The Renewable Materials Research Centre (CRMR) brings together more than 30 university and college researchers from Québec and some 150 graduate students dedicated to training and research on wood- and other plant fiber-based renewable materials as well as their derivatives. CRMR students have access to the facilities of several research centres and benefit from the expertise of researchers and staff through courses, workshops, and technical and administrative resources that contribute to their success.

The CRMR brings together researchers and graduate students from four universities:

- Université Laval
- Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
- Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

And two Cégeps:

- Cégep de Trois-Rivières
- Cégep de Rimouski

As well as researchers from:

- FPInnovations
- Forêts, Faune et Parcs Québec
- Natural Resources Canada
- Cecobois

Together, they work to develop new solid wood products and wood-, wood fibre- and other plant fibre-based composites as well as value-added coproducts.

CRMR’s objectives are to:

- Develop innovative solid wood- and wood fibre-based products
- Develop process methods with the goal of using all biomass components to produce diverse products in various forms (materials, derivatives, extracts or thermal energy)
- Develop/expand our knowledge base to facilitate/promote the use of wood in residential and non-residential building construction
- Develop renewable materials from non-woody plant fibres

CENTRE DESCRIPTION

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MISSION

The Renewable Materials Research Centre supports research and training for the responsible use of forest resources and other lignocellulosic fibres while taking into consideration environmental and economic constraints.
Graduate students at the Renewable Materials Research Centre are supervised by professors specializing in various forest and other lignocellulosic fibre-based products, including wood products and wood-based biocomposites and nanocomposites, pulp and paper, wood extracts, as well as ecosign in wood construction. These professors are committed to the success of their students’ research, as evidenced by their availability and the close ties they forge with their fellow CRMR scientists.

This association of six research groups (UQAC, UQTR, UQAT, ULaval, Cégep de Rimouski [SEREX], and Cégep de Trois-Rivières [Innofibre]) gives students access to a wide range of diverse and complementary equipment necessary to conduct research aimed at its four objectives. This state-of-the-art equipment is made available to students with the support of a team of professionals and skilled technicians.

Graduate students have access to scholarship supplements and mobility scholarships that help them take part in conventions, symposiums, and national and international conferences tied to their research. In addition, the CRMR organizes an annual conference where students can present work in progress to other Centre members, granting agencies, industry players, and the general public.

This new strategic group is strongly committed to putting in place all the ingredients needed for innovation through the sharing of information and skills with a view to collaboration.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Established in 2013 and funded by an FRQNT program (Regroupements stratégiques du Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et technologies), the CRMR brings together researchers from the former Wood Research Centre (CRB) at Université Laval and the Lignocellulosic Materials Research Centre (CRML) at Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, as well as from Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Cégep de Rimouski, and Cégep de Trois-Rivières.

The first CRMR summer school was held in 2014 and took the form of a course on materials and biomass characterization with more than ten CRMR scientists participating. Lectures were available online, and two days of labs and demonstrations were held in the laboratories at Université Laval and Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières.

The CRMR is known for its highly diverse research projects that include wood-based composite modeling, new functionalities of paper products (bioactive packaging paper), molecules extracted from wood (biorefining), cellulose and lignin processing (nanofibre manufacturing), wood structure design, wood protection and finishing (nanoparticle containing paint and varnish), and paper sludge-based biocomposites.

This new strategic group is strongly committed to putting in place all the ingredients needed for innovation through the sharing of information and skills with a view to collaboration.