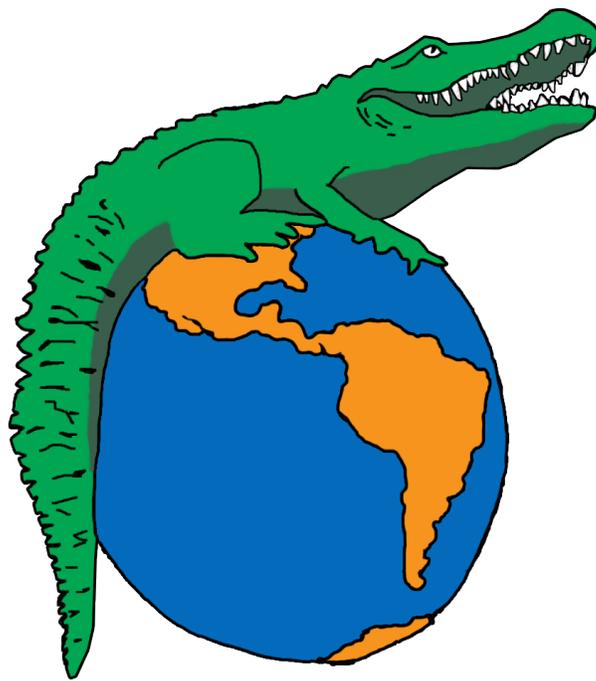


# GatorMUN XVI

## Background Guide



The Future of  
Independent Québec,  
2023

Dear Delegates,

My name is Zola Hoehn and I will be serving as your director for “The Future of Independent Québec, 2023.” It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to GatorMUN XVI as well as this committee. I am a third-year student here at the University of Florida, majoring in Art History and International Studies with a Focus on Europe as well as minoring in French. This will be my second year directing, previously directing UNESCO. My idea came about for this committee when in class one day, we began to discuss varying types of democracy leading to a discussion on which nation would be more likely to become independent first, Scotland or Québec. I could only imagine the issues that a nation would face when in the early stages of a democracy and when separating from their mother country. Having visited Montreal and experiencing all of the rich culture that is in Québec, I knew that this committee would lead to interesting debate on where to lead a new country and how varying perspectives can shift this path. This committee will be set in 2023, following two sets of elections from the current day (2019). This date was chosen as it is the in the timeline of future Canadian elections and will allow you to use all of your creative abilities.

Québec has a highly rich history, beginning much before its integration into Canada, including their relations with the French and Natives to the area. With the integration into the Canadian state, many Québécois retained their cultural heritage and connections to the French, working to keep the region of Québec distinctly French and maintaining their cultural roots. In the past, many laws were created to retain this culture and it thereby created a distinct nation within the Canadian state. As Québec is the largest province in Canada, they followed a different path than the rest of the other ten provinces. In addition, they have their own systems of governance apart from the federal state of Canada. However, there is a very complicated history between the relations of the Québécois, the english speakers in the region, the Canadian government and the first nations peoples who all having varying degrees of ownership over the land. With two previous referendum unsuccessfully wishing to create an independent state of Québec, this committee will provide a potential course for these people to follow.

Within this committee you will face difficult decisions to make as a delegate and as a government. Please keep in mind that there are many historical factors which you must take into account when deciding the path of Québec. There will be individuals working against you and the formation of this state, however, with perseverance and diplomacy an independent Québec can be achieved and remain as a successful state of Québec. If you have any questions at all, please email me at [gatormun@gmail.com](mailto:gatormun@gmail.com). **Position papers will be required** as each delegate will be set in the future and therefore will need to come into committee with their own ideas to bring Québec into the future of a state . I cannot wait to see what you all will do with this committee.

Best,

Zola Hoehn  
Director, “The Future of Independent Quebec: 2023”

# Rules of Procedure

## Quorum

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members are present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as “Present” or “Present and Voting.”

## Motion to Open Debate

This opens the floor for debate, allowing other points or motions.

## Motion to Set the Agenda

This motion determines the order in which the topics of a committee will be debated. Permission to speak will be accorded to one speaker for and one speaker against, and a two-thirds majority is required for the motion to pass.

## Motion to Open the Speaker’s List

Opening the Speaker’s List requires a simple majority to pass. A delegate may only be present on the Speaker’s List once, but may re-enter after he/she has spoken. If the Speaker’s List expires, debate then closes.

## Motion to Set Speaking Time

Speaking Time must be indicated by this motion from the floor before any members of the body may speak on the Speaker’s List. This motion must also accompany any motion for a Moderated Caucus. In a Motion to Set Speaking Time for the formal Speaker’s List, a delegate may also specify a number of questions or comments to automatically affix to the Speaking Time. These designated questions or comments may also have Speaking Time or Response Time (in the case of a question) limits, but these are not required. The Director may rule any Motion to Set Speaking Time dilatory. This motion requires a simple majority. Any delegate may make this motion between formal speakers in an effort to change the Speaking Time.

## Motion to Close the Speaker’s List

The Speaker’s List may be closed upon a motion from the floor. Permission to speak will be accorded to one speaker for and one speaker against, and a two-thirds majority is required for the motion to pass.

## Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus

This motion must include three specifications:

- a. Length of the Caucus
- b. Speaking time, and
- c. Reason for the Caucus.

During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

## Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus

This motion must include the length of the Caucus. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus should never exceed twenty minutes.

## Motion to Suspend the Meeting

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed. (ie. Lunch!) This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse to entertain this motion at their discretion.

## Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year's conference.

## Motion to Table the Topic

If a delegate believes that the flow of debate has become stagnant, he/she may make this motion. To Table the Topic is to halt debate on the present Topic, save the speakers' list and all draft resolutions, and move on to the next Topic on the Agenda. The delegate making this motion may also choose to specify a previously tabled Topic. This motion requires a two-thirds vote to pass. The Topic may be returned to at any time by tabling the present Topic and adding the phrase "for the purpose of returning to Tabled Topic \_\_\_\_," to this motion. If no Topics have been previously tabled, debate must follow the established Agenda. This motion is to be used sparingly.

## Points of Order

Points of Order will only be recognized for the following items:

- a) To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure,
- b) To question relevance of debate to the current Topic or
- c) To question a quorum.

A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker if necessary and it is to be used sparingly.

## Points of Inquiry

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate that declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time. The question must conform to the following format:

Delegate from Country A raises placard to be recognized by the Committee Director.

Committee Director: "To what point do you rise?"

Country A: "Point of Inquiry."

Committee Director: "State your Point."

Country A: "Will the delegate from Country B (who must have just concluded a substantive speech) yield to a question?"

Committee Director: "Will the Delegate Yield?"

Country B: "I will" or "I will not" (if not, return to the next business item)

Country A asks their question (it must not be a rhetorical question.)

Country B may choose to respond or to decline.

If the Delegate from Country B does not yield to or chooses not to answer a question from Country A, then he/she yields all remaining questioning time to the Committee Director.

## Points of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

## Rights of Reply

At the Committee Director's discretion, any member nation or observer may be granted a Right of Reply to answer serious insults directed at the dignity of the delegate present. The Director has the ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY to accept or reject Rights of Reply, and the decision IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL. Delegates who feel they are being treated unfairly may take their complaint to any member of the Secretariat.

## Working Papers and Draft Resolutions

Once a Working Paper has been submitted, approved, distributed, and formally introduced to the body, it can and will be referred to as a "Draft Resolution." In order for a Working Paper to be submitted to the Committee Director, it must be in correct format and bear the names of a combination of a number of Sponsors and Signatories necessary to introduce, as determined by the Committee Director.

