

Lake Témiscamingue exerts a balmy influence on the climate, which favours the agroprocessing industry.

Taking full advantage of life

The people of Témiscamingue have gotten organized as much in the area of services as in recreation, culture and the arts. Each season brings an assortment of activities: there's a wide range of choice to satisfy all interests and every pocketbook.



Quality of life... for one and all

- Témiscamingue, as a whole, is well served by various day care facilities: four early childhood centres (Centre de la petite enfance), one of which is located in a native community, a coordinating office, almost 50 home day care services and a few school day care services;
- You can look forward to many hours of fun in the parks, day camps and holiday camps;
- The Regroupement des organismes communautaires du Témiscamingue (ROCT) brings together more than 25 organizations which work in areas of activity involving youths, families, women, men, seniors, advocacy, mental and physical health, and mental deficiency;
- A car pooling system and a specialized transportation service makes travelling easier;
- The population benefits from the support of two housekeeping businesses and has access to various types of quality housing facilities for seniors;
- Various ministries and government agencies provide services to the population.

Educational Services

- Témiscamingue's education community is run and energized by dedicated teachers and workers who put forth satisfying initiatives and extracurricular activities for youths;
- The Commission scolaire du Lac-Témiscamingue is composed of 16 primary schools, four high schools and four adult education and occupational training centres;
- The Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue offers courses at the Ville-Marie campus.

Health care services

- Two Health Centres offer services in the fields of general practice, obstetrics, intensive care, psychiatry and surgery as well as front line services and access to other specialities via service corridors;
- Many institutions and organizations with a regional outlook offer support and services in health care and social services.

Thrills...

For art, culture and heritage enthusiasts

- Artistic activities come to life through groups, committees and associations who promote solidarity and the organization of cultural events. The Commission culturelle du Témiscamingue combine their efforts with these stakeholders to develop a compelling cultural life;
- Exhibitions and performance shows from here and outside are presented regularly;
- Amateur and professional theatre companies present plays every year;
- The academic community initiates youths to visual and performing arts and presents many theatrical activities and variety shows;
- By looking at things like fossils, log driving, the fur trade and religious life, museums and interpretation centres recount the history and the passions of Témiscamingue over time and through evolution;
- Témiscamingue's affiliated networks of libraries regularly organize educational activities;
- Traditional Algonquin culture is upheld within the native schools, which play an important role in the progression of cultural diversity;
- Artists from all over Canada perform on a regular basis according to a superb and diversified schedule at Temiscaming's Dottori Hall and Ville-Marie's Théâtre du Rift.



Exuberance...

For sports and recreation enthusiasts

- Arenas, gymnasiums, swimming pools and various sporting and recreational infrastructures welcome people of all ages who maintain a healthy lifestyle by taking up sports;
- Because of the proximity of Lake Témiscamingue and many lakes and rivers, the people of Témiscamingue and tourists can take pleasure in boating and water sports such as fishing, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, etc.;
- A bicycle club organizes activities and proposes circuits for safe cycling. The population and tourists also have access to marked trails on the Route Verte, of which 45 kilometers are on the Moccassin Line (linear park);
- ATV enthusiasts can travel on 300 kilometers of trails, of which 100 are passable all year long;
- Snowmobilers have access to 710 kilometers of federated snowmobile trails which are linked to the Abitibi and Outaouais regions, and the province of Ontario;
- Groomed cross-country ski trails can be found in many municipalities;
- Many social clubs propose various types of leisure activities for the entire population;
- Celebrations and festivals are held throughout the year.





Internet Community Access Centre Notre-Dame-du-Nord

Communications and Information...

To know and be known

- Regional and national newspapers and 15 community newspapers cover the whole territory;
- Two community television stations produce local programming;
- A videoconferencing system is available to the population, organizations and businesses;
- A locally-owned FM radio station has been serving the people of Témiscamingue since 1950. Native community bilingual radio stations also broadcast on the territory;
- Fifteen Internet Community Access Centres allow the young and old to develop their computer skills and to communicate.
- The broadband network, an initiative carried out in partnership by and for public and para-public organizations, Algonquin communities and telecommunications carriers, will serve as an economic, social and community development lever, by allowing businesses and households to have access to broadband service at a low price everywhere on the Abitibi-Témiscamingue territory.



