

.quebec Pioneers Program Call for Proposals

Do you want to be one of the 90 Pioneers?

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please note that the .quebec Pioneer Program is still pending ICANN's approval. Without prejudice to this, the Call for Proposals for Pioneer Names is now open and proposals can already be submitted by email to pioneers@registry.quebec for evaluation.

Purpose of the .quebec Pioneers Program

General Registration period for the .quebec domain names is expected to begin in November 13th 2014. Pending ICANN's approval, the Pioneer Program offers potential .quebec domain name holders the possibility to register and start using .quebec domain names prior to the General Registration period. Such early registered domain names are called **Pioneer Names**.

The active and positive use of .quebec Pioneer Names will provide their holders a unique opportunity to be among the very first to showcase their products or services to the Québec community and the world, while driving public interest and increasing awareness of the .quebec TLD. Among all the eligible applications received, PointQuébec will select and allow registration of a maximum of 90 .quebec Pioneer Names

Call For Proposals for .quebec Pioneer Names

The publication of this document on PointQuébec's website initiates a Call For Proposals for .quebec Pioneer Names open to any party which meets the **eligibility requirements** set forth below. The Call For Proposals period will end on November 12th 2014. .

How to Submit Proposals for .quebec Pioneer Names?

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1. On What Criteria will .quebec Pioneer Name Proposals be Selected?

PointQuébec will select and allow registration of a maximum of 90 .quebec Pioneer Names. Such Pioneer Names will be selected by PointQuébec from among the **eligible applications**, based on criteria of visibility, notoriety, diversity and commitment to the promotion of the interests of the Québec community as represented by the .quebec TLD.

2. Who is eligible to Participate in the .quebec Pioneer Program?

Any party, individual or legal entity, which complies with the **eligibility requirements** set forth below and demonstrates dynamism and interest associated with a commitment with the Québec community.

3. What Are the Eligibility Requirements for the .quebec Pioneer Names?

The Pioneer Name applied for must comply with the General Eligibility and Specific Eligibility Requirements for all .quebec domain names. Its use by the applicant must be generally accepted as legitimate, as well as commensurate with the role and importance of the registered domain name, as defined below.

3.1 General eligibility requirements

- a) Registrations are restricted to bona-fide members of the Québec community. This community consists of those individuals and organizations linked to the Québec on a linguistic, cultural, business or tourism basis, or to any other basis conducive (and not detrimental) to the benefit of the Québec community.
- b) In addition, the registrant's use of the registered domain name must be:
 - i. generally accepted as legitimate; and
 - ii. beneficial to the interest of the Québec community; and

- iii. commensurate with the role and importance of the registered domain name; and
 - iv. in good faith at the time of registration and throughout the duration of the active registration.
- c) Moreover, at the time of announcing the selection, the Pioneer Name applied for must not be registered at the Trademark Clearinghouse in favor of a third party (i.e. a party other than the Pioneer Name applicant), unless it is also registered at the Trademark Clearinghouse in favor of the applicant, except that the name falls under the provisions set forth in Section 2 of the QLP Addendum.
- d) The name selected must not be within the list of names blocked by the ICANN New gTLD Collision Occurrence Management plan, that may be found here:

<https://www.icann.org/sites/default/files/tlds/quebec/quebec-apd-list-12nov13-en.csv>

nor within any other list of reserved names, according to the ICANN rules or to the PointQuébec Registry provisions.

3.2 Specific eligibility requirements.

In addition to the above general eligibility criteria, the name applied for as Pioneer Name must be identical to the following:

- a) For the relevant Public Authorities (at any level) with competence in the Québec area:
 - i. Their own name, including clear variations and/or abbreviations thereof, or
 - ii. The name of a public service or public interest for which the applicant Public Authority has specific responsibilities; including at least the following services:
 - public order and public security
 - public affairs and institutional relations
 - public health
 - taxation, economic development and promotion
 - public utilities
 - transportation
 - urban planning and environmental protection
 - culture and education
 - citizen participation
 - tourism; or
- iii. A Geographical name for any subdivision of Québec, local landmarks, and

other locally-relevant and iconic names in the area, including clear variations and abbreviations thereof; provided that the applicant is a Public Authority exercising control over that place or local landmark under local law; or