Sponsors are the writers of the Working Paper, and agree with it in its entirety. They should be able to vote 'yes' for the paper during voting procedure. Signatories are those delegates interested in bringing the Working Paper to the floor for debate, but do not necessarily agree with its contents.

A delegate can motion to discuss the working paper during a moderated caucus or unmoderated caucus. A delegate can also motion for an author's panel, which is essentially a moderated caucus moderated by the authors. It is the chair's discretion on the maximum amount of authors allowed on the author's panel.

## Friendly Amendments

Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Directive that *all* Sponsors agree to in writing. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor's agreement both verbally and in writing.

## Unfriendly Amendments

Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Directive that are not agreed to by all of the Sponsors of the Directive. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must have the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum confirmed signatories. The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and nonsubstantive Unfriendly amendment proposals.

## Plagiarism

GatorMUN maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the GatorMUN conference. This is a very serious offense.

## Motion to Close Debate and Voting Procedures

A motion to close debate may only pass with a two-thirds majority. Once this motion passes, and the committee enters Voting Procedure, no occupants of the committee room may exit the Committee Room, and no individual may enter the Committee Room from the outside. A member of the Dias will secure all doors. No talking, passing notes, or communicating of any kind will be tolerated during voting procedures.

Once moving into voting procedures chair can only accept these motions:

- A point of order to correct an error in procedure
- An appeal of the decision of the chair
- A motion for division
- A motion for roll call vote
- A motion for adoption by acclamation

Each Draft Resolution will be read to the body and voted upon in the order which they were introduced. Any Proposed Unfriendly Amendments to each Draft Resolution will be read to the body and voted upon before the main body of the Draft Resolution as a whole is put to a vote. The Committee will adopt Directives and Unfriendly Amendments to Directives if these documents pass with a simple majority. Specialized committees should refer to their background guides or Committee Directors for information concerning specific voting procedures. Unless otherwise specified by the Secretariat, each Committee may pass as many resolutions as it agrees are necessary to efficiently address the Topic

Delegates who requested to be noted as “Present and Voting” are unable to abstain during voting procedure. Abstentions will not be counted in the tallying of a majority. For example, 5 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 7 abstentions means that the Directive passes.

## Roll Call Voting

A counted placard vote will be considered sufficient unless any delegate to the committee motions for a Roll Call Vote. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the committee must comply. All delegates must vote: “For,” “Against,” “Abstain,” or “Pass.”

During a Roll Call vote, any delegate who answers, “Pass,” reserves his/her vote until the Committee Director has exhausted the Roll. However, once the Committee Director returns to “Passing” Delegates, they must vote: “For” or “Against.”

## Voting with Rights

During a Roll Call vote delegates may vote “For with Rights” or “Against with Rights.” Delegates will be granted 30 seconds to explain their reasons for voting for or against a draft resolution. This time will come after the tabulation of votes.

Delegates should use this option sparingly. It is meant for delegates who feel that their vote may seem off policy, despite it being correct. The acceptance of rights is up to the director’s discretion. If a speaker goes off topic during their allotted time the director will rule their speech dilatory and move to the next in order.

## Accepting by Acclamation

This motion may be stated when the Committee Director asks for points or motions. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the motion to Accept by Acclamation is voided. If a delegate believes a Directive will pass without opposition, he or she may move to accept the Directive by acclamation. The motion passes unless a single delegate shows opposition. An abstention is not considered opposition. Should the motion fail, the committee will move directly into a Roll Call Vote.

# The History of Québec

The history of Québec dates back to before the beginning of Canada, initially originating as a colony under control of France called “New France” in 1534. However, it did not become a full colony until 1608, growing to include the city of Montréal. However, this territory was ceded to Britain from France after the Seven Years War by the Treaty of Paris in 1763.<sup>1</sup> This treaty established the province of Québec with the other provinces of the what would become Canada. In addition to this treaty, King George III issued a Royal Proclamation of 1763 that declared the province of Québec and promised Aboriginal peoples, later to become known as the First Nations, rights to land and security that would later be contested. As they were originally there before the French colonized the land, these peoples had deep roots to the area and strong cultural connections to the land.

Following the Royal Proclamation, the Québec Act was created in 1774<sup>2</sup> which sought to maintain French-Canadian customs instead of assimilating British practices into the province of Québec. Additionally, this act enlarged the province of Québec, adding the current areas of South Ontario, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and parts of Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. This retained English criminal law but restored to the province French Civil law and the Catholic religion, beginning the separation of Québec from the other provinces. In this time period, Roman Catholicism became the official religion and the Catholic Church increased its power which has continued to the present day. In 1791 however, the Constitutional Act divided Québec into two sections, Upper Canada and Lower Canada, the latter of which was historically majority French-speaking. This Constitutional Act created separate provincial legislatures for the two areas, giving each a legislature of two branches, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, creating a provincial government. The members of the Legislative Assembly were elected to their seats, however, any bills they created had to be passed by the Legislative Council where members had to be appointed by the governor general. It gave women more rights, including the right to vote as the wording was very vague and in French Civil Law, women had the right to own half of property when married which constituted a right to vote. However, this was not the case in Upper Canada where women had to follow British Civil Law, and thus were unable to vote. The distinction that was created with this act set the stage for future rebellions of certain groups such as the aboriginal groups in the areas and the Lower Canada Rebellion of 1837-38.

In 1834, the Ninety-Two resolutions passed through Parliament and were sent to the British Crown. This document included a long list of demands for the British Government to meet including to have an elected Legislative Council and an Executive Council which would be responsible before the House of Representatives. These were ignored for three years and led to two rebellions in Lower Canada in 1837 and 1838. They were quelled by the British and referred to as the Patriots’ War by the Québécois, native inhabitants of Québec who are typically French Canadian. Though quelled by the British, these revolutions led to the Union Act of 1840, merging Upper Canada with Lower Canada. To replace the divided sections of Canada and the political structures that each half had, the Province of Canada was created. This act was essentially meant to dissolve the French-Canadian cultural presence by assimilation. It also banned the French language from the Legislative Assembly. Within this assembly, the newly created Canada-West and Canada-East had equal representation within the Assembly, each having 42 seats despite having disparity between population. Canada-East was more populous and had a majority of French-Canadians living within its boundaries. Many considered this disparity between representation an injustice and called for proportional representation based on population. In the end, the Union Act failed to end the French-Canadian political presence and actually made them a stronger force as they would vote in a bloc, thus for anything to pass it

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/royal-proclamation-of-1763/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/quebec-act/>

would need to support of the Canada-East coalition. In 1867, the Canadian Confederation was established and a provincial government was created in Québec as it was the only region with a French-speaking majority. The Confederation maintained the French-Canadians as a minority but gave them more power in their use of French language.

The borders of Québec have significantly shifted over the years, and in 1898 they were extended to include the Eastman River and eastwards to include Labrador. However, the area of Labrador was given to Newfoundland in 1927. This decision was disputed by the political leaders of Québec, but the boundary is honored nonetheless. Over the 19th century and into the 20th century, Québec became industrialized, spreading out and growing the urban centers of Montréal and Québec City. In 1830, the Port of Montréal was created with the idea that Montréal would serve as a hub on the St. Lawrence River. This port was later used by steamships and trains, and eventually became a commercial container shipping location. Some have speculated that it has also led to the economic downturn of Montréal's industrial sector. The introduction of the railroads brought an agricultural revolution, sustaining dairy farming and livestock within the area. Industrialization was initially centered around Montréal, and in this area there was heavy industry and transportation in the metal-producing sectors. Light manufacturing also occurred, producing objects for immediate use. Following this period, most of the urban and industrial growth occurred in Montréal, and it is here that half of Québec's production was concentrated. Many during this time moved rural areas into a concentrated urban area along the St. Lawrence Lowlands. This corridor from Québec City to Montréal held the highest concentration of the population in Canada. World War II allowed for rapid urbanization due to British and European immigration. Additionally, the rural foresting, farming, and mining settlements that appeared in northwestern Québec continued to thrive despite increased immigration into the urban areas. While there was increased British migration to the province, the high birth rates of French-Canadians allowed the province to remain primarily French. However, the British immigration allowed for a new class to emerge: the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie was concentrated in Montréal and came from the English and Scottish descendants. They controlled the economic institutions that were spread throughout Canada, including the Bank of Montréal, founded in 1817. The Bank of Montréal has grown to have assets of over 300 billion U.S. dollars. This newly created bourgeoisie class almost completely left out the French-Canadians, and instead created a base of French-speaking businessmen who were limited to local operations yet had some economic and political power under the control of the English and Scottish bourgeoisie class.