Station de radio Ville-Marie

Work and family... Achieving balance

- Living in a rural community makes it easier to find balance between one's professional and personal life. Employers are more and more responsive to this and propose measures to facilitate reconciliation of work and family life;
- There is less stress and more quality time due to the absence of heavy traffic and to the proximity and accessibility to businesses, services and cultural, recreational and sports infrastructures;
- Establishing networks of mutual assistance is part of community culture, which in turn contributes to better conciliation of professional and personal activities for young families;
- Some municipalities have adopted a Family Policy;
- Outdoor recreation, open space and a safe environment foster a healthy lifestyle.



A dynamic and sustainable economy

The foundation of Témiscamingue's economic activity is built on forestry and agriculture and is diversified by all the other sectors that make up an economy. Outdoor tourism and the development of rural delicacies are emerging. Témiscamingue's economy offers a multitude of business opportunities for developers and entrepreneurs and proposes wonderful opportunities.



The forest... queen of the land

- The diversity of species constitutes the richness of Témiscamingue's forest, which includes birch, poplar, maple, fir, spruce, tamarack, pine and cedar;
- The forest covers close to 65 per cent of the whole territory, that is 12,411 km²;
- Various stakeholders exploit, manage, develop and process the resource: private owners, silvicultural companies, intra-municipal lots enterprises, small businesses and major industries;
- The forest is the natural resources sector that employs the largest number of people in Témiscamingue;

Témiscamingue is currently initiating economic diversification with an approach based on sustainable development and multi-resources. In the coming years, there will be many new opportunities in the development of natural resources.

The agroprocessing industry... potential for development

- Close to 250 businesses are involved in stock production of more than a dozen different species: beef and dairy cattle, slaughter calves, pigs, sheep, horses, poultry, goats, wild boars, deer, bison, bees and trout;
- In Abitibi-Témiscamingue, half of milk producing businesses are located on Témiscamingue's territory. The quality of Témiscamingue's Holstein cows is renowned at both national and international levels;
- Témiscamingue is endowed with first quality land for feed and grain growing, pastureland and horticulture. Fifty or so businesses cultivate various types of plants.
- Horticultural businesses cultivate blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, apples, prunes, grapes, black currants, gooseberries, asparagus, beans, corn, tomatoes, cucumbers and pumpkins;
- A few farming businesses produce potatoes and carrots on a large scale;
- There are about 20 manufacturing businesses. Besides manufacturing meat and milk products, businesses release a variety of quality and nationally recognized products for market niches, which include cheese, caviar, chocolate, honey, smoked fish, maple syrup, wine and natural products;
- More than 60 maple growers produce sugar maple products and some of them market their products.



A manufacturing industry... and people who innovate



- Jobs in the manufacturing sector represent one quarter of jobs in Témiscamingue;
- Various businesses process wood: sawmills and plants that produce veneer, containers, wood pallets and prefabricated homes;
- One business produces high yield pulp, board and wood-based chemical products;
- There are manufacturers of concrete and gravestones and workshops specializing in machining, pavement, engraving and thermal setting;
- Some businesses specialize in the manufacturing of sawmill equipment and the construction of special semi-trailers;
- Artisans and businesses manufacture cabinets, kitchen cupboards and wooden furniture;
- One business produces lime and silica for various applications.

Educational Services

Businesses and services... that satisfy our needs

- The territory has close to 1,300 trading and service enterprises. The retail business sector alone includes more than 250 businesses;
- There is a dynamic network of chambers of commerce and merchant associations;
- Commercial thoroughfares have been recently revitalized in some of the municipalities;
- Marketing activities are held on a regular basis.



