



the **Liberal
Playbook**

20
22





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MEMBERS AT THE HEART OF THE PROCESS

The steps that led to the elaboration of this Playbook began following the 2018 elections. It was at that time that the Quebec Liberal Party's National Policy Committee was given the mandate to establish editorial groups to develop content and ideas for the 2022 election.

Later, the Charter for Regions tour began, a process throughout which all manner of proposals were welcomed. This was followed by a call for flagship ideas which collected close to 1,000 suggestions and resulted in a series of thematic symposiums that were open to all members. The National Policy Committee then focused on selecting the 130 or so recommendations that were discussed under the themes: "Building, Tomorrow, Together, Everywhere, For Everyone", which was facilitated by both the Parliamentary Wing and the National Policy Committee. It was an unprecedented undertaking that was greatly appreciated by all.

All of this work led to the Members' Convention in November of 2021, during which our party's electoral program was tabled, a bold Framework Resolution drafted by the Policy Committee, supported by thousands of members' contributions! In addition to the Framework Resolution, the Quebec Liberal Party's various local, regional and national institutions also submitted close to one hundred new resolutions. This Playbook is derived from all of the proposals that were made therein. It goes without saying that its preparation led to some agonizing choices over the array of good ideas that had been advanced. This Playbook is therefore the result of member-centred labours.



A MESSAGE FROM DOMINIQUE ANGLADE PARTY LEADER

In a few weeks, we will be immersed in an election campaign that is already beginning to look like a marathon.

After a pandemic, in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine and faced with economic uncertainty, now more than ever we must present electors with clear orientations to provide our society with a much-needed dose of hope. We need to rediscover our desire to dream and be daring as we face the challenges of everyday life.

Developing an election platform is exhilarating, but it also comes with a great deal of responsibility in terms of meeting everyone's aspirations. Defining a political offer means being in constant reflection. It's about questioning yourself on a daily basis in order to find the right formula, the proper balance. We have undertaken that work with the solemnity, rigour and commitment that have been the Quebec Liberal Party's hallmark for the past 155 years.

We have travelled all across Quebec and met people from all regions and horizons. Both rooted in our liberal values and strengthened by our great achievements, this Playbook proposes an approach that is profoundly liberal, yet modernized. One that is based on the priorities that drive your daily life.

We have heard your needs for better support to cope with the rising cost of living and find adequate housing. Your desire to regain a strong economy that makes the most of all talents and all regions, while reconciling environmental protection and the fight against climate change- the challenge of the 21st century. Your desire to enjoy good health and to age with dignity. Your ambitions for your children, grandchildren and for future generations. Your deep attachment to the nation of Quebec and the French language, as well as to Canada. Your inclusive vision of Quebec, which requires proper protection for minorities. Your great respect for Indigenous communities.

To all the candidates who will don our colours, to all the supporters who will work relentlessly over the coming weeks, know that this platform is your platform. You were its architects and you will be its primary ambassadors. I am confident that you will present it to your fellow citizens with a great deal of enthusiasm. I am counting on you to use this framework to develop the regional platforms and local commitments that will become part of our vision for Quebec, which takes our regions' specificities into account.

To all Quebecers, I am eager to stand before you on October 3rd, surrounded by a strong and dedicated team. "The Playbook" is the very heart of what the Quebec Liberal Party has to offer. It is what makes us want to keep on discovering what it means to vote Liberal.

Thank you.



Dominique Anglade

Leader of the Quebec Liberal Party

MESSAGE FROM LINDA CARON

PARTY PRESIDENT

Dear Liberal Supporters,

The 2022 campaign is about to start and the stakes are high.

Today, we are unveiling the main tenets of our platform. Throughout the summer and during the campaign, you will be able to be ambassadors for Liberal commitments.

During this time of climate crisis and labour shortages, a Liberal government will take action to protect the environment while working on new economic horizons throughout all of Quebec's regions.

During this pandemic period, a Liberal government will take action to facilitate access to health care, to protect the young and not so young, no matter where they live.

During this period of inflation, a Liberal government will take action to support families, seniors and to counter violence.

During this critical period for ensuring that Quebec remains open to the world, a Liberal government will take action to protect each person's rights, while ensuring a vibrant Quebecois culture.

Our political involvement and liberal beliefs will help us to support our leader and our team of Liberal candidates all across Quebec. They need our help to form a Liberal government that will take action for what matters here and now, to ensure our children's and grandchildren's economic, political, social and environmental future.

Linda Caron
President

A MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN MARLEAU

PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

The Liberal Playbook is the result of the combined commitment of the Quebec Liberal Party's members from across the territory who participated in the numerous committees, symposiums, councils and conventions. What's more, members were able to chime in during the tours, meetings and activities aimed at developing this bold, collaborative effort of a platform.

From now on, each member can use this Playbook, either to undertake their own campaign or to support someone else's. It is a tool that will tell everyone where Quebec Liberals stand on a variety of issues.

It presents the themes that we would like to advance during the general election. As is evidenced by the plethora of proposals formulated by members over the past few years, it is fair to say that the Liberal vision reaches beyond the scope of this framework. With our program and national platform, in addition to our local campaigns, we can head into the 2022 election with confidence. Each and every one of your contributions, be they volunteerism or monetary, will make a huge difference.

Thank you to all those who have taken part in advancing bold and promising ideas within the Quebec Liberal Party. Whether on the forefront or behind the scenes, in person or virtually, you should be proud of your contributions to this democratic undertaking. You are holding the fruit of it in your hands.

Happy reading,

Jonathan Marleau « Marlot »

President of the National Policy Committee



Chapter 01

Eco Project

Quebec's economic performance has significantly accelerated since 2016. The pandemic and the many closures that ensued have slowed this momentum - a situation that is more pronounced in Quebec than in other provinces. In 2021, following the partial reopening, Quebec's economy bounced back, primarily supported by the real estate market's effervescence and increased consumer spending driven by federal financial assistance.

Unfortunately, we are currently experiencing an example of the adage "what goes up, must come down". The outlook for GDP growth is dismal for this year and the foreseeable future. It is bleaker here than elsewhere in Canada. Companies that received financial support will see an end to their assistance and will be required to reimburse the loans in the coming months. The government is already anticipating cuts to the majority of ministries and organizations.

We have to face facts- our economy is fragile. We must collectively take off our rose-coloured glasses. It is time to breathe new life into our economy and build the Quebec of tomorrow.

The Liberal Party is THE party known for major undertakings. We led the Quiet Revolution, we showcased our hydroelectricity's vast potential, we developed Northern Quebec and enhanced our maritime sector. Throughout our history, we were able to face challenges that seemed insurmountable, as we continued to develop our immense economic potential.

Today, we are faced with climate change challenges. Without strong, concrete and immediate action, the future and well-being of the next generations are at risk. Flooding, forest fires, tornadoes, shoreline erosion, droughts; natural disasters are on the rise. The climate emergency is undeniable. Reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) keep reminding us that it is happening faster than expected and the consequences are worse than anticipated.

