

# Québec Fires, QC, Started Early June 2023

compiled by Jalena Bennett, 21 Aug 2023

## Fire Info

Details: (provided by <https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map>)

- Location: Spread across south and central Québec
- Start time: Major outburst beginning on and around June 1, 2023
- Traditional territory: Widespread fires affect many traditional territories in Québec, including Cree, Atikamekw, Innus, Algonquins, and more. Visit <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1634312499368/1634312554965> to see a map of indigenous communities in Québec.
- Suspected cause: Mix of Lightning and Human causes
- Many continue to be out of control as of June 27, 2023.
- Most fires from this outburst classified as out or under control as of August 21, 2023

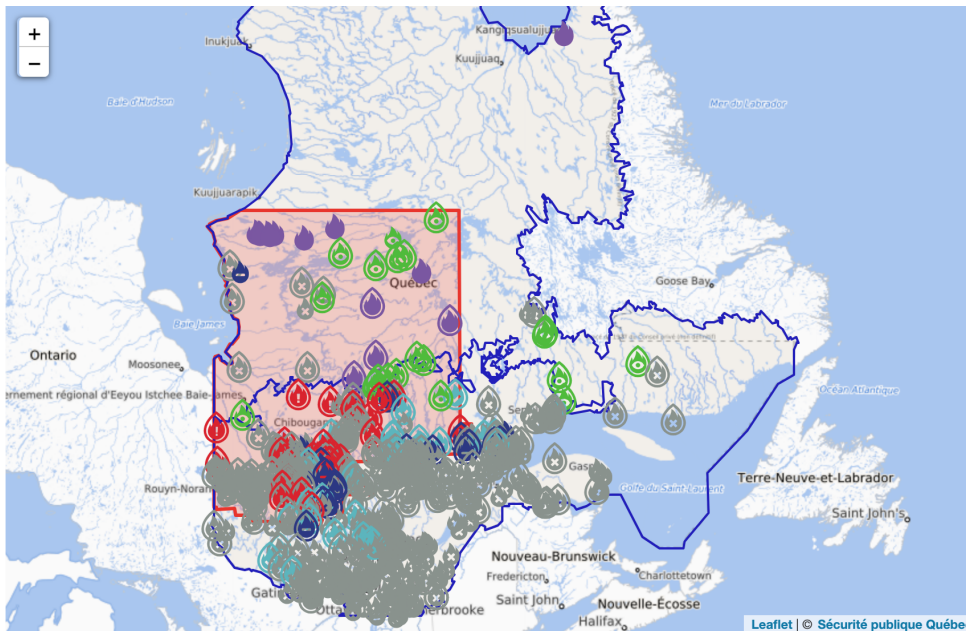
## Contributing Conditions

Started in a period of extreme fire danger due to:

- a long dry period
- Long lasting hot weather
- Mid Latitude cyclone and cold front creating lightning generating thunderstorms

