

**M.O., 1996****Order of the Minister of Transport  
dated 23 February 1996**

RESPECTING the thaw periods for 1996 to 2000

Highway Safety Code  
(R.S.Q., c. C-24.2, s. 419)

WHEREAS under section 419 of the Highway Safety Code (R.S.Q., c. C-24.2) the Minister of Transport may, by order published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* determine zones where highway traffic is restricted or forbidden for vehicles as designated by him because of thaw, rain, erosion or flood, and the periods when such measures are applicable;

WHEREAS the Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation made under paragraphs 17 and 18 of section 621 of the Highway Safety Code determines, for various categories of road vehicles and combinations of road vehicles, the weights limits applicable during the thaw;

WHEREAS thaw periods in each year can be determined with reasonable accuracy while it is advisable that they be known so as to ensure better planning of highway trucking for such periods;

WHEREAS, in the order of February 26, 1992 published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on March 4, 1992, the Minister of Transport determined the annual thaw periods for the years 1992 to 1995;

WHEREAS it is expedient to review the thaw zones determined in this order and to specify hour of the beginning and the end of the thaw periods;

ACCORDINGLY, the Minister of Transport determines three thaw zones where traffic of road vehicles and combinations of road vehicles is restricted because of the annual thaw:

1° Zone 1 comprises the Quebec territory to the south of the following dividing line:

At the Ontario border, starting from a point situated at the intersection of rivière des Outaouais and rivière Schyan in the municipality of Sheenboro, along a line linking this point to a point situated at the intersection of the rivière Picanoc and Highway 105 in the municipality of Wright; thence, along the extension of the said line towards the east to the junction of Autoroute 15 and Highway 329, to the north of the municipality of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts; thence, in a generally northeastern direction to a point situated at the intersection of High-

ways 155 and 159 in the municipality of Saint-Roch-de-Mékinac and then along the southern boundary of the réserve faunique de Portneuf, the northern boundary of the municipality of the parish of Saint-Raymond and the southern boundary of the réserve faunique des Laurentides to the intersection of Highway 175; thence, in a generally southeastern direction, along a line extending to the eastern boundary of the municipality of Beaupré at the intersection of Highway 138 and continuing on the eastern extremity of île d'Orléans; thence, following the median line of the fleuve Saint-Laurent, continuing along until the western extremity of île aux Lièvres; thence, in a generally southeastern direction, along a line extending to and crossing Autoroute 20 at the eastern boundary of the municipality of Rivière-du-Loup, following along the boundary of this municipality to a point situated on the eastern side of the right-of-way of Highway 185; thence, extending along the eastern side of the right-of-way of Highway 185 to the New Brunswick border.

2° Zone 2 comprises the Quebec territory to the north of the dividing line of zone 1, the îles de la Madeleine and the territory to the south of the following dividing line:

Starting from a point situated at the intersection of 48° North latitude and the Ontario border, along a line following the northern boundary of the municipality of Rollet to the intersection of Highway 101, the northern boundary of the réserve faunique de La Vérendrye to the intersection of Highway 117 and the southern boundary of the réserve faunique Ashuapmushuan to the intersection of Highway 167; thence, the said line extending along the northern boundary of the municipalities of Saint-Thomas-Didyme, Girardville and Notre-Dame-de-Lorette to the barrage Manic Trois; continuing along the northern boundary of the réserve faunique de Sept-Îles – Port-Cartier to the junction of 52° North latitude and the Labrador border.

3° Zone 3 comprises the Quebec territory to the north of the dividing line of zone 2.

The Minister of Transport determines, for 1996, the following thaw periods:

1° for zone 1, from February 26, 00:01, to May 12, 00:01, of each of those years;

2° for zone 2, from March 21, 00:01, to May 19, 00:01, of each of those years;

3° for zone 3, from March 24, 00:01, to May 25, 00:01, of each of those years.

The Minister of Transport determines, for 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000, the following thaw periods:

1° for zone 1, from March 15, 00:01, to May 12, 00:01, of each of those years;

2° for zone 2, from March 21, 00:01, to May 19, 00:01, of each of those years;

3° for zone 3, from March 24, 00:01, to May 25, 00:01, of each of those years.

The present order will be effective from the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. It replaces the order of February 26, 1992 published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. It may be supplemented, during these years, by other orders as necessary to adjust to an unforeseeable early or late beginning or an unforeseeable early or late ending of the thaw period.

Québec, 23 February 1996

JACQUES BRASSARD,  
*Minister of Transport*

9620