Other resources... and treasures that set us apart

- Témiscamingue is rich in non-metal minerals (limestone, silica, granite) and in semi-precious stone (amazonite). Prospecting activities have led to the discovery of gold, copper, zinc and platinum;
- Hydroelectricity is produced by three power plants (Première-Chute, Rapide-des-Quinze and Rapide-des-Iles) operated by Hydro-Québec and one private generating station;
- At the southern end of Témiscamingue, there's forestland twenty square kilometres in size that remains untouched by man and incorporates mature forests that are remnants of the waning stage of forest development.
- Located on the shores of Lake Témiscamingue lies an enchanted forest (Forêt enchantée) of Eastern tuyas that are distinguished by their unique and strange stature.

The tourism industry...

Good-hearted people

“There have been many attempts at describing Témiscamingue and many terms have been used: soft, mellow, wavy, fertile, leafy, countrified, charming, calm...It has even been defined as “the best kept secret” without nonetheless never succeeding in describing exactly what it really is! I’ve come to the conclusion that it is impossible to do so – to put into words the feeling you get when you’re in Témiscamingue – it is intense as much as it is refreshing.”
(Passage translated from the guide Escapade 2004)

- The population and tourists delight in discovering museums, sites and attractions that recount the history and development of the region, starting 480 million years ago up to today, by examining the first occupants, the fur trade, the distribution of electricity, to name but a few of the subjects covered;
- An array of local, regional, national and international events take place throughout the year;
- Snowmobilers have access to 710 kilometers of federated snowmobile trails which are linked to the Abitibi and Outaouais regions, and the province of Ontario;
- ATV enthusiasts can travel on 300 kilometers of trails of which 100 kilometers are passable all year long;
- 53 outfitters and four controlled harvesting zones (ZEC) offer top quality hunting and fishing territories that are well known as far as the United States;
- Amateur recreationists can take full advantage of the campgrounds and hiking trails while discovering Témiscamingue’s scenery that offers more than 6,000 lakes and rivers, vast and lush forests and blossoming countrysides;
- Cyclists enjoy having access to the Route Verte parkway ;
- A 500 kilometers long waterway on the Ottawa River allows boaters to navigate from Notre-Dame-du-Nord to Arnprior.

Témiscamingue’s gentle landscape conceals under its green cover and sparkling water, the vitality and willingness of entrepreneurs who energize the tourism industry.



