

# OPEQ - Computers for Schools in Québec

## Bell and OPEQ: partners for more than 20 years!

In 1993, Industry Canada and the Telephone Pioneers created the Computers for Schools (OPE) program to give to schools the obsolete computers from the federal government.

In 1997, Bell took over the leadership of the program in Québec and became a founding member of Computers for Schools in Québec (OPEQ). It is under this entity that the OPE program is being managed in the province.

Bell has always contributed to the success of OPEQ. As such, Bell has chaired the organization for 20 years. To this day, a Bell employee is still responsible for the overall management. They have grown OPEQ into the largest contributor in repurposing electronic equipment in Québec. Bell is also home to the administrative team at the Nun's Island campus and one of 6 refurbishment workshops.


Through OPEQ, Bell benefits from a secure, efficient and environmentally sound management of its electronic equipment surplus. OPEQ produces tax receipts for the market value of the donated equipment. Bell's donations are worth nearly half a million dollars a year.

OPEQ does more than just recover computers. It has been mandated to recover computer equipment from provincial and federal ministries as well as para-governmental and municipal agencies. We also receive donations from Quebec's major companies in various areas such as technology, communications, pharmaceuticals, finance and others.

Without exception. We wipe out the data with a software that meets the standards of the Recycler Qualification Office (RQO) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). All reused equipment is also stripped of any identification, stickers and anything that would identify the donor.

In the last 20 years, OPEQ has

- sorted millions of pieces of equipment (computers, servers, cell phones, printers, mice, keyboards, projectors, etc.)
- recovered more than 50,000 computers per year
- recycled over 18,000 tons of material in an eco-friendly manner
- upgraded and distributed more than 270,000 refurbished computers and laptops
- provided more than 50,000 hours of training per year
- helped more than 1,500 young people gain work experience through the OPE internship program and helped several thousand trainees to acquire skills in the field of IT
- worked with dozens of young people with physical or intellectual limitations in our sorting centers and workshops



For our donors, our customers and our employees, we constantly update our work procedures to meet strict standards that ensure quality, safety, health and security. We are regularly audited by various organizations.

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### Reusing before recycling

OPEQ believes that to minimize the negative environmental impacts of electronic devices, every company should do its part and prioritize reusing before recycling. Thanks to the companies that have chosen OPEQ for the management of their equipment at the end of their useful life, we have refurbished more than a quarter of a million computers and laptops in the last 20 years. We gave a new life to computers that would have been discarded or recycled.

When equipment cannot be reused, it gets recycled by audited certified recyclers who meet the highest standards of recycling and proper handling of materials.

OPEQ is among the organizations certified by the Recyclers Qualification Board as an Electronic Products Reuse and Rehabilitation Program (EPRRP). This certification allows us to work with the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA-Quebec).

OPEQ is also certified ISO 14001: 2015. This environmental standard certifies that the organization acts proactively in controlling its environmental risks.

OPEQ is recognized by "ICI on recycle", a program from RECYC-QUEBEC, as a certified grade 3 gold organization, the highest level.

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### Giving back to the community

Since the program's inception, hundreds of thousands of computers and laptops have been refurbished and redistributed to schools, libraries, day-care centers, non-profit organizations to help them better meet their customers' needs, and to individuals, via targeted programs that help low-income families or newcomers break their technological isolation.

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## Training young people from all over Québec

The OPE internship program provides youth with hands-on experience in information technology (IT) to help them join the job market. Several instructors or managers in our sorting centers and our workshops came from this internship program.

OPEQ also partners with professional training centers. We offer them a work environment that complement the classroom training and motivation against dropping out of school.

OPEQ also aims for inclusion. This is a chance for young people trying to overcome their physical or intellectual limitations to gain work experience. We are present everywhere in Québec, with 2 sorting centers (Montreal and Québec) and 6 workshops (Bellechasse, Gatineau, Montreal, Québec, Saguenay, Sherbrooke).

Please visit us at [www.opeq.qc.ca/bell-eng](http://www.opeq.qc.ca/bell-eng)