## Media photos and video

Image/Video



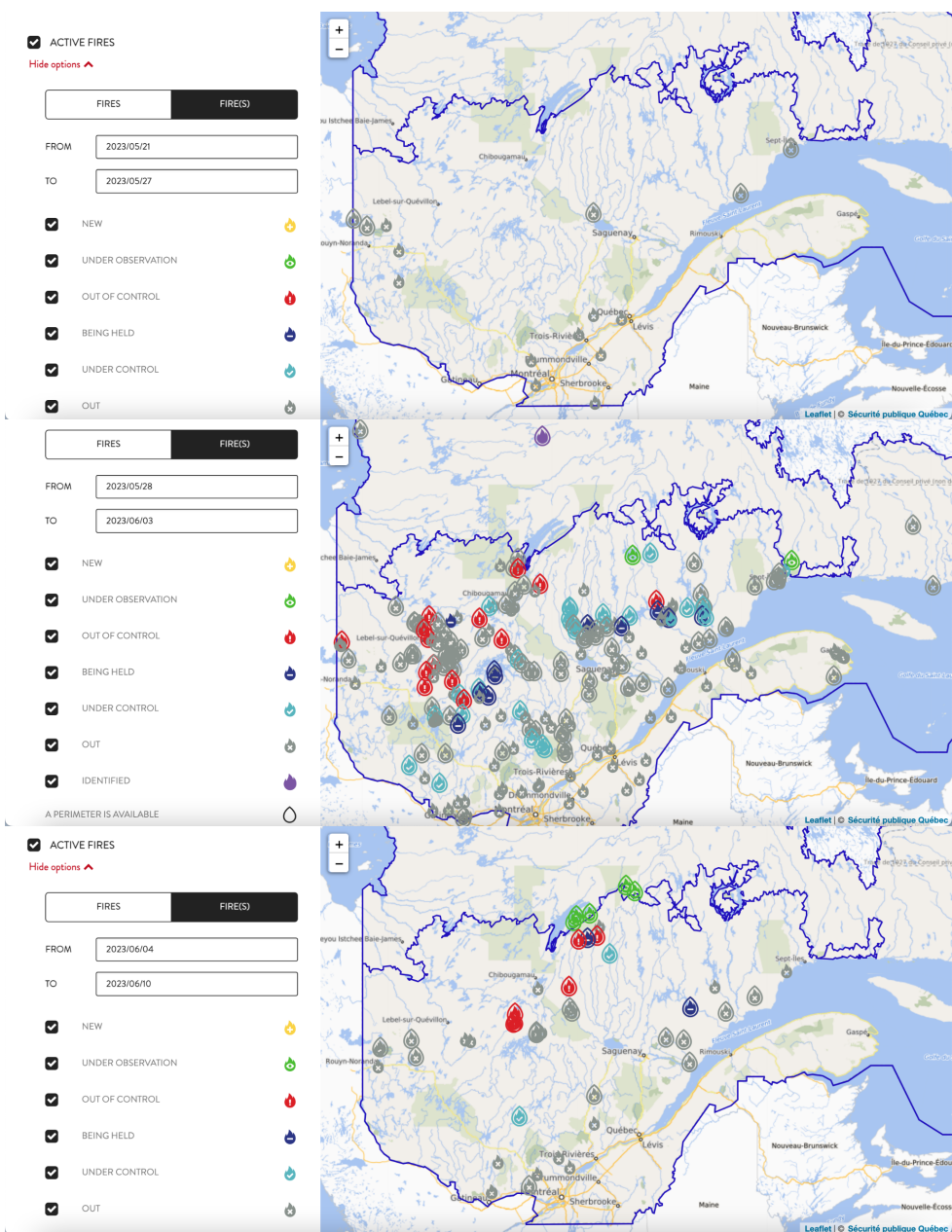
Caption and Source

Map from SOPFEU showing the incredible density of fires from Jan 1, 2023 to June 27, 2023.

Source for next 4 photos:

<https://sopfeu.qc.ca/en/>

**NOTE:** Images captured on June 27, 2023. The status of fires (out of control/being held/out/etc) is relevant only to June 27, 2023. Fire status changes over time, and following the link above may yield different results than those shown here.

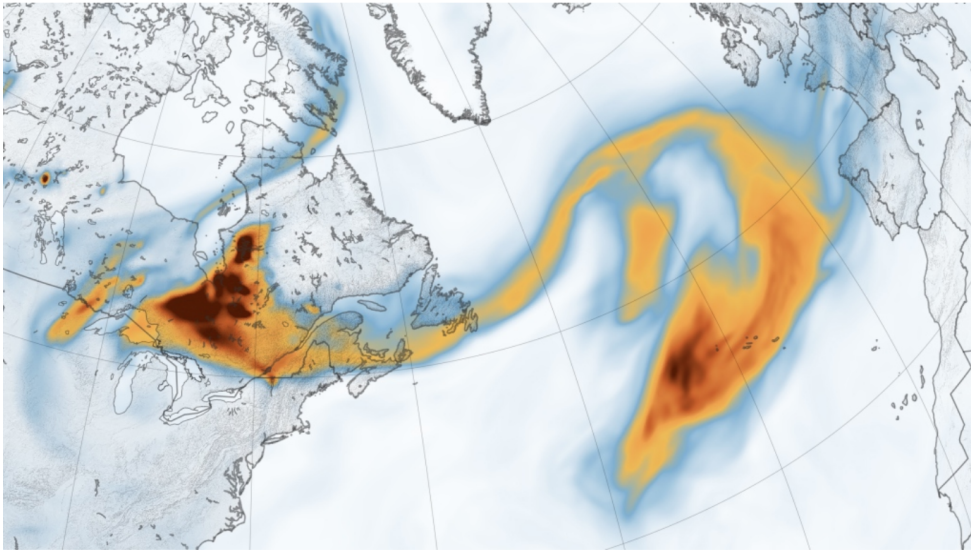


<- Active fires in just one week: from May 21 -> May 27 2023.

<- Active fires in the week following the previous image:  
From May 28 -> June 3 2023. Note the massive increase in the number of fires.

<- Active fires in the week following the previous image:  
From June 4 -> June 10. See that there is once again a change in the number of fires.

*The observation gleaned from this series is that the majority of fires (including several large notable fires) only began in the week May 28th - June 3rd.*



Images showing extent of smoke spread: from Québec to Europe!