In this guide, Québécois will refer to the French-speakers and Francophone residents of Québec while Quebecers is used to denote all residents of the province of Québec. These distinctions came about with the merging of the French and English cultures, creating many variations and instances where this distinction became significant. Additionally, there remain English-speaking residents who reside in Québec and they will be referred to as Anglophones if they have British history or Allophones if they are non-French or non-British residents. Of the current population residing in Québec, nearly half are from the original settlers. One-tenth have some British descent (Anglophones) and another tenth have neither French or British descent (Allophones) which includes the First Nations and Inuit peoples, Eastern Europeans, Portuguese, Greeks, Haitians and Asians.<sup>3</sup>

In the 1960s, a “Quiet Revolution” began among the Québécois and in the Francophone community of Québec when they began to perceive themselves as the majority. Following the election in 1960 of Jean Lesage, the leader of the Parti Libéral du Québec, Québec began to modernize under Lesage's leadership. A secular state was built off this political majority and the state was created “to enhance their social, cultural, demographic, political, and economic power.”<sup>4</sup> Under this government, many changes were made to the school systems as the influence of the Catholic Church was reduced in education. Additionally, many ministries were established, including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs as well as the

3 <https://www.britannica.com/place/Quebec-province>

4 <https://www.britannica.com/place/Quebec-province>

creation of Medicare and unionization of workers. In regards to the economy, state companies were created in order to develop and stimulate the economy following the world wars and the economic depressions. It was during this time that the nationalization of Québec's hydro-electric companies were nationalized, creating Hydro-Québec under the guidance of René Lévesque, the Minister of Natural Resources. Additionally, the beginning of the idea for an independent Québec came into being with several separatists movements gaining prominence. The largest being the RIN (Rassemblement pour l'indépendance nationale), having right-wing tendencies in its creation and then shifting left with the growing numbers of younger members. Although it never won any significance within the government, it served as important aid to the creation of the "indépendantiste" movement within Québec. Politically as well, the Quebec Liberation Front (FLQ) came into being as a terrorist movement with the idea that Québec workers could "take their destiny into their own hands." This led to bombs being detonated in Montréal in 1963 acts of terror, followed by violent demonstrations stemming from a visit by the Queen of England to the region in 1964.<sup>5</sup>

This perceived majority that was identified during the "Quiet Rebellion" created a distinction between the French and English languages and identified different political implications for each term in the different languages, in example the use of Québécois or Quebecers. Additionally during the 1960s, there was a decline in the Catholic Church's influence over the government and Québec, with the formal separation occurring in 1998. This marked a confirmation that religion is less dominant in the political and social spheres of Québec. The Quiet Revolution created a new nationalism in the province, and new plans were created to modernize the province.

In 1974, the official language of Québec became French despite a long-time attack of the language in New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba after the creation of the Confederation in 1867. The establishment of French as the official language of Québec was strengthened with Bill 101, officially the Charter of the French Language in 1977. These laws made "... French the language of the Government and the Law, as well as the normal and everyday language of work, instruction, communication, commerce and business."<sup>6</sup> It made buildings, signs, posters, advertisements, and services use French exclusively- additionally forcing government communications to be conducted in French, so one had to pass a test of the language to be allowed into an administrative position. Under the Charter of the French Language, business enterprises had to be in French and have a French name, and in addition each child was taught French as their first language, creating even more of a division and pressure between the French speakers and the English speakers within Québec. In 1982, Anglophone groups within Montréal created the Alliance Québec to "defend minority rights [English speaker's rights] in the province"<sup>7</sup> and led to many lawsuits against Bill 101. There have been many challenges in the Supreme Court of Canada to the legislation which have significantly modified it, reducing the scope which it covered. Additional bills were passed that began to allow English on signs, as long as French was more prominent. Following the passing of these bills, there was growing contention between the Québec government and the Canadian Constitution, as there was limited room for growth within the constraints of the Canadian government.

In 1976, following the creation of the Parti Québécois and their ability to gain control of the National Assembly, René Lévesque became the Premier of Quebec: the head of government for the province of Québec. This election and subsequent control over the government created an increase in migration of English speakers and the Anglophone population towards Toronto. Following this emigration from Québec, economic dominance and activity began to shift more towards Toronto creating a concern for Montréal's economy as many head offices or manufacturing operations were moved to Ontario.<sup>8</sup> However, while there was migration out of Montréal, there was significant social change occurring- including the first recognition

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/MANIFES.HTM>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/showdoc/cs/C-11>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/QUEBEC2.HTM>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/quebec-since-confederation/>

of the rights of the Aboriginal peoples to self-determination (as long as it didn't affect the Québec territories). Additionally, the government worked to create Bill 101 and allow Francophones the ability to advance in management roles as they previously were held back. Other than Bill 101, the Parti Québécois made extreme progress when creating the 1980 Quebec referendum which pushed to begin negotiations for the sovereignty of the province. This referendum however was rejected with 60% of the Québécois voting no.<sup>9</sup> Pierre-Elliott Trudeau, elected as Canadian Prime Minister in 1968, and his federalists spoke out against this referendum with threats that “You won't be able to afford gas, you won't be able to afford food, you'll lose your pensions.”<sup>10</sup> This led to a great fear in the population, and was one of the reasons that the initial referendum failed. Additionally, Trudeau promised a great reform of Canada to replace the referendum, but this new reform was not all it was supposed to be.

Many Québécois wanted to increase Québec's influence in the Confederation and change the division of powers between the two levels of government. With Trudeau, there was a strengthened power of Québécois in the cabinet and the federal government, and centralized federal power was strengthened as well as Québec receiving minority status in the Confederation. However, under Trudeau constitutional reform became the means of the great reform that was promised in response to Québec's referendum. The constitutional reform was Canada's way of patriating and reforming the original constitution so that the highest law, the “British North America Act” transferred authority from the British Parliament to Canada's federal and provincial legislatures.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, Trudeau created a “people's package” which included a new Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Later, the talks for reforms of the constitution showed that each member included in these talks had widely different visions for Canada. In secret, Trudeau met with the other premiers (leaders of each province) to sign a new deal for the constitution. Lévesque was not informed and so he left the talks and to this day, Québec never signed the new version of the constitution. It has now become dubbed the “Night of the Long Knives” as the agreement would have limited Québec's powers in terms of language and education. In 1982, without the consent of Québec, the new constitution replaced the old one.<sup>12</sup> Following this decision many of the claims of the Québécois were ignored, leading to other referendums and distrust, and finally the situation today. After this night, René Lévesque wanted to try the option of renewed federalism again, creating even more of a divide among the Parti Québécois. His resignation ended the control of the Parti Québécois.