This is the challenge that the Quebec Liberal Party of the 21st century will face with the help of the ECO Project.

ECO is a combination of economy and ecology;

ECO means \$100B in public and private investments to rethink our

economy and achieve carbon neutrality;

ECO means reaping the full benefits of our clean energy;

ECO means developing a new promising industry through green hydrogen;

ECO means ensuring that we have the water and clean energy we need to carry out this major societal project;

ECO means modernizing our transportation and our industries;

ECO means generating wealth in all of Quebec's regions.

GREEN HYDROGEN

In spite of our impressive hydroelectric resources, 55% of the energy consumed in Quebec still comes from fossil fuels– mainly oil. Our goal is to make Quebec carbon neutral by 2050. The electrification of our economy, and transportation in particular, is already underway. Technological solutions exist and will become increasingly affordable and accessible. However, electricity is not an option for several industrial processes.

For all that cannot be electrified, which according to many is approximately 10% of needs, another tailor-made solution exists for Quebec. It's a solution that was proposed by the Quebec Liberal Party in 2018: hydrogen!

The good news is that in Quebec we can produce hydrogen thanks to our hydroelectricity, as well as by enhancing our forestry and agriculture biomass. Our hydrogen is therefore "green"; it's produced from renewable sources without CO2 emissions. Because hydrogen can be transported, compressed and bottled, it is a solution to replace fossil fuels where electrification isn't possible.

With the development of the green hydrogen industry, Quebec will add value to its hydroelectricity and will position itself as a major global supplier of all types of renewable energy.

By 2050, hydrogen will represent up to 24% of the world's energy demands. According to projections, hydrogen production should be multiplied 800 times by 2050. It is a global undertaking of close to \$15 billion that is starting up with long-term sales estimated at \$700 billion. The race to green hydrogen is well underway. France and Germany will each invest \$7 billion by 2030. The European Commission is looking to generate as much as 470 billion Euros in investments by 2050 to hasten this energy shift.

We already have some interesting examples of the beginning of this shift in Quebec. Think of the Arcelor Mittal factory in Contrecoeur, which is at work to replace the use of natural gas with hydrogen. Or perhaps Consortium SAF+ which is working to develop a sustainable aircraft fuel, which will include green hydrogen.

Experts predict that the game to determine the green hydrogen leaders of tomorrow will be played out between now and 2035. From the outset, Quebec must position itself within the leading platoon. Thus, **we will establish a new State-owned corporation, Hydrogène Québec, which will be responsible for coordinating the industry's development.** It will collaborate with researchers and companies to implement the milestones that will lead us to the production and use of green hydrogen.

To ensure that Quebecers fully benefit from the resource's potential, we will **nationalize the distribution of hydrogen.** Nationalizing our hydroelectricity made Quebec a strong nation and North American energy leader. Nationalizing green hydrogen will allow us to fully resume this role as a forerunner in collaboration with local businesses.

We understand that the widespread use and export of green hydrogen won't be achieved tomorrow morning, but we aspire to it! That's why we must quickly establish the milestones on the path to that objective. Our measures to that effect will include:

- Supporting research and development of technologies here in Quebec;
- Supporting the development of industrial green hydrogen power projects;
- Promoting our agriculture and forestry biomass to be better able to use it in the production of hydrogen and biofuels;

- **Establishing strategic clusters for the development and procurement of green hydrogen.** As intermodal meeting points that intersect with maritime and/or heavy transport and rail transport, the ports will be key players;
- **Inviting all industry stakeholders to a Summit on green hydrogen.**

But, in order to produce green hydrogen, we need water and electricity, two of our most important resources in Quebec. The ECO Project is more than just hydrogen, it's also a huge undertaking that combines those two elements.

ELECTRICITY


In order to decarbonize our economy through electrification and green hydrogen, we will need a lot of green energy, close to 80% more than today's levels. At present, the supplies contracted by Hydro-Québec are sufficient to meet the needs of customers until 2026.

That's why ECO begins with an ambitious energy efficiency plan that will reduce our energy waste by two-thirds within 10 years. This represents a reduction of about 10% of Quebec's energy bill- the equivalent of twice the energy produced by the La Romaine complex.

Office buildings, homes, industrial and institutional buildings, all of these infrastructures should be models of energy efficiency. We need to renovate, redesign, re-equip. To do this, we will **modernize the Quebec Building Code to promote the use of more efficient and green materials and systems.**

We will need a robust plan for public buildings because the State must lead by example. **A major undertaking to replace systems** will be implemented to eliminate the use of fossil fuels.

The residential sector needs to do its part too. The Réno-Vert program was a simple and effective tool for facilitating the residential sector's energy transition. Abolished in 2019, the program aimed at supporting homeowners in making energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Over the years, thousands of families benefitted.

An aerial photograph of a wind farm situated in a vast, green agricultural landscape. Several white wind turbines with three blades are visible, spaced out across the fields. The fields are a mix of vibrant green and some brownish patches, possibly from different crops or soil types. A small, dense cluster of trees is visible in the middle ground. The sky is not visible, suggesting a clear or overcast day. The overall scene conveys a sense of clean energy production in a rural setting.

" Saving electricity is important,
but we also need to produce
more to be able to do so. "



**« The more it benefits Quebecers,
the more we value our water, the more we value
our water, the more it benefits Quebecers. »**



Once elected, **a Liberal government would reinstate the R no-vert program**, which is both accessible and effective. We will relax the criteria to ensure that as many homeowners as possible are able to benefit and include owners of small rental buildings or condominiums.

Saving electricity is important, but we also need to produce more to be able to do so. That is why ECO will launch a **major plan to develop new solar and wind energy capabilities**. The plan will be developed in partnership with the regions and indigenous communities. We will create a **smart electric network that will allow Quebecers** to take part in production themselves, by adding a solar panel on their roofs, for example.

WATER

Water is one of Quebec's most important resources. It is the envy of the whole planet and represents an ideal source of renewable energy in the fight against climate change. Robert Bourassa's Quebec Liberals understood that and today we are enjoying the fruit of that vision.

We are proposing a three-tiered approach to showcase our water, protect it and ensure it is carefully used. Our priorities are to ensure its quality for human consumption as well as biodiversity, and to reduce consumption. The more it benefits Quebecers, the more we value our water, the more we value our water, the more it benefits Quebecers.

A Liberal government will increase water royalties up six-fold. The industries that use our water spent close to \$3M in annual royalties while they used at least one thousand billion litres of water- the equivalent of 250,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. That's just not enough. **The sums collected through the increase in royalties will be used to support upgrading wastewater treatment systems in collaboration with municipalities and to combat invasive exotic species in our lakes.**

No water royalties are charged in the agriculture sector, for engineering works or for non-commercial and residential uses. Extending fees to these sectors would not be welcomed and would have too great a financial impact. There is, however, a need to educate everyone about their consumption. **We are therefore proposing to finance the installation of**

water meters in all non-residential buildings to reduce consumption and establish voluntary program for the agricultural sector.