Caption for both images:  
*Satellite imagery from June 26, 2023 showed smoke from Quebec wildfires extending to the Iberian Peninsula, France and other parts of western Europe. (NASA)*



Source:  
<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/nasa-says-smoke-from-quebec-fires-covering-parts-of-southwestern-europe-1.6457741>





**Montreal air quality ranks worst in the world as officials urge people to stay indoors**

Caption:

*The skyline of Montreal is obscured by a haze of smog, Sunday, June 25, 2023, as a smog warning is in effect for Montreal and multiple regions of the province due to forest fires. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Graham Hughes*

Source:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9792167/air-quality-warning-quebec-fires/>



**Algonquins of Barriere Lake members evacuated from territory as Quebec wildfires burn (June 6, 2023)**

Caption:

*People work to protect cabins on Algonquins of Barriere Lake territory in Quebec earlier this week. Between 20 and 25 firefighters and concerned community members remain in the Algonquin community of Rapid Lake to combat and monitor forest fires impacting their traditional territory. (Submitted by Wendy Ratt)*



*Most members of the Algonquins of Barriere Lake were sent on Sunday to Maniwaki, Gatineau and Ottawa, due to heavy smoke. (Charlie Papatie/Facebook)*

Source for 2 images:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/algonquins-barriere-lake-wildfires-1.6867215>





**Canadian province of Quebec sees progress in wildfire battle (June 10, 2023)**

**Captions:**

*Quebec has put out more than a dozen fires since 1 June. The province is still battling 127 fires as of Friday. (SOCIÉTÉ DE PROTECTION DES FORÊTS CONTRE LE FEU)*

*Wildfire smoke filled the skies of Ouje-Bougoumou on Tuesday, hours before the entire community was forced to evacuate. (LANCE COOPER)*

Source for two images:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65864198>



**Some 40 previously contained wildfires could become out of control: minister (June 21, 2023)**

Caption:

*A controlled burn is seen on the edge of a wildfire numbered 334 near Mistissini, Que., in a June 6, 2023, handout photo. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO-SOPFEU, Genevieve Poirier, \*MANDATORY CREDIT\**

Source:

<https://www.there minder.ca/national-news/some-40-previously-contained-wildfires-could-become-out-of-control-minister-7175069>



**Quebec forest fires: Evacuations ordered in Val-d'Or, fireworks banned (June 20, 2023)**

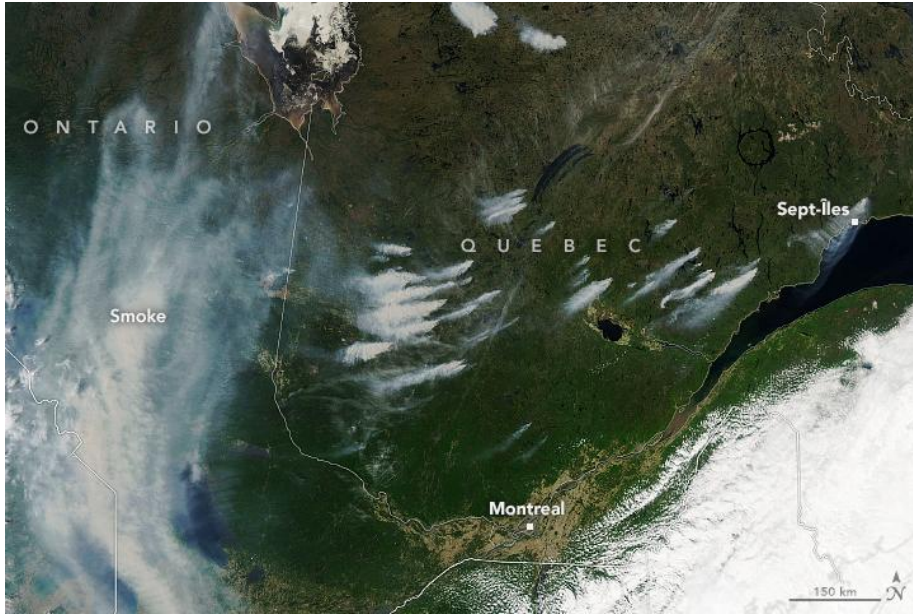
Caption:

*A wildfire raging west of Chibougamau in northern Quebec is shown in a June 4, 2023, handout photo. PHOTO BY AUDREY MARCOUX /The Canadian Press*

Source:

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec/ete-fireworks-fan-forest-fire-fears-as-quebec-urges-caution>