In 1990, the Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney worked to negotiate the Meech Lake Accord to mitigate the damage done in 1981 and 1982. However, with few gains to Québec, Manitoba and Newfoundland, they decided to sabotage it. Out of its claims, Québec would have been granted the right to have senators and provincially appointed Supreme Court Justices, involving the provinces in immigration policy, allowing provinces to claim financial compensation if they don't want to be involved in a federal program, requiring the unanimity of the provinces for central institutions and granting Québec the status of a distinct society in terms of language culture and the legal system.<sup>13</sup> Following the rejection of the Meech Lake Accords, the National Assembly of Québec set up the Bélanger-Campeau Commission to come up with conclusions for the political future of Québec. They determined that Quebec would either have to follow the path of having a province with highly decentralized federalism or receive sovereignty. In 1992, there was another referendum on Quebec Sovereignty- later developed into voting on the Charlottetown Accord which failed as Canadians voted no at 56.7% and Québécois at 57% as it did not meet the minimum of demands that were set in 1987, or it was judged too generous. The failure of the referendum led to the creation of a new party, the Democratic Action of Quebec (ADQ) and the Bloc Québécois, the first sovereigntist party at the federal level.

9 <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/QUEBEC2.HTM>

10 <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/QUEBEC2.HTM>

11 <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/patriation-of-the-constitution/>

12 <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/COUTEAU.HTM>

13 <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/MEECH.HTM>

In 1995, the second official referendum on sovereignty was held. With the Parti Québécois regaining power, the result wound up being NO with a majority of 50.6%. With this close of a vote it meant that no one wins, and despite this microscopic majority the Canadian Prime minister continued refusing to recognize Québec in any way. It was later revealed that in the referendum on Québec in 1995 there was a Council for Canadian Unity created under the federal government, funded by the government and donations from Canadian corporations. This Council and funds were used to defend the unity of the country and worked towards gathering support for the NO camp of the referendum.<sup>14</sup> Following the failure of this referendum, support for sovereignty significantly decreased, however there was still support for nationalist parties.

Additionally during the early 1980s and into the 1990s, Québec was hit hard by the recession of 1981-1982. With a slow recovery, Québec's traditional light manufacturing industries were hurt with the new international competition, and so the rate of unemployment within Québec rose dramatically compared to the rates of the rest of Canada. Additionally with the rising birth rates and increasing population, the percentage of Québécois were growing in comparison to the Anglophones. With the previous policies of immigration broadening the diversity of Québec, new immigrants were coming in from all over the world, especially other French-speaking countries such as France, Haiti and the Maghreb. While there became greater diversity in the province of Québec, the Mohawk groups in the Montréal region had an uprising known as the Oka crisis because "they were unhappy with the way their land claims were being handled."<sup>15</sup> While the tensions were de-escalated, the frustration that remained made Canadians more aware of the claims and rights of the Aborigines. This also led to the creation of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

After 1995, the economy of Québec recovered with the increasing interest in the province's mining resources and residential construction. It has continued to grow but with debt increasing to about \$203 billion, there was significant tensions between the province and the federal government. Out of all of Canada, Laval Québec, Québec City, and Montréal have a combined debt of \$128,818.<sup>16</sup> With this increasing debt, Québec has had increasing tensions with the government of Canada in paying off the debt.

## The Future of Québec

After 2018, the political parties for sovereignty within Québec began to gain more traction after a decade of low public support for political independence. In 2018, the sovereignty movement was downgraded by some from a mainstream movement to a marginal one.<sup>17</sup> This could be due to the fact that many parties who originally advocated for sovereignty and independence shifted their goals to revitalizing Québec and its economy and social structures. However, the shifting economy would soon shift the needs of Québec, and these parties would be the ones to help revitalize the province. With the influence of the United States and their actions including the increasing of international tariffs, Canadian and U.S. relations deteriorated and the Canadian economy suffered. As the U.S. is Canada's largest trading partner, the reduction in trading partners reduced the ability of Canada to market its goods and services and so as Canada suffered, so did Québec.

The economy within Québec is largely based in the service and manufacturing sector, and so is highly influenced by fluctuations in the international economy. As the province mainly exploited its natural

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/UNITE.HTM>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/oka-crisis/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/national-debt-map-canada-1.3557745>

<sup>17</sup> <https://montrealgazette.com/opinion/columnists/dan-delmar-quebec-sovereignty-movement-has-run-its-course>

resources and energy, it has created a strong mining and forestry sector of their economy. “Timber harvesting, wood product manufacturing and paper production is a major pillar of the Québec economy.”<sup>18</sup> The forestry industry within Quebec has over 400 processing plants and produces 80,000 jobs within the province. Additionally, the mining industry puts Québec as one of the leaders of the world in producing iron, zinc, nickel, silver, and gold. In the regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue which produces gold, silver, zinc, and copper; Côte-Nord which produces iron, and Nord-du-Québec which produces nickel, gold and zinc. With over 23 mines in production and over 350 surface mining sites, Québec has made over 7.7 billion in 2015<sup>19</sup> which has grown to 9 billion in 2020. The other large sector of the Québec economy is the development of energy. Clean energy has been the centerpiece and around 97% of the electricity produced in Québec is renewable.<sup>20</sup> Spearheading this movement towards renewable energy is Hydro-Québec: a government owned corporation that uses around 60 hydroelectric generating stations<sup>21</sup> along the St. Lawrence river to produce their energy for customers throughout Québec. Additionally, Bombardier, a world leading manufacturer of planes and trains, has headquarters in Montréal. They provide a large sector of products provided by the manufacturing industry and pride themselves as one of the few places in the world where a complete Airbus can be built and assembled within the same area. Bombardier contributes billions to Canada’s and specifically Québec’s GDP, providing important jobs for the people in the regions.<sup>22</sup> The economy of Québec is diverse but very susceptible to outside influences. While it does have its own sectors, there are many areas where Québec has either had to rely on Canada or other international imports to provide for the province.

Following the exit of the U.S. President Trump from the international scene, the economy within Québec and Canada slowly regrew to its previous levels and became even more prosperous. During this period, Canada and Québec became more internationally independent, increasing the profits of the province by expanding their manufacturing and business sectors. Bombardier Inc., the third largest civil aircraft manufacturer in the world, based in Montréal, increased their international influence. With this overall Canadian economic resurgence Québec strengthened its economy, especially in the industrial manufacturing sector, but it still retained its large debts as a province to Canada.

With the revitalization of the economy, increasing tensions arose between the Québécois and the Anglophones paired with other Canadians. Differences in the ideas about the power of the province of Québec resulted in protests breaking out in Montréal and in Québec City. With the continued avoidance in the federal government about the issues surrounding role of Québec in society and the Québécois sentiments, some took up violence to bring light to these issues. The protests combined with the violence caused the resurgence of the terrorist organization Le Front de libération du Québec (FLQ), originally founded in 1970. As they had previously done, bombs were set and detonated throughout the province, especially surrounding English-owned corporations, destroying some of the infrastructure created by and for the Anglophones. This led to fear in the Anglophone populations that more violence and support for the FLQ would spread into Canada and so there became an increasing sentiment that Québec should be separate from Canada.

Meanwhile, the parties advocating for sovereignty had garnered enough support that they believed they would have the votes to hold a successful referendum on sovereignty. With no ability to expand their power in the federal government, as it would decrease the power and influence of another, the referendum was the only option to create their own state for the betterment of the Québécois and the society that had been

18 <http://www.gouv.qc.ca/EN/LeQuebec/Pages/Economie.aspx>

19 <http://www.investquebec.com/international/en/industries/mining/a-wide-variety-of-metals-and-minerals-within-easy-reach.html>

20 <http://www.gouv.qc.ca/EN/LeQuebec/Pages/Economie.aspx>

21 <http://www.hydroquebec.com/about/mission-activities.html>

22 <http://www.bombardier.com/en/about-us/history.html>

cultivated in this province. As this was the case, a referendum on sovereignty for the province of Québec was called for and would be included in the next election occurring in 2023. However, as it was predicted by experts to be a finally successful referendum, many English businesses, corporations and individuals began preparations to leave the province and find places for their activities elsewhere. Additionally, the French speakers outside of the province made quick preparations to move into the province. This issue of migration in the province will be a significant issue for this new independent province to deal with.

