

A FREE MTLPAGES GUIDE

Start a Business in Quebec

A complete startup checklist: what to decide, register, protect and put in place before you open.

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READ THIS GUIDE ONLINE

mtlpages.com/guides/start-business-quebec-guide/

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Work through the checklist in order. Each section is a stage of the process, and the steps inside it are things you actually have to do or decide. Tick them off as you go — the interactive version at mtlpages.com/checklists/start-business-checklist-quebec/ keeps your progress in your browser.

The checklist

Each stage says what to prepare. Requirements vary with your legal structure and your activity.

1. 1. IDEA & MARKET

- ☐ Define precisely what you sell
- ☐ Identify your target customer
- ☐ Research the competition in Montreal
- ☐ Validate the price the market accepts

2. 2. LEGAL STRUCTURE

- ☐ Compare sole proprietorship, partnership and incorporation
- ☐ Assess the liability consequences
- ☐ Assess the tax consequences with an accountant
- ☐ Choose the name and check its availability

3. 3. REGISTRATION

- ☐ Register the business in the enterprise register
- ☐ Obtain the Quebec enterprise number (NEQ)
- ☐ Register with Revenu Québec as applicable
- ☐ Obtain a federal business number if needed
- ☐ Check the municipal and sector permits required

4. 4. LEGAL

- ☐ Prepare your terms of sale and customer contracts
- ☐ Shareholder or partnership agreement if applicable
- ☐ Employment contracts and internal policies
- ☐ Privacy policy and data protection
- ☐ Trademark protection if needed
- ☐ Review the commercial lease before signing

5. 5. FINANCE

- ☐ Open a business bank account
- ☐ Set up bookkeeping from the first month
- ☐ Build a budget and a cash-flow plan
- ☐ Explore financing and public programs

6. 6. INSURANCE

- ☐ Commercial general liability
- ☐ Professional liability if applicable
- ☐ Property and equipment coverage
- ☐ CNESST registration once you have staff

7. 7. BUILD

- ☐ Register the domain name
- ☐ Build the website and online payment
- ☐ Set up email, phone and tools
- ☐ Check your signage language obligations

8. 8. MARKETING

- ☐ Create your Google Business Profile
- ☐ List the business in local directories
- ☐ Plan local search
- ☐ Prepare print material and signage

9. 9. LAUNCH

- ☐ Set up invoicing
- ☐ Define the sales process
- ☐ Put measurement and analytics in place
- ☐ Ask your first customers for reviews

10. 10. GROW

- ☐ Hire and structure roles
- ☐ Document your processes
- ☐ Explore exporting and partnerships
- ☐ Revisit financing for growth

Calculators that go with this guide

Each calculator runs on the numbers you enter. None of them assumes a market price or predicts a rate.

Business Startup Cost Calculator Quebec

The calculation separates one-time startup costs from recurring monthly costs, then adds the months of runway you want covered and the buffer you set. The result is the starting capital to raise.

mtlpages.com/calculators/business-startup-cost-calculator-quebec/

What the calculation assumes

- The amounts are the ones you enter: no official fee schedule is applied.
- Registration and permit fees vary by legal structure and by activity.
- GST/QST registration and source deductions depend on your situation — check with Revenu Québec.
- No revenue is subtracted: the result is a gross cash requirement, before sales.
- The number of months and the contingency buffer are your assumptions, not standards.

The numbers to gather

Registration & permits

Legal services

Accounting (setup)

Branding & website

Equipment & furniture

Initial inventory

Insurance (monthly)

Rent / space (monthly)

Software & services (monthly)

Marketing (monthly)

Months of runway to cover

Contingency buffer

Official sources

Amounts, thresholds, tariffs and deadlines change. This guide deliberately does not reproduce them, so it stays correct as it ages. Check the current figure at the source:

Québec.ca — Démarrer une entreprise

<https://www.quebec.ca/entreprises-et-travailleurs-autonomes/demarrer-entreprise>

Revenu Québec — GST/HST and QST

<https://www.revenuquebec.ca/en/businesses/consumption-taxes/gsthst-and-qst/>

Corporations Canada

<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/corporations-canada/en>

Finding the right professional

MTLPages is a Montreal business directory. Browse verified local professionals for every step of this guide at mtlpages.com. We are a directory: we do not provide the services listed here and we do not take a position on which business you should choose.

NOTICE

Requirements vary by legal structure, activity and circumstances. Confirm your obligations with the relevant authority or a qualified professional. MTLPages does not give legal, tax or financial advice.

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This guide is a general planning tool published by MTLPages (WEGAS Group Inc.). It is not legal, tax, financial, insurance or real-estate advice, it does not take your personal situation into account, and it does not replace a qualified professional. Procedures and requirements in Quebec change. Always confirm with the official source and with a professional before you decide anything.

Notes

Space to write down quotes, names, dates and questions as you go.