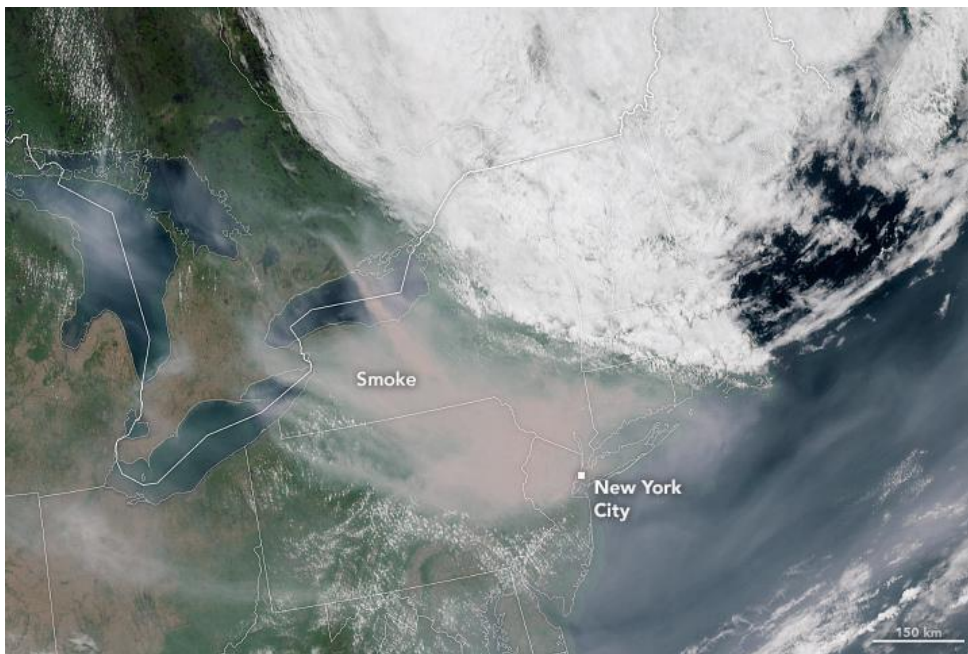
## Fires Burn Across Quebec (June 3 2023)

### Caption:

*The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Aqua satellite captured this view of smoke billowing from the fires on June 3. Shortly after the fires started, about 5,000 residents were ordered to evacuate near the city of Sept-Îles in the province's east. As the fires grew, evacuations were extended to an additional 9,000 people in surrounding communities and in western Quebec's Val-d'Or and Normétal municipalities. As of June 5, more than 150 wildfires were active in Quebec.*

### Source:

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/151430/fires-burn-across-quebec>



## Smoke Smothers the Northeast (June 7, 2023)

Satellite image from the time when New York was engulfed in smoke, and making the news.

### Caption:

*This image, from the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite 16 (GOES-16), shows smoke sweeping into New York and Pennsylvania on the morning of June 7, 2023.*

### Source:

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/151433/smoke-smothers-the-northeast>



## June 7, 2023 in Manhattan

Caption:

*The Manhattan skyline shrouded in smoke Wednesday from Canadian wildfires.*  
Yuki Iwamura / Bloomberg via Getty Images

Source:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/new-york-emergency-response-smoke-canada-wildfires-rcna88421>



## New York wildfire smoke triggers memories of Canberra during the Black Summer bushfires (June 9 2023)

Caption:

*A smokey haze from the large fires in Canada hangs over New York City. (AP: Andy Bao)*

*The haze has transformed New York City's skyline. (Reuters: Amr Alfiky)*

Source for 2 images:





<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-10/hold-act-new-york-wildfire-smoke-triggers-canberra-memories/102463634>



**“Ottawa looks like a post-apocalyptic movie” (June 6, 2023)**

Caption:

*Smoke from wildfires in Ontario and Quebec is shown over Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK / THE CANADIAN PRESS*

Source:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2023/06/06/ottawa-looks-like-a-postapocalyptic-movie-with-heavy-smog-and-orange-skies-as-quebec-wildfires-continue-to-burn-is-this-a-preview-for-what-toronto-can-expect.html>



### Smoke over Toronto (June 7, 2023)

Caption:

*Smoke from forest fires in northern Ontario and Quebec contributed to a pink, hazy sunset over Toronto on Tuesday. STEVE RUSSELL / TORONTO STAR*

Source:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2023/06/07/wildfire-smoke-best-ways-to-protect-yourself-and-your-family-as-air-quality-worsens.html>

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2223041091789>

## What's behind Quebec's 'unprecedented' forest fire season?

CBC news video discussing the fires

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/nasa-says-smoke-from-quebec-fires-covering-parts-of-southwestern-europe-1.6457741>

## Rain helps firefighters' efforts in Quebec, but not enough of it to extinguish flames

Video embedded in the article discusses how heavy smoke is affecting locals living near fires. Includes video from locals attempting to battle forest fire on their own.