One of the most concrete impacts of climate change in Quebec is the threat to riverbanks along the Saint-Lawrence. It is important to redouble our efforts to protect them, especially in Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands. Shoreline erosion is a complex phenomenon that can have several causes: high water, ice and waves due to wind or shipping, and current. The more time we take to intervene, the bigger the investments will have to be. We need to act now. The Quebec Liberal Party will implement **regional strategies to prevent shoreline erosion**. This work must take into account the different realities of each of our regions. We will also work to develop a **plan for better access to waterways, including the Saint-Lawrence River**.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEED TO TRANSFORM OUR ECONOMY

Human nature does not like change. We will need to underscore the importance of science in our society's choices, as well as demonstrate the inherent potential in the proposed ways of doing things.

A major tour will be organized in each of the regions in order to speak to government stakeholders and the general public about the importance of taking swift action in this transition. The tour would allow us to gather ideas for enhancing the ECO Project, as well as ensure that the project is adapted to different regional realities.

To ensure that our young people are also aware of this new reality and can see the opportunities it presents, we will support the deployment of **more specific educational projects focused on science**. We want to see more "science studies" programs so that we can awaken young people's interest in the major challenge of fighting climate change and develop a better sustained thirst for careers in the sciences.

Finally, **we will work with the vocational training sector, the college sector, particularly the Centres Collégiaux de Transfert des Technologies (CCTT), and the university sector to ensure that we meet all regions' training needs in related fields**. We need a qualified workforce to carry out the ECO Project.



Chapter 02

Health and social services

Everyone wants to live healthy lives and age well. It is completely normal to want a check up and to receive care when necessary, because being in good health allows us to really enjoy life.

Our health and social services system isn't perfect. That being said, we believe that we should do all that we can to provide the population with the care and services to which they are entitled. With more than half of our spending budget dedicated to health care, it makes sense that our expectations are high.

PRIMARY CARE

One of the population's most common criticisms of the health care system is the difficulty to access care for minor health concerns- a child's ear infection, diabetes monitoring or a prescription renewal, for example. These fall under what we call primary care.

Approximately 1 million people are looking for a family physician, that's twice the number from 2018. The enrollment rate among family physicians is at its lowest level in the last 4 years after having grown significantly in the 3 years before that. Access to a walk-in clinic now requires an appointment. A third of superclinics, which are open 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, have referred their services elsewhere. The CAQ government is no longer aiming to provide the population with a family doctor and is betting on a telephone system which, in reality, is a walk-in service. In short, there are no more solutions for families who, for a lack of alternatives, are all too often forced to turn to hospital emergency rooms. What's more, average emergency room wait times have increased by more than 3 hours since 2018, undoing all the progress that had been made. There are fewer and fewer sustainable solutions and families are tired of waiting.

With an ageing population and an increase in the prevalence of chronic illnesses, we find ourselves at a turning point. We cannot go back twenty years to a model based on walk-in consults. We need to prioritize a real patient care approach offered by family physicians that is supported by other health care professionals who are members of a global team. The science is clear: a person's overall care is an important key to preventing health issues and recovering effectively from them. That is why

we are committed to **offering a family physician to all Quebecers who want one.**

We believe that people have the right to a family doctor and that we have to get back to work to achieve that. Why are we insisting on family doctors? Because receiving global care throughout one's life helps to prevent illnesses and also avoids hospitalizations. It's good for patients and it's good for the system. It's a challenge, but we're not giving up on the million patients who are waiting.

That said, the importance of the global care offered by a family physician does not diminish the importance of other health professionals, on the contrary. The family physician needs to be the pivot in an interdisciplinary team where each person participates by executing the tasks for which they were trained. Having a family doctor does not always mean seeing one's family doctor. Once a diagnosis has been made, a pharmacist might be involved to follow through on medication and dosage. Sometimes we might need to see a social worker or a nurse. But, when necessary, the doctor is there and keeps an eye on patients' overall health.

This reality is even more true for people who suffer from chronic illnesses and mental health problems. According to recent studies by the INSPQ, close to 1 out of every 5 adults and 1 out of every 2 seniors live with at least two chronic illnesses. We cannot leave these people without personalized care follow-ups. That is why **people with chronic illnesses, seniors and those with mental health issues will receive priority access to a family physician.**

To achieve this will require a real shift in the way that medical clinics are managed. Currently, the majority of family physicians work in family medicine groups (FMG), of which there are 3 types: regular FMGs; superclinics, which are FMGs with additional services, and university FMGs, which are also places where future doctors are trained. These clinics operate in accordance with regulations that are predetermined by the government and they receive operating funding and staff to support the physicians.

The goal of establishing FMGs some twenty years ago was to offer everyone a single point of service for a medical consultation, a blood test, or for validating lifestyle habits with a nutritionist, for example. What we hope for is to return to the essence of this model while better adapting



it to 21st-century realities. First of all, in order for it to truly reflect the interdisciplinary work that needs to be done, we will **rename all types of FMGs and call them Healthcare Access Teams**. This change is not just cosmetic; it serves to underscore the importance of the entire team in the overall health care offered to the population.

We must also take a look at care teams' composition. We will **add at least one specialized nurse practitioner (SNP) in each FMG and review the physician-caregiver ratio** to make sure that they respond better to local realities and interdisciplinary objectives. **The regulations governing the management of these clinics will also be relaxed** so care initiatives can emerge and **foster interactions with CLSCs**. **The administrative burden borne by all of the care team will be re-evaluated** to ensure that as much time as possible can be dedicated to care, while still digitally collating the relevant data for necessary follow-ups.

But to ensure that our teamwork goals are truly met, we need to do even more. **Healthcare Access Teams within a given region will have a territorial responsibility** to the population and will have to work together as required to distribute the work in order to eliminate their region's wait list. In conjunction with FMGs we will also establish **progressive targets to eliminate wait lists in each region**. **Financial incentives will be provided to Healthcare Access Teams that exceed the set objectives** based on the number of patients enrolled and their regional platform wait list for access to a family physician. These incentives could be used to establish pilot projects or purchase new technological materials, for example. It will serve to support local innovation, not medical remuneration.

We must also need to **adapt Teams' funding methods to require interdisciplinary work**. Interdisciplinarity doesn't mean an array of professionals who work independently in the same office. It is even less so physicians who delegate work they don't want to do to other professionals. Interdisciplinarity means professionals who share tasks according to their particular skill sets.

We also believe that we need to undertake a **real reflection with the medical federations to assess the work of family physicians within hospital activities**, namely specific medical activities (AMPs). In Quebec, their participation is even more important than it is elsewhere, so it's legitimate to question the relevance of them spending so much time on these

activities when we want to promote better care. We must also **ensure a fairer distribution of family physicians throughout the territory.**

With this reorganization and better distribution of tasks, **we will aim to increase the number of Healthcare Access Teams in Quebec so that we reach a total of 400 across Quebec. We will also work to ensure that 100 of those Teams are superclinics** which are open 7 days a week, 12 hours a day. With their extended hours, superclinics represent an interesting means of deviating patients from emergency rooms.

