

.QUEBEC QUALIFIED LAUNCH PROGRAM

PointQuébec ("**Registry Operator**"), in connection with the execution of the Registry Agreement for the .quebec TLD (the "**Registry Agreement**"), intends to conduct the below described launch program pursuant to Section 4.5.1 of the Trademark Clearinghouse Rights Protection Mechanism Requirements (the "**TMCH Requirements**") in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Qualified Launch Program Addendum published by ICANN on April 10th, 2014. The Pioneer Program intends to offer potential .quebec domain name holders the possibility to register and start using .quebec domain names prior to the General Availability period. Such early registered domain names are called "**Pioneer Names**". The active and positive use of .quebec Pioneer Names will drive public interest and will increase awareness of the .quebec TLD.

Among all the applications received that meet the eligibility criteria set forth below, the Registry Operator will select and allow registration of a maximum of ninety (90) .quebec Pioneer Names, based on a criteria of visibility, notoriety, commitment to the promotion of the .quebec TLD, and contribution to the purposes of the .quebec TLD.

To this effect, PointQuébec will publish a Call for Proposals on June 24th 2014.

In that call for proposals, PointQuébec explicitly informs potential applicants that the Program is being conducted according to the provisions established by ICANN in the TMCH Requirements and QLP Addendum, and that the Program is still pending ICANN final approval.

In view of the above, upon approval by ICANN of the StartUp Information hereby submitted, including this QLP, PointQuébec will proceed to:

- Select the Projects from among those presented that meet the criteria established by PointQuébec.
- Check the names proposed by the applicants against the TMCH's Sunrise List;
- Check their full conformity with all the requirements set forth in the Addendum to the RPM Requirements;
- Proceed to allocate (or reject) the proposed names;
- Allow registration and activation of allocated names.

All this will be done between the date of approval of the StartUp Information by ICANN and the beginning of the General Availability Period.

Description of the Pioneer Program

1. Eligibility and Name Selection

1.1 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 Québec on a linguistic, cultural, tourism or commercial basis, or any other activity that is conducive (and not detrimental) to the benefit of the Québec community. The TLD string “.quebec” matches in French, English and all other internationally used languages, the name of the 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 or the applicant is an international, national, regional, local or municipal governmental authority (a “Public Authority”) as set forth by section 2.2. of the QLP Addendum.

1.2 Specific eligibility requirements. In addition to the above general eligibility criteria, the named applied for as Pioneer Name must be **identical** to the following:

- a) For the relevant **Public Authorities** (at any level) with competence in Québec:
 - 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**; or
 - ii. **non TMCH-validated trademark with effect in Québec**. A Canadian trademark, or
 - iii. **Geographical indication** of Québec which is recognized by International or Canadian legislation;
- c) For **entities and individuals, which have a specific vocation in promoting Québec's public interest** (including, e.g. Québécois music, theatre, museums, sports, education, and media) 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); or
 - ii. the same **domain names** registered by them in other TLDs and effectively used.

1.3 Additional Requirement. In addition, applicant must be ready to demonstrate technical ability to announce the working website no later than one (1) month after the signature of the Pioneer Agreement.

1.4 Validation process

- a) The fulfillment of the general eligibility requirements set forth in this Section 1 will be verified according to:
 - the intended use statement supplied by the domain registrant at the time of registration and/or the explicit agreement to the terms and conditions including the .quebec TLD use policies, and
 - an ongoing enforcement program.
- b) The fulfillment of the specific eligibility requirements set forth in this Section 1 will be carefully and individually checked by the Registry Operator. Self-declaration will not be sufficient.

2. Respect of Intellectual Property Rights of third parties

The Pioneer Program (i) will not contribute to consumer confusion, and (ii) will not contribute to the infringement of intellectual property rights due to:

- a) the requirement reflected in 1.1. (c) above that the name applied for as Pioneer Name is not registered in the Trademark Clearinghouse in favor of a third party unless as set forth by the section 2 of the QLP Addendum; and

- b) the prior right requirement established as eligibility criteria; and
- c) the very limited number of domain names involved; and
- d) the scope of the program aimed at the promotion of an orderly .quebec namespace.

3. Presumption of approval

In addition, the requirements of the Pioneer Program were set forth in reasonable detail in Registry Operator's Application. Namely:

Answer to Q18 b):

"1. Pre-launch phase

During Pre-launch, projects and content provision commitments are actively sought and negotiated, especially for key public-interest portions of the name space. All potential registrants and mandate holders are subject to screening and thorough pre-validation. For more details on the pioneer and the name space program, please see response to Q18 c) below."

Answer to Q18 c):

"In phases and areas where the first-come-first-served principle tends to yield perverse results, alternative modes are used. These include:

*1) A **pioneer name program** and name space mandate program. These programs adjudicate domain names based on an open and transparent project selection process. This process is highly economical in terms of social costs and yields substantial external benefits.*

***The pioneer name** and name space mandate programs are part of the .quebec TLD outreach program. It begins before delegation of the TLD. In terms of workload, it mainly affects proposers who themselves are required to demonstrate support for their projects. Support will be required to come from the segment of the community concerned with the respective portion of the name space. Given the high value of the resulting on-line resources for the community and the public interest, and given the economic benefits that can be derived from their operation, the administrative effort is largely justified. To further protect affected parties, all adjudications in this phase have a safety-valve clause, allowing for later adjustments based on community input. The principle of the safety-valve is that affected parties can obtain adjustments to a component of a mandate if they propose (and commit to) an improved use of the underlying domain names from a public interest perspective. "*

In this Application Registry Operator provides the following refinements and additional details to the above description:

- a) It provides operational eligibility and selection criteria;
- b) To fully respect intellectual property rights of third parties, the Registry Operator establishes the requirement that the name applied for as Pioneer Name is not registered in the Trademark Clearinghouse in favor of a third party unless as set forth in the QLP Addendum Section 2.

Thus, Registry Operator's Pioneer Program should carry the presumption of being approved. Moreover, this presumption should be reinforced as this Program faithfully reflects what is intended in Section 4.5.1 of the Trademark Clearinghouse RPMs Requirements.

4. Final assurances

Registry Operator represents that the Pioneer Program described above is a true and correct description. Registry Operator agrees that if Registry Operator makes any changes to the Pioneer Program (whether before or after the

Program has been approved), it will promptly provide ICANN with a revised and updated description.

Registry Operator acknowledges and agrees that in the event that any of the information contained in this Program becomes untrue (including after ICANN has given its approval), any approval granted by ICANN to Registry Operator for the Program shall immediately expire, and Registry Operator shall immediately cease accepting registrations or allocations under this Pioneer Program.