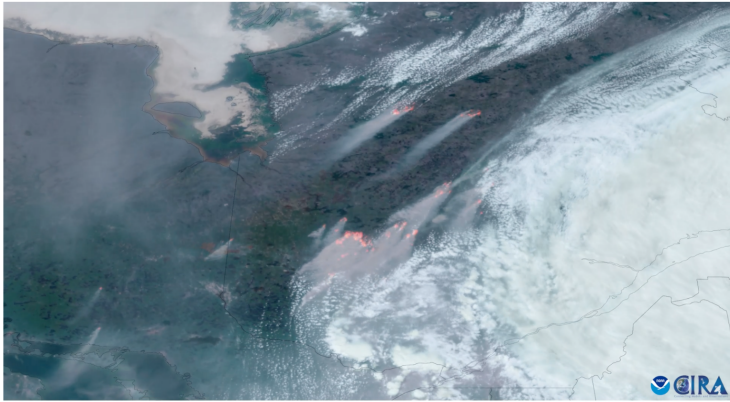
<https://satlib.cira.colostate.edu/event/western-canada-wildfires/>

## Satellite Animations of Canadian Wildfires

Downloadable loops of images taken by geostationary satellites. Appear as videos that can be paused and played, and display the time that the image was captured. Show smoke transport from fires in Québec.

->To watch this loop without downloading/waiting for website to load, you can find someone's posted version here:



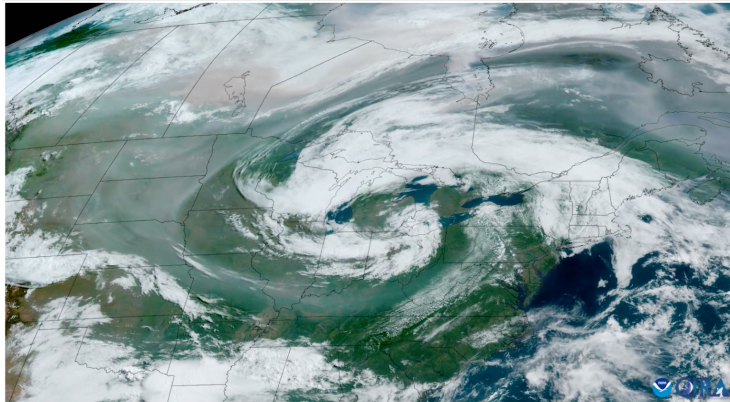


Satellite: GOES-16

Product: Fire Temperature, GeoColor

Timespan: 06/06/2023 11:20 - 06/06/2023 23:30 UTC

Downloadable File Options ▾



Description:

Smoke from wildfires in Canada wrap around a low pressure system over the Midwest United States.

Satellite: GOES-16

Product: GeoColor

Timespan: 06/13/2023 11:50 - 06/13/2023 14:40 UTC

Downloadable File Options ▾

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8hJFGqDxs&ab\\_channel=KPRC2Click2Houston](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8hJFGqDxs&ab_channel=KPRC2Click2Houston)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ruiZpgAbM4&ab\\_channel=GlobalNews](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ruiZpgAbM4&ab_channel=GlobalNews)

**Quebec wildfires: Eastern Ontario, Montreal experiencing poor air quality issues**

News report footage of air quality in Montréal and Ottawa during these fires (June 26, 2023)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edVt9fAUIHk&ab\\_channel=CBCNews%3ATheNational](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edVt9fAUIHk&ab_channel=CBCNews%3ATheNational)

**2 wildfires near Sept-Îles, Que., force thousands to evacuate**

News report of evacuation from fires near Sept-Îles, QC. Footage of massive smoke plumes within 10 km of the town. Interviews of locals and evacuees (June 2, 2023).

**BlueSky Canada Smoke forecast loops over QC and NY**

*Ask Jalena for loops* (cannot upload videos into google docs)



**Fire in Québec and resulting smoke in Toronto (July 1, 2023)**

Caption:

*Flames reach upwards along the edge of a wildfire as seen from a Canadian Forces helicopter surveying the area near Mistissini, Quebec, Canada, June 12, 2023. Canadian Forces/CPL Marc-Andre Leclerc/Canadian Forces via Reuters*



Caption:

*People watch the sunset as the smoke from wildfires is visible in Toronto on June 28, 2023. Chris Young/AP*

Source for 2 photos:

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/canadian-wildfire-dangers-prompt-proactive-mitigation-government-experts/story?id=100478859>