Sure, having a point of service is good, but it's the 21st century. We need to facilitate exchanges between patients and the team of professionals that care for them. That is why we will **create an app so that patients can interact with the professionals from their Healthcare Access Teams as well as have access to health care information at their fingertips.** This app will be easy to use and free for everyone. It won't replace in-person contact, but it will make written communication with team members possible, as well as provide access to appointments and remote consultations. It will also be a place for people to find information about their health, general health information and self-care guides.

The whole reorganization will make it possible to **advance a more global, prevention-based approach**, which, in the long run, will decrease pressure on primary care services.

SPECIALIZED CARE

- A significant number of Quebecers have significant health concerns, but waiting lists have exploded in the last 3 years. To decrease the risks to patients, everything must be realigned.
- After the CAQ's load shedding, the Liberal Party will propose a comprehensive catch up which would be divided into two parts:
- A blitz of diagnostic evaluations ; for example, colon, lung and cervical cancer
- Catching up on surgeries, particularly those for cancer patients and in orthopedics.

To achieve this, we first need to increase the health care network's capacity. **To do so, we will add \$6B of investments in the network's infrastructures, including 4,000 additional beds.** Quebec currently has 1.8 beds for each bed for million residents. Given the projects currently underway, these investments will allow us to return to a level that is comparable to Canada and the rest of the G7. Adding beds is a medium-term solution. We therefore need to increase our short-term capacity. **We will enter into agreements with as many private clinics as possible so that they can serve as other means of taking on patients from the health care network. That way, patients could be treated in these clinics more quickly and free of charge.**

We also need to improve transparency when it comes to cancer data using the **Cancer Registry, which will undergo enhancements.** We will develop a real strategy. Finally, **we will facilitate tissue and organ donation.** To do this, we will introduce a presumption of consent after death.

So that these efforts translate into additional care for patients, we need to make progress when it comes to the workforce. It isn't a simple issue, but it needs to be handled in a serious manner that takes several aspects into consideration, including through:

Putting an end to mandatory overtime;

- **Ensuring better working conditions for nurses by implementing safer staff/patient ratios;**
- **Increasing the number of registrations in nursing and medicine, especially in the regions;**
- **Tripling the number of SNPs in the network by 2030;**
- **Accelerate obtaining Quebec's Certificats de Sélection (CSQ) for Quebec's temporary foreign workers and international students in the health and social services sector;**
- **Deploying a recruitment campaign in other provinces to attract trained staff;**

- Coordinating an international offensive for particularly in-demand employment sectors, namely anesthesiologists, institutional pharmacists, respiratory therapists and nurses;
- Working to accelerate the recognition of foreign diplomas.

ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES NETWORK

The organization of the health and social services network gets a lot of press. Some think that it is too centralized. Others think it performs well. Some want to go back to what was, others still want to import models from elsewhere. In short, there isn't any consensus on the best way to organize the public health network.

After years of reforms and the huge upheaval that was the pandemic, we don't believe that undertaking a major overhaul of structures and affecting staff's daily work is the right answer. Teams and administrations have experienced so much adaptation. We need to give them breathing room. We would focus instead on making adjustments to the solid aspects of our existing organization to generate more local accountability.

The creation of the CISSS and CIUSSS sought to simplify access to care and services, particularly through abolishing a level of administration and ensuring a better continuum of care for patients' needs. In certain regards, this model actually performed really well. Think, for example, of the coordination behind the screening and vaccination campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic– they would have been so much more difficult to organize otherwise. However, after 7 years in operation, one main criticism persists; the issue of centralization. While the objective was to provide regional establishments with greater autonomy, it is clear that this is not always the perception. We must ensure more adaptability for local needs.

First, to ensure a better representation of the establishments' realities in all of the territories, we will **amend the composition of establishments' boards of directors so that each sub-territory has a member to represent it.** Also, one of the independent members must be a patient partner so that users' concerns are better heard.

To ensure greater accountability among establishments, **we will require boards of directors to hold 4 public meetings per year.** At the moment, only one is required, which is clearly insufficient for providing the population with a detailed account.

Each establishment must be required to have **Permanent Citizen Forums** to support the board of administration in all of its major projects.

We believe that we should move towards a **depolitization of the health care system.** We will start by ensuring total independence for the National Public Health Directorate. But, like some systems, such as Alberta, we believe that the Ministry of Health should serve to establish major orientations. The in-the-field parts of the health care system, namely the CISSS, CIUSSS and the University Health and Social Services network must have **more responsibilities and latitude in the development of care trajectories and organization.**

To improve network management, we also need to complete the digital transformation. Having access to the right data at the right time is so necessary when it comes to making appropriate decisions and measuring results. The last 4 years did not significantly improve that aspect of the network. We will **accelerate establishments' digital shift.**

Finally, to avoid reliving the challenges we faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, we will launch a public inquiry commission on the management of the pandemic and establish the **COVIE-19 unit** to protect ourselves against similar situations in the future. We can no longer manage a pandemic on a weekly basis, closures and reopenings, unexplained load shedding, all of which without having all of the public health directorate's opinions. There's no room for improvisation anymore. The COVIE-19 unit will be supported by a committee of experts.

SENIORS

Our population is ageing at an accelerated rate. In 2011, those 65 and up represented 16% of the population. That number reached 19% in 2020 and is expected to peak at 26% by 2031. We must prepare ourselves if we want to be able to age with dignity.





Public debate is focused on seniors living in long-term health-care facilities (CHSLDs). That makes sense as those are the most vulnerable seniors and they deserve special attention. The hecatomb in CHSLDs during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic showed us how important it is to further strengthen the care that is offered to them. With that in mind, we are committed to: **Ensuring safer staff-patient ratios in all CHSLDs;**

Training twice as many geriatricians to better meet seniors' needs;

Deploying institutional pharmacists in all CHSLDs to help take care of the seniors who reside there and ensure that their medication is well adjusted and safe.

While some 35,000 seniors live in CHSLDs, Quebec has over 1.75 million people aged 65 and up. Active seniors who are living at home are worthy of our time and interest too. Some are active and others have more extensive needs. But for a significant portion, maintaining their homes on a fixed revenue while facing evolving needs presents a challenge. We at the QLP believe that the best seniors' home is their own home. We must therefore provide them with more resources so that they can grow older more gracefully and in their own home. To achieve this, we will:

- **Introduce a seniors' benefit of \$2,000 per year to support each person aged 70 and up who wants to remain in their own home;**
- **Deploying home intensive care units in all of Quebec's regions, with the appropriate technological tools;**
- **Providing better funding for community organization who work with seniors in their own homes.**

MENTAL HEALTH

As a society we have avoided talking openly about mental health for far too long. Taboos took over and mental health didn't get the attention it deserved. Despite several initiatives having been undertaken in the past few years, there is still so much work to be done, especially considering the 20,000 people currently waiting for mental health care.