On October 2023, the provincial referendum on sovereignty was held and passed with a vote of YES at 67.9%. After the previous failed referendums, Québec finally had its independence after almost 100 years of struggle. Although these referendums were generally not counted as law, the Canadian government and British decided to accept this referendum, allowing Québec to have its own independence. Following the successful referendum, the Québécois must now determine their place in the international community. As it stands, Québec has great potential as a new state. The current institutions in place give the province the ability to succeed. However, this committee must determine if they wish to retain these institutional features or change their structures to reflect their newfound independence.

## Political Parties within Québec

### Rassemblement pour l'indépendance nationale (RIN)

In September 1960, Marcel Chaput and André d'Allemagne founded the "Rassemblement pour l'indépendance nationale" (Union for National Independence – RIN) with Pierre Bourgault as the chief leader of the party.<sup>23</sup> With many leaders coming from the Alliance Laurentienne, they found that the Alliance was too right-wing and so founded this organization as a neutral party. As time went on and new younger members joined, the party began to incorporate more radical left-wing ideas. In October of that year, they published a manifesto which called for the independence of Québec. In the 1966 election, they won about 8.8% of the popular vote, however they gained no seats.

The most important role of this party was its influence in creating the modern "indépendantiste" movement, advocating for the independence of Québec which would later be supported by many other political groups. This party also participated and organized many public demonstrations including a 1964 protest against the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Quebec and a 1968 protest about Pierre Trudeau being present for Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day which devolved into riots. They supported French President Charles de Gaulle during his visit to Montréal and gathered more attention and support to the movement when de Gaulle shouted "Vive le Québec Libre" (Long live free Québec).

When René Lévesque broke away from the Parti Libéral du Québec forming the Mouvement Souveraineté-Association (MSA), later to become known as the Parti Québécois (PQ), there was discussion of a possible merger with the MSA. However, the distrust between Bourgault, the leader of the RIN and Lévesque, as well as other opposition from within the party led to its dissolution and many members joining the PQ

### Parti Québécois

This party came into power in 1968 under the leadership of René Lévesque. Initially they wished to gain political, economic and social independence for Québec from Canada. In the 1970s, the idea of referendums came into being to meet this goal. In the election of 1970, they won seven seats to the National Assembly.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.republiquelibre.org/cousture/QUEBEC2.HTM>

In 1976, they won 71 of the 110 seats available and Lévesque became essentially the Governor of Québec. They were the first government to recognize Aboriginal's rights to self-determination and helped change the social policies of Québec. This party initiated the 1980 Québec referendum to begin negotiations for sovereignty. In 1984, there was an internal crisis of the party as Lévesque wanted to have an approach that focused on governing Quebec and more of a peacemaking approach in regards to the constitutional issues. However, other members wanted complete sovereignty for Québec. They lost power when Lévesque resigned and returned to power under the leadership of Jacques Parizeau in 1994. They won 77 seats with the promise to hold an independence referendum that same year. They lost this referendum and leadership switched again to Lucien Bouchard who would later go on to found Bloc Québécois. The party remained in power, although in the mid-2000s they returned to the main opposition party. In 2006, the party split again with many left-wing members joining Québec Solidare and right-wing members joining Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ) or the Coalition Avenir Québec. In 2007, they fell behind the ADQ and didn't form the government or official opposition. In the early 2010's, the party experienced the worst results in terms of support and governmental control, but this began to slightly shift in 2014 when they narrowly beat out ADQ. They currently remain the largest party within Québec and continued to push for sovereignty. They are the majority party within the National Assembly and have gained this support by advocating both for sovereignty and for the needs of all of the people within Québec.

## Bloq Québécois

Officially created on June 15th, 1991 and registered in elections in 1993, this party works to promote the interests of Quebec and push for sovereignty. In their founding moments, they worked to block the passing of the Charlottetown Accord in the National Assembly. Following this victory, the party gained momentum and became the Official Opposition in the House of Commons. Led by Lucien Bouchard, they partnered with the Parti Québécois campaigning for the referendum of 1995. In 1997, they had a setback after the changing of party leadership and the failure of the referendum, however over the course of the next three years they worked to fight the passing of Bill C-20, the federal Clarity Act.<sup>24</sup> This party also played a significant role in exposing the misuse of federal funds in Québec, now known as the "Sponsorship Scandal" that exposed the sponsorship program, designed to promote federalism and support communities. Instead, it was paying for reports that were never created and awarding contracts to firms where little work was actually being done.<sup>25</sup> After this scandal, many were distrustful of the government and support for the party waned, losing its official party status in the House of Commons in 2011 as there were less than 12 MPs. In 2018, there was a significant internal crisis as seven out of the ten members left the party and either became independent Members of Parliament or joined other political parties. It has recently regained some support following the American elections and Trump's foreign policy decisions. In 2020 they created coalitions with the Parti Québécois to increase their control over the government. Following growing support, their numbers have increased and they stand as the Majority Government in their coalition with Parti Québécois and Québec Solidare.

## Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ)

Founded in 1994, Action démocratique du Québec was a party opposed to the Québec Liberal Party. Presenting a National Recovery Plan they gained support as they had a way to improve the economy and help the people. In 1995 after the referendum, they positioned themselves as "autonomist" as they wanted more autonomy for the province in the Canadian federation.<sup>26</sup> Following widespread support from the youth and appealing to their votes, in 2007 the party won 41 seats in the National Assembly. With many members lacking political experience and the party as a whole lacking a consistent and cohesive message,

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/bloc-quebecois/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sponsorship-program-and-advertising-activities-gomery-inquiry-commission-of-inquiry-into/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/action-democratique-du-quebec-adq/>

the representation in the Assembly fell back down to seven seats. Due to decreasing support and a damaged position, in 2012, this party merged with the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) and dissolved itself as a party.

## Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ)

Founded in 2011, CAQ, a center-right political party, was started off by Charles Sirois and François Legault: the former Parti Québécois member and Cabinet minister. Hoping to revitalize Québec, this party worked to gain support and merged with ADQ. Working on a platform surrounding the improvement of education, “creating an accessible and reliable healthcare system, building an ownership economy, promoting Québec culture and upholding integrity in public life,”<sup>27</sup> this party quickly gathered support although they did not promote any constitutional position in arguing for sovereignty. Dealing with the matters that they promoted in their platform was viewed as a much more urgent issue by the party. In 2012, with this support, they won 27% of the popular vote and formed the Official Opposition to the Parti Québécois. Although their support has dwindled following public scandals about campaign funding, they still remain the third-largest party in the National Assembly. Now their platform is working to create quality jobs and reduce income tax in the province. Following the widespread support for sovereignty in the province and the push for the support of the referendum by the other parties, CAQ did not outright advocate for the support of the referendum, but instead the support of the needs of Québec (which many assumed to be independence). They currently enjoy support in the population because of their efforts to support the province and aid the people.<sup>28</sup>

## Option Nationale

Formed as a center-left and left-wing nationalist party, Option Nationale was established in 2011. Leaders chose the name Option Nationale as the national option to choose the independence of Québec. Although there was some support within the population, in the 2012 and 2014 elections, it did not win any seats for their candidates with about 2% and .7% of the popular vote respectively. As it did have some support, it merged with Québec Solidaire on January, 2018, becoming a collective within the party.