- b) For registered right holders:
 - i. A TMCH-validated trademark;
 - ii. non TMCH-validated trademark with effect in Québec. That is, a Canadian trademark,, or
 - iii. geographical indication of Québec, recognized by International or Canadian legislation; or
- c) For entities and individuals, which have a specific role in the promotion of the Québec's public interest, well-known within the Québec community:
 - i. their own name or well-known artistic name (including clear variations and/or abbreviations thereof), and/or
 - ii. the online service/s they provide; or
- d) For legal entities with legal seat in Québec:
 - i. their registered company names and trade names (including clear variations and/or abbreviations thereof); and
 - ii. the same domain names registered by them in other TLDs and effectively used.

3.3 Further Requirement: respect of IP Rights.

Any name meeting the eligibility criteria above and which at the time of its selection is not registered at the Trademark Clearinghouse in favor of a third party (i.e. a party other than the Pioneer Name applicant) is eligible as a Pioneer domain name. This rule may be subject to two exceptions:

- (i) In case that the applicant for the Pioneer Name also has registered an exact-match trademark in the Trademark Clearinghouse and provides the corresponding SMD, and
- (ii) In case of Pioneer Names applied for by a Public Authority in the relevant area for its own name, or the name of a public service (security; public health; education; transportation, etc.) or geographical names.

The provisions set forth by ICANN in the Qualified Launch Program Addendum, as well as any development of the Addendum that may impact the names of any pioneer, will

be taken into account by the Registry Operator to consider the convenience of the allocation.

4. How must .quebec Pioneer Names be Used?

Selected Pioneer Names are expected to contribute to the promotion, development and adoption of the .quebec TLD. To this end, until the General Registration period begins, Pioneer Name holders will be required to:

- i. Set-up and maintain an active website for each Pioneer Name selected;
- ii. Actively use such website to promote the services and/or products associated with the Pioneer Name. **The website using the Pioneer Name must not redirect to other web pages unless an specific exception is approved by the PointQuébec Registry.**
- iii. Retain the domain name and not transfer it to a party alien to the Pioneer contract, unless it is an affiliate of the Pioneer Name holder.

5. How will Selected .quebec Pioneer Names Be Registered?

Once a .quebec Pioneer Name has been selected by PointQuébec, final registration of that Pioneer Name will be subject to:

- i. ICANN's acknowledgment of this Pioneer Program, developed in accordance with the RPM and QLP Addendum provisions, in a time adequate to fulfill any of the Programs' purposes. If ICANN does not approve either Program in due time for them to fulfill their purposes, PointQuébec will notify the applicants and the Program will end without any applicants being selected; and
- ii. Prior payment of the Pioneer Fee; and
- iii. Acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Pioneer Contract.
- iv. Registration of the Pioneer Name through a PointQuébec accredited Registrar.

The terms and conditions applicable to the registration of these domain names are the general registration terms and conditions for .quebec domain names. These terms and conditions will

be communicated to the selected applicants in due time.

6. Send Us Your .quebec Pioneer Name Proposal Now

PointQuébec invites any potential .quebec registrants to submit their proposals for .quebec Pioneer Names. Proposals must be sent by email to pioneers@registry.quebec and must include the following information:

- a. Name of the applicant. If the applicant is a **Public Authority** of Québec, this must be clearly specified.
- b. Pioneer Name(s) proposed. This section must specify whether the proposed Pioneer Name is identical, a variation or an abbreviation of the:
 - i. Applicant's **registered trademark**: Jurisdiction and Registration number.
 - ii. Name of the **Public Authority** which applies for the Pioneer Name, as the case may be; or
 - iii. **Service rendered** by the **Public Authority** which applies for the Pioneer Name, as the case may be; or
 - iv. **Geographic names** of Québec;
 - v. Name of the **entity** or **individual** which applies for the Pioneer Name, as the case may be; or
 - vi. Any other name which the applicant has the right to use according to local law (e.g. denominations of origin).
- c. Brief description of the content, products, and/or services which the applicant is ready to offer on the website using the selected Pioneer Name and how the commitment to the Québec community would be fulfilled, should it be selected by PointQuébec. This section must indicate the expected date at which the content or services will go live;

In case that the application does not contain all required information, PointQuébec may request additional information. If the information remains incomplete thereafter, PointQuébec may reject the application.