It is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to increasing psychological stress and mental health issues by and large. We will only learn of the full impacts in years to come, but with growing waiting lists, the high cost of private services and workforce shortages, we find ourselves at a crossroads. We need to make sure that the COVID-19 pandemic isn't followed by a mental health pandemic.

Given this, a Liberal government would:

- **Establish a public psychotherapy program to ensure universal access;**
- **Ensure that CLSC workers are better able to contribute to the development of mental health care solutions;**
- **Ensure better funding for community organizations in the mental health care sector;**
- **Undertake an emergency outreach plan through social and traditional media to promote positive measures, prevention and the various available services.**

YOUTH PROTECTION

Everyone in Quebec was affected by the sad story of the little girl from Granby. In the wake of the tragedy, on May 30, 2019, the government established an inquiry commission, the Special Commission on Children's Rights and Youth Protection, which was composed of MNAs from all parties represented at the National Assembly. Ms. Hélène David represented the Liberal Parliamentary Wing during this important exercise.

Pursuant to public consultations held throughout Quebec and as a means of following up on several meetings and exchanges, the Commission tabled its report on April 27, 2021. To this day, the Commission's comprehensive recommendations have not all been implemented by the government.

The Liberal Party believes that this report should be given the credit it is due. That is why **we are committed to implementing all of the**





recommendations from the Special Commission on Children's Rights and Youth Protection. Once we take power, we will table a calendar for implementing the recommendations and we will ensure that the necessary resources are available to fulfill them, including improving working conditions for youth protection staff.

SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

We must take action once and for all to ensure that members of the First Nations and Inuit Peoples have health care and social services that are adapted to their realities. The devastating circumstances surrounding Joyce Echaquan's death shook each and every one of us. The measures that followed are taking a long time to enter into force, and this in spite of the publication of Joyce's Principle by the Atikamekw Nation Council.

Joyce's Principle seeks to guarantee all Indigenous people equal access, without discrimination, to all health and social services, as well as the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Joyce's Principle requires mandatory recognition of and respect for Indigenous traditional and living health knowledge and skills.

More broadly, we want to listen to indigenous peoples and have action-focused dialogue. Indeed, while Joyce Echaquan's death sent shockwaves through the health care system, decisions had been emerging for some time without being properly listened to or taken seriously enough. We can and must do.

That is why the **Liberal Party is committed to implementing Joyce's Principle and to working with the whole health and social services network to eradicate racism.**



Chapter 03

Families

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Supporting families is about accompanying them in all facets of their daily lives, which includes finances, as well as the services that are available to them. During this post-pandemic period, marked by a significant increase in the cost of living, we need a government that is there for families in an effective and humane manner.

LIMIT THE IMPACTS OF THE RISING COST OF LIVING

Inflation is on the rise throughout the world, including in Canada. Quebec is not immune to this phenomenon, with a rate of 5.4% as of April 2022. But what does it mean? It's simple: when inflation rates rise, prices increase and consequently the cost-of-living increases. We all pay more for the goods that we need, the gas we put in our cars, electricity, our rent or our homes.

Unfortunately, there is no miracle cure to fight inflation. It is a difficult economic cycle what we all have to face together. That being said, we at the Liberal Party believe that the State has a duty to help Quebecers face the challenge. We want to offer a helping hand that will make it a little bit easier to get through this difficult period.

As a means of supporting the population during an inflationary period, the State can take quick action on the cost of the services that it charges to the population, the taxes it imposes and the income taxes it levies. In such circumstances, effective action is needed to have the greatest possible impact for families.

That is why we will:

- **Lower income taxes for the middle class.** In the interest of fairness, this income tax reduction will be accompanied by a tax increase for the very wealthy;
- **Freeze electricity rates** while we implement an independent rate-setting mechanism rather than linking rates to inflation as the current government has done;

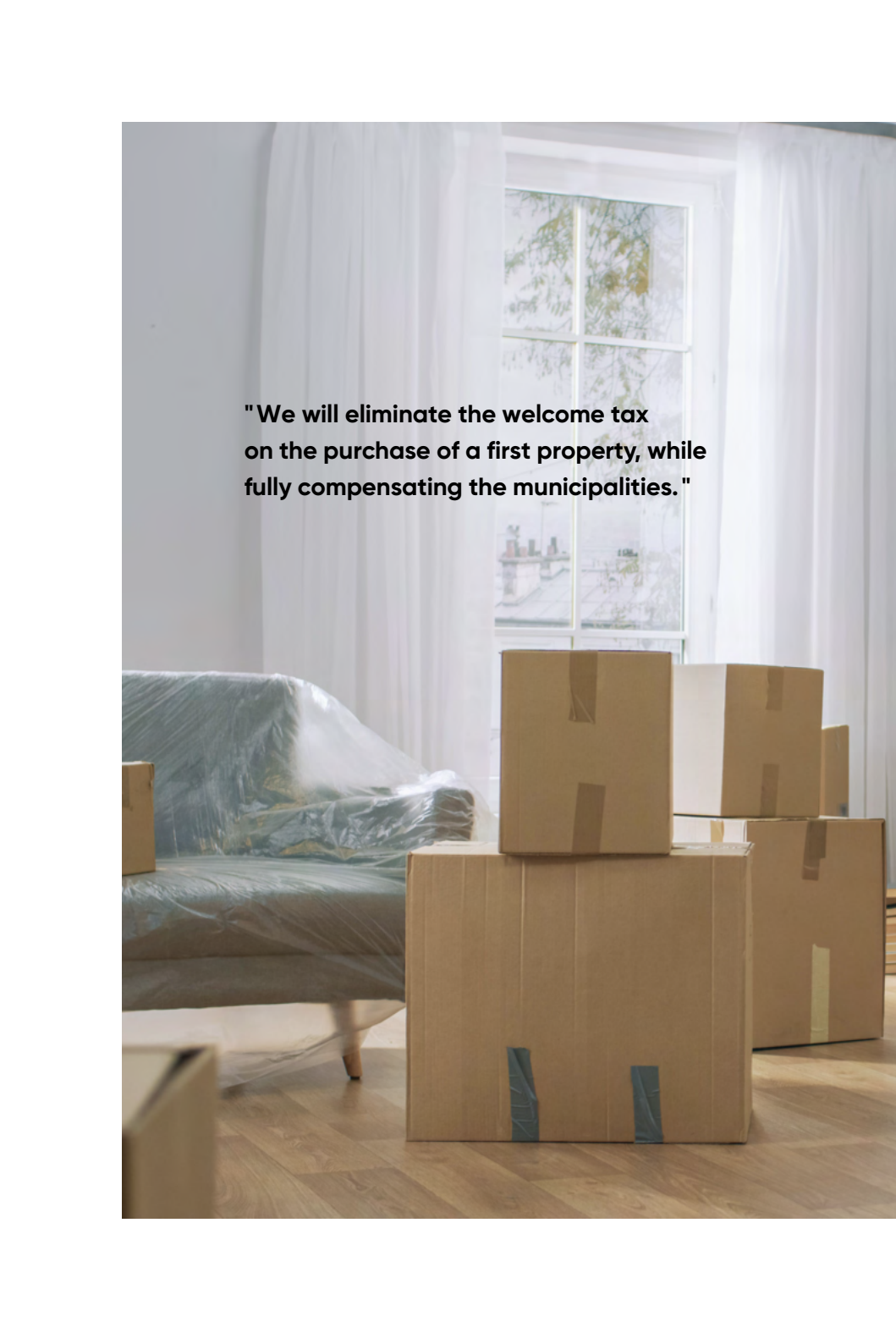
- **Stop charging sales tax (QST) on electricity**, until the new rate setting mechanism has been implemented;
- **Remove the QST on all basic necessity products**, for example toothbrushes, toothpaste, bodywash, shampoo, over-the-counter medications.