## Québec Solidaire

Founded in 2006, Québec Solidaire advocated for the independence of Québec from Canada with many different goals to accomplish on their platform. They wished to unify the left who were advocating for sovereignty, as well using their platform which identifies with environmentalism, social justice, proportional representation, aboriginal rights just to name a few. In 2007, they won 3.65% of the popular vote and in 2008 a candidate was elected in the provincial election. In 2014, they won three seats. They have gained some support as the independence movements were growing but in 2017 they began talks and eventually merged with Option Nationale which increased their popular support.

The structure of their party however is important to note. They are required to have a male and female representative who are the party’s spokespersons, serving also as the presidents. Additionally, they have local associations throughout Québec which are then grouped into regional associations. They also group these associations thematically, which helps to create their electoral platform.

All of these parties have been instrumental in bringing Québec to where it is today. They have gathered support for referendums and continuously advocated for sovereignty and the rights and freedoms of the Québécois. While they have changed historically, they have shown the people of Québec that sovereignty is possible and gathered the support for the final referendum.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/coaliton-avenir-quebec-caq/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://coalitionavenirquebec.org/en/orientations/>

# Issues Facing the New Government

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## Foreign Relations:

There are many questions that they must answer to determine the future of Québec. For one, as Canada is under the commonwealth of Britain, Québec must determine if they will stay under the commonwealth umbrella or step out and go down a different path. As Québec has strong ties to France, many must decide if they should increase ties with this nation and potentially create a different commonwealth under France or have something else out of the new independence. However, it is important to keep in mind the benefits that the Commonwealth can provide. Under the Commonwealth, there is greater protection with defense treaties and legal advice that would be provided should the need arise. This would give Québec access to the other 53 members of the Commonwealth.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, citizens of the Commonwealth countries can vote in General Elections, they are provided citizenship to the U.K. and other Commonwealth states, and they can participate in the Commonwealth games. As is the case in the Commonwealth, Québec would retain total sovereignty but still have the opportunity to play a role in this international community.

## Government Structure:

Outside of deciding their role in the Commonwealth (or lack thereof), Québec must determine their own structure of the government. As it stands, Québec has the provincial parliamentary system with legislative aspects of laws and regulation, the executive in the governmental systems and judicial courts that provide law over the area. This government must decide to potentially add another house, making their legislature bicameral. Additionally, the choice is there if they wish to retain a full parliamentary system with members of parliament and a Prime Minister or a parliamentary-presidential system with a President elected by the people instead of having a Prime Minister. In this system, Québec has a National Assembly that consists of 125 members elected by the population. Currently they are elected by the first-past-the-post system. The National Assembly passes legislation that is under provincial jurisdiction in the Canadian Constitution.<sup>30</sup> The governmental system of Québec has a government made up of elected representatives of the majority party in the National Assembly. They provide management for Québec and draft bills that will then go through the National Assembly. The head of government in Québec is the Premier. They are “chosen by the electorate when it elects a majority of Members from the same party.”<sup>31</sup> The Premier then selects who will form their Cabinet of the Executive Council and will stay in power as they have the support of a Majority of the Members of the National Assembly.

Within Québec, there is also legal services that will serve the new government well, as they are pre-established systems in place. Currently there are judicial courts including the Court of Quebec, the Superior Court and the Court of Appeal. Under the present rules they are appointed by the Government of Quebec and Canada appoints the others. Additionally, they have the Human Rights Tribunal of Quebec, established in 1990. This was the first tribunal within Canada that specializes in human rights. They also have an administrative tribunal which settles disputes between the government and the citizens of Québec.

As Québec is divided into 17 administrative regions, public systems are integral to continued maintenance of the province and newly formed state. These systems include the extensive healthcare system that Canada established and Québec expanded upon. Within Québec, there is a universal and free healthcare system

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2013/11/14/whats-the-point-of-the-commonwealth>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.gouv.qc.ca/EN/VotreGouvernement/Pages/Accueil.aspx>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.gouv.qc.ca/EN/VotreGouvernement/Pages/Accueil.aspx>

which includes all essential medical care. The only medical care not included are certain specific treatments such as plastic surgery or alternative medicine. Integrated centers were created that united health services, social service centers and universities. With many action plans, Québec has been focusing on cancer, physical and mental disabilities and disorders, addictions and homelessness, women, domestic violence and sexual assault, and community support to name a few.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, Québec has created a social security program that has put them above other provinces in terms of health care services provided by the government to the public.

One of the larger issues this government must negotiate is the uncertain relations with Canada. As they did decide to essentially declare their independence from Canada, relations have become colder as Canada obviously did not want to lose the economy and resources that the province produced. However, despite these relations, Québec must begin negotiations on exact boundaries of the state and overall negotiations about how to proceed. Most importantly, maritime boundaries must be created on the St Lawrence river. This river runs through the center of Québec but also connects Québec with other provinces in the area. These borders must be defined so that there is no conflict between the two areas. Additionally, if there were conflict, Québec would have a serious problem as it does not have any form of military other than its policing forces. Québec produces military grade items in production facilities and has sections of the Canadian Army on reserve. However, this is all within the realm of the federal government and so is under control of Canada which Québec is now separate from. There are headquarters and regiments stationed in Montréal, Mauricie, East and West Québec and the city of Québec. This government must determine how it will defend itself or if it wishes to have an army or any other defense mechanisms. One needs to keep in mind however that an army is not always the best option, as where would Québec house the items necessary to maintain an army? Would it rather go into a coalition defense group and rely on others for its protected defense, or will it have some sort of other defense for the state?

## **Economy:**

Over the years, Québec has procured increasing amounts of debts to Canada and the public. With industry limited to the aeronautics companies, hydroelectric power and the mining companies, the provincial government must determine when and if the government will pay the debts off and how they will be paid off. Negotiations with Canada must occur even though there may be some animosity between the two governments. It is important to determine how willing Canada will be to work with Québec especially regarding their debt, trading agreements and other fiscal policies. Negotiating additional trading agreements will be paramount to provide for the success of the country. As a part of Canada, Québec enjoyed the benefits of NAFTA. However, following the retreat of the U.S. from the international economy, NAFTA did not provide as many benefits as were previously included. Québec was also a part of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which allowed Québec to access international markets. As Québec has many strong ties to France, they could decide to have stronger trading agreements with Europe and France.

This government must decide how to use their international offices. With government offices across the globe, such as Atlanta, Chicago, LA, Washington, Sao Paulo, Barcelona, London, Brussels, Munich, Paris, Rome, Beijing, Tokyo, and Shanghai, Québec has many places where they could begin to grow internationally and find international support. Additionally, they have many trading offices in Philadelphia, Berlin, and Seoul to name a few.

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/reseau/systeme-de-sante-et-de-services-sociaux-en-bref/politiques-et-plans-d-action-gouvernementaux-ou-ministeriels-en-matiere-de-sante-et-de-bien-etre/>

## Migration and Social Issues:

Social tensions have been building ever since the division of the province in 1791. Between the religious divisions within the community and the language boundaries, issues between different ethnicities, social classes - be it economic classes or language classes - will be issues that this government must take into account.

