

Québec's Statutory Compensation Regime for Wetlands and Bodies of Water

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Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 2017, Québec has required developers who destroy wetlands to pay into a provincial compensation fund. Independent legal analysis found the fund held about CA\$173 million by 2022, yet under 1% had been spent on restoration while 98% of destruction permits were approved.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-06

Gouvernement du Québec – Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs — accessed 2026-08-06

Règlement sur la compensation (Gouvernement du Québec) — accessed 2026-08-06

CanLII: Analyse critique du système en-lieu-de au Québec (2022) — accessed 2026-08-06

The Rover: Why Are Quebec's Wetlands Disappearing? — accessed 2026-08-06

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