Having a roof over one's head is essential to everyone's life. The current, unprecedented housing crisis is affecting all of Quebec's regions. Vacancy rates are at record lows. Families are struggling to find an apartment. Social housing availability is not able to keep up with demand. Single family home prices are peaking with a median price of \$415,000 in April 2022.

In order to face this reality, we need a **real housing strategy** that addresses all facets: access to property, access for affordable housing and access to social housing. There needs to be a balance of measures that supports people and stimulates increased supply.

As part of our housing strategy, we will:

- **Promote access to property by:**
 - **Eliminating the welcome tax on the purchase of a first property**, while fully compensating the municipalities;
 - **Enhancing the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP)** by increasing the eligible amount to \$50,000 and by providing more flexibility to allow it to be used more easily for the purchase of a second property or for major renovations such as conversion to a bi-generational home and by allowing parents to contribute;
 - **Establishing a policy to regulate house flipping to limit overpricing on renovated properties.**
- **Ensure better access to affordable housing by:**
 - Granting municipalities a first right of refusal;

A photograph of a room during a move. A sofa is covered in clear plastic. Several large cardboard boxes are stacked on a wooden floor. A window with white curtains is in the background, showing a view of trees and a building.

**"We will eliminate the welcome tax
on the purchase of a first property, while
fully compensating the municipalities."**



- **Taxing vacant properties that are owned by non-residents** so that they return to the rental market;
- **Allowing municipalities with fewer than 100,000 residents to offer financial incentives for the construction of affordable housing and homes;**
- **Identifying State-owned lands that could be used to create affordable housing** and working with the Société d'Habitation du Québec and the municipalities in question to support projects' development;
- **Supporting decontamination of lands that can be used for building affordable housing;**
- **Promoting the conversion of office spaces vacated through the hybrid working model into affordable housing;**
- **Requiring more transparency from property owners** regarding the cost of the previous lease when they advertise for a rental unit;
- **Modernizing the Accès-Logis Program to include a regional dimension for student housing, for private seniors' homes and housing for the homeless;**
- **Involving municipalities further upstream when regional public infrastructure projects are developed** so that we can better anticipate the housing needs that ensue.
- **Increase the supply of social housing by deploying an enhanced year investment plan to build 50,000 new units.**

Moreover, in an inflationary period, it is of the utmost importance to support the most vulnerable among us. With that in mind, we will introduce an anti-inflation benefit. We will also **work to ensure increased and more predictable support for community organizations.**

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Quebec's child care services network has proven its worth over time, among others by allowing thousands of parents, particularly women, to reintegrate the workforce after having children. Despite all that, families still have difficulties finding a space, especially in a subsidized environment. The situation has deteriorated since 2018. Quebec has now reached a new record with close to 52,000 children waiting for a place, that's 10,000 more than there were in 2018. On the whole, given the closure of child care spaces, there have not been significant increases to the overall number of places over the past 4 years.

There is an anxious family behind each child waiting for a space. There are parents who cannot return to the workforce. That is why all children in Quebec should have access to child care services, regardless of their region or their parents' incomes. We would never allow a 6-year-old child to be on a waiting list to attend school, so the same principle should apply to child care services. **We will therefore make sure that access to child care services is an unconditional right.** The government must make an obligation of providing child care spaces and do everything in its power to fulfill that obligation.

What would that do? We must **complete the child-care network over a 5-year period** so that children on wait lists all have a space, including through prioritizing nursery spaces (0-18 months) and workplace childcare.

Moreover, we must ensure that parents' revenues are not an obstacle to access. We will convert non-subsidized spaces into subsidized ones. That way, **all Quebec parents will ultimately pay the same \$8.70 daily fee, which will be indexable on an annual basis.**

This huge undertaking, while necessary, will take time. Therefore, until it has been completed, we must do everything we can to offer our support to families who do not yet have child care. The vast majority are parents of nursery-aged children who need to go back to work after parental leave. To improve the situation, we propose to **extend parental leave for an additional 6-month period for parents who are looking for a space in child care but are not able to find one.**

Most parents choose to use parental leave for a 12-month period.

Essentially, one of the parents, often the mothers, are not able to return to work once the parental leave has come to an end because there are no childcare spaces available. They must therefore postpone their return to the labour market, without having a source of income. Extending parental leave might help them pay their bills.

EDUCATION

Education is the wealth of a population. It is an essential element that allows each person to develop to their full potential. Unfortunately, the past 4 years have been very hard on students, their parents and school staff. The lack of leadership led to a deplorable track record. We all know a young person who has had difficulty finding motivation while learning remotely.

We need to do a better job of fostering student retention and academic success. Thus, a Quebec Liberal Government will:

- **Offer free access to a specific pedagogical project in public schools,** for example a particular concentration or sports-study program, up to a maximum of \$5000;
- **Make the tutoring program permanent;**
- **Introduce an income tax credit of up to \$500 to help families cover costs associated with academic success,** for example to cover speech therapy or tutoring fees when such services are not offered by the school;
- **Abolish lunch-time child care costs in public elementary schools,** with compensation for school boards and school service centres.

With such measures, we will increase all children's chance of success, while forming citizens who are better prepared to face current challenges. We will make public school truly public, while allowing students and parents to opt for private school.

There is another important part of promoting academic success ; the learning environment. In 2017, the Liberal Party launched the LabÉcole project to review the way we build new schools. While our new schools are modern, there is still much to be done to ensure that our young people and school staff are in the best possible learning environments. Beyond design, there are important issues of space, environmental quality and modernization.

We will deploy **a major undertaking to upgrade our primary and secondary schools.**

\$4B will be added to the planned investments in our school infrastructures. Why ? Because education is a real priority for us. Our young people are our future : we must redouble our efforts to offer them what's best. The money will be used to **hasten the construction of new schools to better meet the demands of growing sectors, as well as for expansion projects in schools that have urgent needs in order to better adapt school environments to the realities of both our young people and the staff.**

Furthermore, the pandemic has shown us that we can do better to ensure safety and security in schools. That is why we will **use a portion of that money to launch a comprehensive air quality improvement initiative in our schools.** This project will be accompanied by the establishment of clearer standards and implementation monitoring.