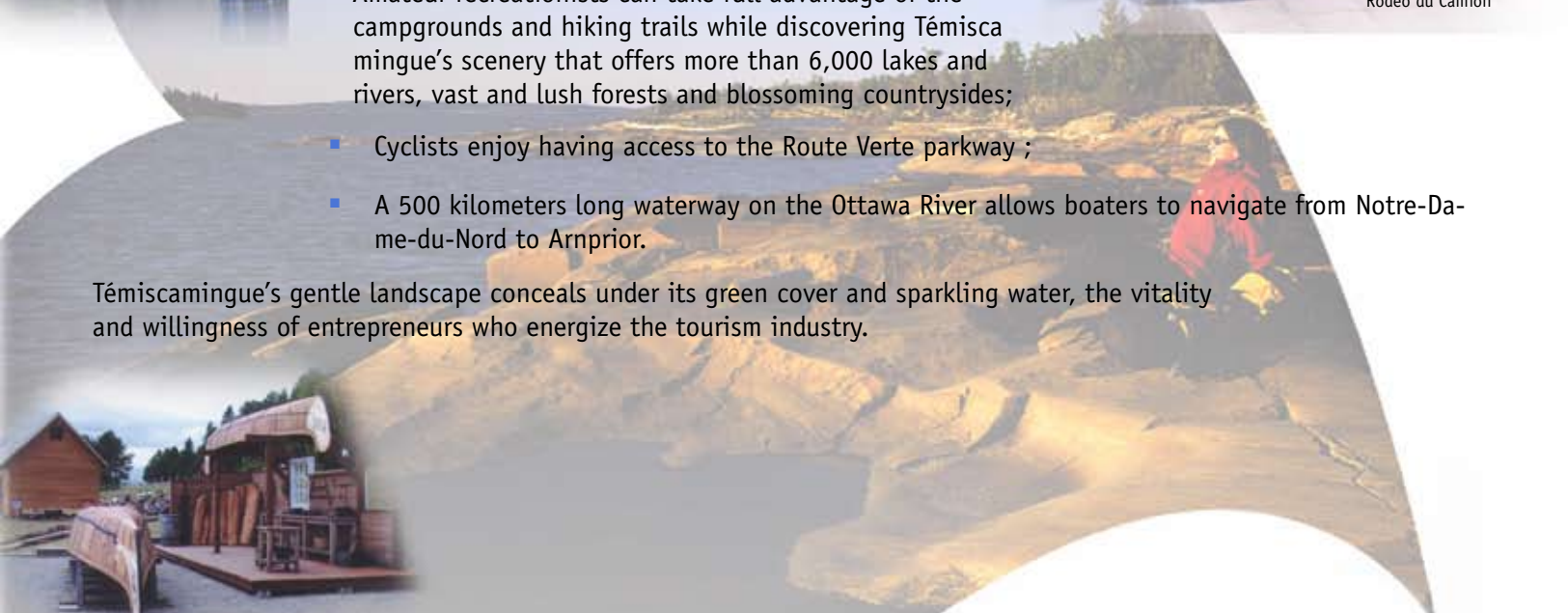
Maison du Frère-Moffet



Rodéo du Camion



International Biennial of Miniature Art



Canada's Fort Témiscamingue historic site



Employment in Témiscamingue

excellent prospects



Opportunities...

From now until 2009, some 1,700 new positions will have to be filled in Abitibi-Témiscamingue for numerous trades and professions. The aging workforce will cause more than 7,500 workers to be eligible for retirement. In addition, inter-professional mobility of the active workforce will create replacement needs as these people change jobs. In short, there will be plenty of opportunities for qualified and competent persons!

Summary of regional trends...

- Over the past year, nearly 5,000 job offers were advertised in the Online placement section of emploiquebec.net. In most cases, these positions required a Secondary V diploma, occupational training or a technical college diploma.
- The most interesting prospects will be found in the fields of health care, professional, scientific and technical services, in certain social services professions, education and public administration, sales and services as well as in the areas of trades, transportation and machinery.
- Several retirements are expected in the coming years, especially in trades linked to the operation of heavy equipment, carpentry and joinery, in preschool, primary and high school education, and in mining, nursing, electricity, patient care assistance, industrial site mechanics, secretarial and construction labour.**

Employment structure...

- 12% of jobs in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region are in Témiscamingue, which represent 8,255 of the 68,230 jobs.
- Employment based on the type of industry in the MRC:
 - The service industry accounts for 59,1% of jobs, predominantly in the retail business, transportation, professional and financial services, health care services and social assistance, teaching, accommodation food services, administration and public services;
 - The secondary sector accounts for 27,4% of jobs, predominantly in construction and manufacturing for the forestry, agroprocessing and equipment industries;
 - The primary sector accounts for 13,5% of jobs, predominantly in agriculture and logging.

Professional benefits...

- Young people can rapidly accede to professional responsibilities;
- Organizations and the community are eager to draw upon a person's capabilities;
- Professional challenges are readily accessible in both the labour market and volunteer work, thanks to the community's openness, the existence of many networks and the need for relief;
- Generally speaking, there's a high sense of belonging within organizations and companies;
- Most organizations are small, which substantially fosters independence, multi-skilling, innovation and creativity;
- A sense of belonging to working groups is also very strong within the organizations of Témiscamingue, which typically have a harmonious and friendly working climate.

Well-sustained development

People ...

who have the will to take action for the sake of the community

- Development agencies provide support for entrepreneurial endeavours and collective initiatives, suggest financing tools and oversee the strategic planning process for the territory;
- When major projects arise, a maximization committee for economic spinoff promotes positive measures to optimize economic spinoff for Témiscamingue;
- The Regional County Municipality (MRC) is concerned with land use planning, the environment, civil protection and development;
- Far-reaching strategic planning has succeeded in appealing to Témiscamingue's key players as well as regional and national organizations. The Territorial Strategic Plan is recognized as an essential tool for the organization, management and development of Témiscamingue.

www.temiscamingue.net/planstrategique



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