One of these issues that has been pertinent throughout the history of Québec, has been their relations with the First Nations peoples. There are many of the First Nations that live in their own regions throughout Québec. 1.67 million in Canada identify as an Aboriginal person according to the 2016 census.<sup>33</sup> There have been many agreements between the First Nations and Québec and the larger government of Canada. These agreements have been over land claims of the First Nations within Québec. One of the earlier settlements was the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. This was the first major agreement between Canada and the indigenous people, negotiated beginning in 1973 and signed in 1975. This gave the Aboriginal people special membership criteria, “control over local and regional governments, the creation of their own health and school boards, measures for the economy and community development, special regimes for police and justice and environmental protection.”<sup>34</sup> This agreement also divided lands up under the purview of the Aboriginal peoples. There have since been seven amendments, four additional agreements and in the Constitutional Act, 1982 which protected the rights of the Indigenous people. However, before these agreements, there were boards such as the Indian Acts in 1905 which gave the government easier access to expropriate the lands and later sell them. In 1991, the Prime Minister created the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples which gave the First Nations their own government and it has existed mostly peacefully since then. Although this government was created, and Canada did assist these people financially, there still remains a distinction in economic classes between the First Nations and the rest of Canada. There are higher rates of unemployment, substance abuse, health problems, homelessness, lower levels of education and higher levels of poverty all of which they have been working within their councils to resolve, but these issues require more resources than is provided, and a significant amount of time and effort. These have provided the indigenous people reason to protest and provided the base for past uprisings. The Oka Crisis in July, 1990 was a result of land disputes between Mohawk individuals and Oka in Québec. The government had approved a development on a portion of disputed land that was right across from a Mohawk cemetery. This dispute lasted 78 days and was the first major public standoff between the indigenous peoples in the region and the government. The blockade by the Mohawks was negotiated down with only one death. However, there remains strong sentiments among the people, as they were successful, but felt betrayed by their government and still have not been able to regain control of disputed lands. This crisis has also served for other activists as they were able to succeed in their demands as they successfully controlled the territory and defended it against the state’s forces, they didn’t have the support of political or economic elites, and spread their ideas of sovereignty for the First Nations.

As the Québécois have now received independence from Canada, the question has been raised about gaining independence for the First Nations, particularly in Québec. As Québec does not have as many resources to prevent this from happening, there is the issue of if the government will be able to negotiate and appease the First Nations. There are still many grievances the First Nations have, including their control over disputed land and their increased poverty in comparison to the rest of the province. Now that many have seen the success of Québec in gaining independence, what is to prevent the First Nations from following suit? This government must decide what to do with this issues of the First Nations people wanting their own sovereignty and how they will work with them in their own government.

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013791/1100100013795>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/james-bay-and-northern-quebec-agreement/>

### **Migration:**

Another issue that this government must face is the migrations of people, both into the province and out of the province. Following the widespread support and eventual success of the referendum, many English speakers and corporations made plans and began moving out of Montréal and Québec City to Toronto and other metropolitan areas outside of Québec. Québec is one of the larger provinces with an estimated population of around 8.8 million. Additionally, although they have an aging population, they are reducing their immigrations targets so they can better integrate immigrants in society, ensuring they can speak French and continue to succeed within Québec. In 2012, around 55,000 immigrants came into Québec and these numbers will likely be reduced as they want to retain the cultural heritage and French speaking majority. Will this government increase immigration into the province? Especially those who can proficiently speak French and continue the cultural traditions? In addition to these immigration questions, The government must decide how to work with those who are emigrating and leaving the province. As these English speaking corporations leave Québec, the fiscal contributions to Québec's economy could return them to an economic depression or significantly hurt the state's ability to succeed. How much migration is this new government willing to allow, both in and out of Québec as they have historically been controlling in their desire to retain their French culture and society.

### **Suppressing Violent Tensions:**

Finally, this government must address how they gained their independence and ensure that the violence and unrest that occurred with protests for sovereignty does not continue into the era of this new government. The violence within Québec City and Montréal led to the destruction of significant infrastructure, including smaller English banks and concentrated areas of waterfront properties in Montréal and the Eastern Townships of the province.<sup>35</sup> This government, in deciding whether or not to acknowledge the damage done to the anglophone community, will shape the future for the state. The resurgence of the FLQ (Front de libération du Québec) scared many, both in the English speaking and French speaking communities. As the previous killed over 160 individuals, many of them politicians, many are wondering how much they influenced the voting for secession and if they will continue to be active following the success of the referendum. Following a global trend towards active extreme parties, whether it be left or right, Québec must determine the necessary resources to deal with this group and how much it will shape the future of the state. While there has been tension about the actions of the FLQ and the individuals participating in the violent protests, there has also been a growing division between the strong catholic majority which includes about 74.6% of the population and the 3.1% of the population who practice Islam. In 2017, there was a mass shooting in Quebec City, which houses the Islamic Cultural Centre. Six were killed and nineteen were injured when a gunman fired into the crowd gathered for evening prayers. This event only increased the growing fear that many Muslim immigrants from former French colonies had. This tension between the different religions within Québec adds to the growing variations that must be navigated which make up the population of Québec.

## **Conclusion**

Québec's rich history has led it down the path for sovereignty, and in that it has succeeded. The issues that this government must navigate in order to allow Québec to thrive are vast yet can be managed with the knowledge of the past and the needs of the people. In remembering the struggles that had to be worked around, this government must work through this one last set of obstacles to provide for the future of Québec. This preliminary government, made up of cabinet members, international representatives, and important leaders will assist in determining the direction of the newly independent Québec.

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/montreal/features/livingenglish/anglophone-census-map/>

# Québec Positions

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## **Representative of the First Nations Peoples or Minister of Indigenous Services**

This Minister will aid this government in providing services and assistance to the Indigenous peoples within Québec. They have familiarity with the history and previous issues that have occurred, both between Quebec and the First Nations and Canada and the First Nations. They will represent the perspective of the Indigenous peoples in the new government and work so that they are represented and can hopefully raise the quality of living within the areas.

## **Representative to Canada**

The representative to Canada will be responsible for engaging in dialogue with Canada. They will be tasked with understanding the complex history and relationship between Québec and Canada. They will be the liaison between this government and the Canadian government, always keeping in mind what is best for the mending relationship between the governments and what is best for the future between Québec and Canada.

## **Representative to France**

The representative to France will work with the French Government to ensure that Québec has international recognition and if need be, aid from the French. They will also work to ensure that French influence is retained in Quebec. Their influence from France is shown in their desire to retain the French culture and use France as a basis for all of the new government.

## **Minister of Production and Industry**

The Minister of Production and Industry is tasked within this government to protect the industries that exist within Quebec. They will also work to increase what the province can create and expand upon the existing industries and aid Québec in producing new jobs for its population.

## **Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion**

This Minister is tasked with creating policies regarding immigration for Quebec. They will be tasked with determining what the new state's laws will be while trying to maintain the diversity that the province created. In addition, they will assist in working to create an inclusionary state. They will aid in the decisions regarding the migration of English and French speakers in and out of the province, helping to determine how this migration can influence the economy and social structures of the province.

## **Minister of Economy**

As their purview is the economy, this Minister is tasked to revitalize Quebec's economy. They will work with the corporations within Quebec to do this stabilize the economy and the state. They can set taxation amounts understand the basic level of currencies as to determine how the economy can continue to support the people.

## **Minister of Foreign Affairs**

This minister will work to expand international affairs and the diplomatic relations that Quebec currently has. They have control over the international offices across the world. They are tasked with ensuring that Quebec gains international recognition and will work to create treaties and closer ties with many nations.

### **Minister for Maritime Affairs**

This ministry oversees the maritime laws of Quebec and they will work to determine the boundaries between Quebec and Canada. They oversee the international ports in Montreal and Quebec City on the St. Lawrence River. They will work to build up Quebec's maritime influence and if potential disputes occur, this minister must work to settle these disputes.

### **Minister of Finance**

This Minister is tasked with overseeing the ministry of Finance within Québec. Following the official purpose of fostering economic development and advising this government on financial matters. Within this purpose, this Minister of Finance will advise on the budget, economic and fiscal as well as accounting matters.

### **Minister of Public Education**

This position is tasked with reforming the education system for Quebec. As the church's influence was strong in the subjects taught in school, Quebec must determine how much influence they will have. Additionally, they must determine the relationship between French and English teachings in schools. They oversee all of the public schools within Quebec until students reach University.