At the same time, schools and students need staff to operate effectively and successfully. The education sector has not been spared by the labour shortages affecting Quebec. We must therefore act quickly to **increase the number of teachers, including through facilitating access to qualifying masters' degrees.** We will also work with school service centres and school boards to establish the number of professionals they need in each category and we will **promote training among these professionals** to meet current needs.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The development of the CEGEP and University network has allowed Quebecers to develop and has allowed our economy to innovate and

evolve. These networks are unfortunately all too often taken for granted. And yet their role is essential throughout Quebec. We need to reflect on all of the higher education network's contributions as we experience generalized workforce shortages. That is why the **Quebec Liberal Party will continue to promote the development of higher education clusters in the regions**, including through the development of exclusive programs outside of major centres. This is necessary so that we have a more balanced labour pool throughout Quebec, but also for our regions' vitality. We need to provide CEGEPs with **additional flexibility to develop their own course offerings** so that they can attract more students, while maintaining their pre-university training offer.

But one thing is sure: in the coming years the number of students in CEGEPs will increase, without the infrastructures having been sufficiently adapted to that reality. We need to offer CEGEPs a helping hand so that they are able to adequately welcome students. That is why we will make sure **to upgrade the infrastructure according to real needs** to accommodate the students. We cannot afford to relive experiences like that at Dawson College where a necessary project was cancelled for political considerations despite the needs being well known. We will **work with Dawson College to get the expansion project back on track**.

The government's decisions over the last few months have really tested our CEGEPs. The government went too far as part of linguistic divisions within the population, which we believe was unhealthy. A Liberal government will give students back the possibility for choosing their CEGEP, **regardless of their language**. We will ensure that the measures aimed at improving knowledge of French among students in English-language CEGEPs do not hinder their success.

We have to better support certain categories of students in the pursuit of their studies. The Perspective grant program which was announced by the government was meant to be a lever but it is clear that, despite its intentions, the program is poorly targeted and does not meet its objectives. **We are committed to reviewing the Perspective bursary program** with college and university stakeholders, as well as with student associations to find a formula that generates more consensus. Access to masters and doctoral programs also needs to be facilitated. That is why



we will work to **increase the number of bursaries available to support these students through the Fonds de recherche du Québec.**

The challenges are different for universities, but they are just as important. We understand that university funding remains an issue. We don't believe that students need to pay the price through their tuition fees. However, we want to work with **rectors to find solutions to funding concerns**, in particular to ensure the energy transition transformation of their infrastructures.

Finally, in order to support Quebec's female students, **we will make menstrual products free on all CEGEP and university campuses.**

YOUNG PEOPLE AND HEALTHY LIVING

The pandemic was very hard on young people, leaving them cut off from their friends, activities and schools. The result was that many of them lost their motivation and became isolated. The use of antidepressants is on the rise. According to a recent study, 48% of young people between the ages of 12 and 25 are currently reporting symptoms compatible with generalized anxiety disorder or major depression.

To fight sedentarization among our youth, we need to encourage them to move more. The prevalence of obesity has skyrocketed in the past 30 years. We therefore have to take preventive action to improve the outcome. Why? Because everyone's physical and mental health is at stake. **We will have a real Minister of Sports and Recreation** who will be able to give it all the attention it deserves.

The earlier we integrate healthy lifestyle habits into our daily lives, the more likely it is that those habits will last a lifetime. We need to encourage young people to get moving and play sports for fun. We will aim for **all elementary school students to move for 1 hour each day.**

However, the fees associated with participating in these activities can be too much for families. We believe that it is time to review the government assistance that is made available. There is currently an income tax credit, but it only applies to registering for activities and is capped at \$500. We



will **double the amount of the refundable tax credit for registration for physical, artistic, cultural or recreational activities and extend it to all expenses related to practising activities**, for example the equipment purchases or competition fees **so that parents can receive up to \$1000 per child**. It should also be recalled that the free special educational projects in public schools will encourage the practice of sports and activities.

We will also work with various sports associations and municipalities to decrease sporting activities' registration costs in underprivileged areas. Sports break down social barriers. They allow us to work together towards the same goal: having fun and socializing.

Our major school infrastructure project will enable us to **provide all interested schools with a gymnasium**. Because yes, here in Quebec there are still schools without the gymnasiums they need. It's just nonsense. We will also support sports infrastructure projects by opening a new call for projects within the **Financial assistance for recreational and sports infrastructures**. To ensure that practising sports becomes safer, we will introduce two initiatives, namely:

- **A concussion registry – the Pass-sport;**
- **Prohibiting fighting in sports for those 18 and under.**

JUSTICE

We must place a greater emphasis on justice. Why? Because in reality, access to the judicial system is not really equitable; it varies according to revenue. We have a duty to work relentlessly to make our justice system fairer. To do this, the Quebec Liberal Party proposes to:

- **Improve eligibility thresholds for legal aid;**
- **Increase the threshold for Small Claims Court to \$15,000 to \$25,000;**
- **Improve access to the concept of legal advice by creating local justice centres in all of Quebec's regions and community organizations;**

- **Implement mental health and substance abuse assistance programs in all judicial districts to efficiently treat these kinds of files;**
- **Address once and for all the issue of access to justice in the North, especially for indigenous communities.**

Aiming for a fair justice system for all is also about ensuring respect for the fundamental right to be tried in English or in French. While French is Quebec's official language, it is very important to respect the powers of the Chief Justice of the Court of Quebec by allowing them to decide whether judges, if appointed, must speak French and English. Imposing the selection of only French-speaking judges interferes with the court's functioning. The court is itself able to determine its needs to ensure that all are judged fairly and in a timely manner. Thus, the Quebec Liberal Party will **give the magistrature back the power to name judges in accordance with its needs.**

The modernization and digitization of our justice system are also necessary to reduce delays and restore Quebecers' confidence. Work has already been launched, notably in 2016, under major investments, but the pandemic has forced us to accelerate the process. **We will accelerate the transition to modern technologies that will facilitate the administration of justice.** But to address the issue of delay, we must **ensure that we have the necessary human resources in the courthouses as well as in the Office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions.**

We must **move forward with a complete reform of family law.** The rules that currently govern family law are outdated and poorly adapted to realities of today's families. Yet, very little has changed since the Roy report was tabled in 2015 and the current government's bill only covers a portion of the themes addressed therein. We must act quickly. We are committed to completing all of the anticipated reforms by 2024.

Finally, we will **amend the Victims of Crime Act to include a retroactive clause for victims of crimes against the person, for example sexual exploitation.** While the financial and psychological assistance offered by the compensation plan to the victims of criminal offences has been expanded, the expansion only applies to victims of criminal offences whose documents were filed after the Act was amended in October

of 2021. There cannot be two classes of victims, those before the amendments without support and those after who do receive support.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Over the past few years, Quebec has been greatly sensitized to the issues of sexual and domestic violence. Too often avoided, the issues were pushed to the forefront notably by the #metoo movement and the pandemic.