### **Minister of Higher and Technical Education**

The Minister of Higher Education and Technical Education oversees the schools within Quebec dealing with technical education and collegiate level education. They are familiar with the school systems and how this can help the future populations in their education levels. They have oversight of the educational services within Quebec.

### **Minister of Justice**

The Minister of Justice is responsible for the courts and the prosecutors within Québec. They technically are the Attorney General of Québec and so, ensure that the laws enacted represent the constitution and the people of Québec. This position will work to safeguard whatever laws this new government passes, and expand upon the existing constitution.

### **Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**

This Minister is tasked with overseeing the Agricultural industry within Quebec. They will work to ensure the province has food and they are providing support to the economy, ensuring the agricultural sectors are producing at their full potential. They oversee the production, processing, distribution, storage and sale of all food products.

### **Minister of Public Safety and Security**

This position is tasked with continuing the security of the people of Quebec. This includes security in the traditional sense as safety in the cities, dealing with crime. They oversee the Surete du Quebec, the police force of the province. They are tasked with enforcing the laws of Quebec and they will assist the local police when needed.

### **Minister of Social Affairs and Structures**

The Minister of Social Affairs and Structures is tasked with creating work and social security for the population of Quebec. They work to ensure that Quebec has benefits for all citizens of Quebec. They are tasked with continuing the developments of social welfare, protection and disability programs. They will be tasked with ensuring these policies and programs are implemented, both in public and private institutions.

**Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology**

This minister is tasked with the advancements of the sciences and technology within Quebec. They will work with the premier corporations to ensure that Quebec stays at the forefront of advancement. They will work to keep Quebec full of innovation and allow for the continued development of the sciences within Quebec.

**Minister of Culture and the Arts**

This minister is tasked with the protection and promotion of the French and Quebec culture and language that is present throughout the state. They must work to continue the very distinct Quebecois culture that led to where this state is now. Additionally, they must continue the promotion of the Arts and Culture within Quebec.

**Minister of International Trade**

The Minister of International Trade is responsible for finding buyers and promoting the goods and services produced within Quebec. They will work with others involved on the international stage to promote Quebec's products and extend the current influence of Quebec. They will work to negotiate trading agreements with other states and promote the interests of Quebec.

**Minister of Tourism**

This Minister is responsible for promoting tourism within Quebec and expanding the tourist industries within Quebec. They must work to keep Quebec desirable, both to the tourist industries and the tourists themselves. They must also work to bring in tourists and promote this economy while retaining and maintaining the historic qualities of Quebec and the distinct culture.

**Minister of Health**

This Minister is responsible for administering health services within Quebec. They oversee the hospitals within Quebec and work to keep the population healthy, along with staying at the forefront of innovation in the healthcare profession. They are tasked with the enactment of the healthcare policies that are decided for the population.

**Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure**

This minister oversees the current departments of transportation services and has the power of oversight of infrastructure within Quebec. They must work to rebuild and expand what currently exists within Quebec. If any disaster were to occur, they would have to quickly respond in order to deliver the services this ministry oversees. Additionally, they will be tasked to maintain and expand upon what Quebec has, ensuring that their infrastructure stays up to par with the international stage.

**Minister of the Family**

This position and ministry is tasked with the delivery of family services and development of family values and the necessities for families within Quebec. They will hope to expand these services and to continue Quebec's population growth that has been occurring. Additionally, this ministry has oversight surrounding seniors within Quebec.

**Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Fight against Climate Change**

This minister will continue the policies that were begun by Canada before separation and will work more to developing this within Quebec. They will work to promote renewable energies and develop the usage and production throughout the state. They must ensure that Quebec retains an environmental focus and promote alternative methods for development and the environment.

### **Minister of National Defense**

The minister of National Defense is tasked with the protection of the newly independent state. As Quebec's protection was previously under the Canadian Government, Quebec has become very underdeveloped in terms of their military and defense. They should work to determine what is needed to ensure the nation's defense. They do control what military Quebec has but they must also work to ensure protection within the state as well as on the international stage.

### **Minister of Energy and Natural Resources**

This ministry has oversight of the natural resources within Quebec. If the former province and now state wishes to expand upon existing resources, they must determine where and to what extent. They manage the extraction of all natural resources within Quebec which include plants, minerals, wood and other sources of energy. They ensure every citizen has access to electricity and will work to continue the existing policies.

### **Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity**

The goal of this ministry is to promote the needs of all individuals, particularly promoting employment and the needs of those who cannot provide for themselves. They will work to provide financial support for disadvantaged people within the province and aid in creating work with the growing industries within Quebec.

### **Representative from Parti Quebécois**

This representative comes from the current, largest party within the government. They will continue advocating for the issues supported within their party's platform, including maintaining sovereignty now that they have acquired independence, promoting the needs of their supporters and passing legislation that will support their party in the future. They will continue to support what they previously have, including supporting the labour movement and many of their rural voters.

### **Representative from Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ)**

The representative from CAQ is present to work for and aid the needs of the people, coming from the centre-right party. They will work to continue the nationalist policies and economically conservative policies that the CAQ has worked for in the past. They will advocate for further investment in education and a beginning of decentralization in the current healthcare system as well as continuing the party's policies.

### **Representative from Quebec Solidaire**

This representative comes from the main party supporting sovereignty in Quebec as must now determine where this party will go following the successful referendum. This member will support the policies previously set forth, including gaining more rights for aboriginals, supporting the environment and working to create better policies regarding immigration.

### **Representative from Option Nationale**

Although this party merged with Quebec Solidaire, this member still has role in the overall party as Option Nationale still has popular support and aided Quebec Solidaire in gaining seats. They will work to support other policies which have been merged between the two parties, including ensuring proportional representation in voting, social justice and other policies that have been included in their platform.

### **Representative from the Liberal Party**

The representative from the Liberal Party of Quebec is one of the few parties that supports Quebec staying within the federation of Canada. However, they push for substantial autonomy and what is best for the people of Quebec. This representative will expand upon the existing platform, believing in a strong governmental role in the economy and overall in Canada. They have strong support in the non-francophones within the country and so must work to ensure that they are still represented in this vastly French-speaking country.

### **CEO of Bombardier**

This position holds control over the Bombardier Company, one of the largest airline manufacturers in the world in addition to the production of snowmobiles and other mass transportation equipment. In Quebec, they house one of the few places in the world where and airbus can be built. Bombardier provides millions of jobs and significantly aids the economy in Quebec. They must determine the future of Bombardier in the new government and on the international stage.

### **Head of Hydro-Québec**

The CEO of Hydro-Quebec is the CEO of one of the largest, nationalized energy producers. They should work with others in the government so that the company supports the economy and produces electricity to its full capacity both in Quebec and in the surrounding areas. They must determine how the separation of Quebec from Canada will affect the future of the company.

### **Minister Responsible for Montréal**

This representative from Montreal is responsible for overseeing and coordinating governmental efforts within the city of Montreal and the surrounding area. They are here to represent the people of the region and ensure that this government is working for the people who worked to establish this new government. This Minister will work to enact the policies from the government into Monreal.

### **Minister Responsible for Quebec City**

The Minister from Quebec City is tasked with implementing and overseeing governmental policies within Quebec City and the surrounding province. They will represent the people of Quebec City, promoting local interests and the needs of the city. They will bring these needs to ensure that local individuals are being represented and their needs are being met.

### **Minister Responsible for Cote-Nord**

The Cote-Nord is one of the largest regions within Quebec by land area. The Minister from Cote-Nord will be influential in overseeing and implementing the policies that the government creates within the region of Cote-Nord. They will represent the many interests of the region, including mining, hydroelectric power and the tourism economy that supports the region. They will bring the needs of the people up to this government so that the policies created will represent the population of Quebec.