The collective awakening led to the 2019 establishment of a transpartisan committee composed of elected officials from all the political parties represented at the National Assembly in an effort to find solutions to counter these phenomena, prevent them and facilitate reparations to victims. This initiative was followed by the creation of an expert committee. Ms. H       David and Ms. Isabelle Melan       have successively represented our party during this exercise. The *Reb       la Confiance* report was published in December of 2020 and contains 190 recommendations.

The Quebec Liberal Party supports this report. We acknowledge that some progress has been made, including with the creation of a specialized tribunal for sexual and domestic violence, but it is not enough. We must act on prevention, awareness, support and coordination. **To do so, we are committed to implementing all of the recommendations from the *Reb       la Confiance* report.**

Some recommendations should be implemented as a priority to ensure better government coordination. Establishing a real secretariat that will accompany the appointment of a Minister for the Status of Women who would not only have the time to tackle the issues, but also the necessary clout and the government's ear. Introducing a genuine integrated services centre for victims and increased protection for children involved, better coordination of efforts with men's groups and community support will be among a Liberal government's actions.

GUN VIOLENCE

The rise in gun violence is alarming. Shootings are increasing everywhere. An issue that seemed limited to Montreal is now extending outside of the metropolis. On several occasions, the Liberal Party has asked for a special police force to fight this phenomenon. The government acquiesced to our demands and established operation CENTAURE.

But it is not only about repression, it's about prevention too. Thus, **for every dollar that is invested in Operation CENTAURE we are committed to investing one dollar to support community organizations that work in prevention.**

PEOPLE LIVING WITH A HANDICAP OR ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

People living with a handicap on the autism spectrum have to face challenges on a day-to-day basis, whether regarding being accompanied to school, the post-schooling transition, housing, etc. and we want to offer them the best opportunities to reach their full potential. While Quebecers have demonstrated significant openness in recent years, there is still more work to be done.

First of all, we believe that the government apparatus needs to be better adapted for more concerted decision-making. Many ministries share responsibilities that have an impact on the daily lives of these people. We want to create a **Secretariat for Persons Living with a Handicap or on the Autism Spectrum**, like those that exist for other sectors like Youth or Indigenous Affairs, for which there would be a dedicated minister. In addition to ensuring better coordination of the various services offered to people with handicaps, an entity such as this would provide them with a genuine voice within cabinet, which would be a wonderful step forward.

Next, we need to ensure an easier transition to adulthood. On several occasions over the past 4 years, Ms. Jennifer Maccarone asked for a parliamentary committee to be held on the issue. Despite support from the sector, the government never followed up on the request. Within the first

**"The secretariat would develop
a new internship program
that would include wage subsidies."**

100 days of a Liberal government, we will organize a committee of experts and parliamentarians to **develop a roadmap which will allow us to better support these young people in their transition to adulthood and onward to their golden years**. This commission will be mandated with consulting and making recommendations.

We must also see to improving access to the labour market for people with handicaps and on the autism spectrum. But to do this, we need to support businesses. The secretariat would **develop a new internship program that would include wage subsidies** thereby allowing more companies to integrate people living with a handicap or on the autism spectrum within their workforce.

Finally, we are committed to issuing an **identification card with an official photo for people who do not hold a driver's licence**. Several people with handicaps or on the autism spectrum do not have a driver's licence and as such there are sometimes circumstances under which they have difficulty providing a means of identifying themselves. Quebec is the only province that does not offer this type of personal identification which would also be quite useful for many senior citizens.



Chapter 04

Promoting our regions' economic development

Our daily lives and our long-term ambitions both benefit from a strong economy and well-managed public finances. They allow us to imagine a better future, deploy social programs and help those who need it, even if on a temporary basis. A strong economy makes it possible to dream of something better: something better for the less fortunate, something better for the planet, something better for innovation something better for all Quebecers.

Global uncertainty is creating significant pressure on the economy and the future's challenges remain many. We have to reinvent ourselves; several major challenges, starting with workforce shortages, threaten to make Quebec's economic recovery fragile for years to come. We might also think of the difficulties for some companies to reimburse pandemic assistance. Think of the backlog of private investments and the increase in bankruptcies, which reduce the economy's growth potential. Also think about the socio-political uncertainties related to the conflict in Ukraine.

To face these challenges, we need a party with a genuine economic vision, a party that believes in the importance of stimulating wealth creation. The Liberal Party is the party of the economy. We are the only ones that can face these challenges, both today and tomorrow.

The **ECO Project** is our major economic development project, which will be advantageous to economic vitality in all of our regions. It will allow each of them to take advantage of the development of new clean energy sources as a means of creating wealth for all Quebecers.

However, Quebec's regions are facing several specific challenges to which we must respond. With our **CHARTER FOR REGIONS**, we will allow each of them to develop to their full potential by encouraging decentralization and by proposing community-based solutions that will be better adapted to local realities. You cannot claim to be a government of the regions simply by migrating jobs into the regions. It requires a real vision, genuine listening and mutual respect. That is what a Liberal government is offering Quebecers.

We have a coherent economic program that includes clear responses to Quebec's challenges.

WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

The challenge of the coming years is not to create jobs, but to fill vacant positions – 240,000 of which currently exist. According to Emploi-Québec forecasts, approximately 1.4 million jobs will be available by 2030, 80% of which due to workers leaving the workforce. During this same period, the pool of active workers, namely the number of people between the ages of 15 and 64, will be in decline. The ageing population combined with a low birth rate will significantly affect all sectors of the economy and by that very fact, economic recovery.

Without the necessary workforce, we cannot offer services, for example in hospitals and schools. Without the necessary workforce, it's hard to keep grocery stores, shops and restaurants open. Without the necessary workforce, our tourism industry will not be able to offer all the services it would like to. Without the necessary workforce, factories will have to cancel contracts or turn down business opportunities. Between 2019 and 2021, the manufacturing sector alone evaluated the cost of lost contracts and delays due to workforce shortages at about \$18B. It is the vitality of all regions that suffers as a result. Workforce shortages are our biggest economic challenge.

To create wealth, the government must really address the issue. First of all, we need a government that acknowledges the problem. The Quebec Liberal Party is the only party that understands the extent of the issue and is capable of finding effective and applicable solutions.

The workforce shortage is a complex issue that requires varied interventions. We need a comprehensive game plan that will act on several highly interdependent factors. To do so, a Liberal government would urgently deploy a new workforce strategy which would include the following elements:

Promoting the retention and return of experienced workers to the workforce by:

- **Providing a break from Pension Plan contributions for those aged 62 and up;**
- **Doubling the income tax exemption for those aged 65 and up by increasing the amount to \$30,000.**

- Establishing a “Training RRSP” to allow companies to ensure more efficient training for workers in light of business’ new realities including adapting to new technologies;
- Strengthening companies’ efforts towards digitalization, automation and green transitions, including manufacturing and service companies to ensure greater flexibility, particularly among those who produce tailor-made goods;
- Continuing efforts to retrain workers for sectors that are in higher demand;
- Adding requirements for compensation policies when government assistance is provided in order to reduce the wage gap between workers and managers to ultimately make certain jobs more attractive;
- Ensuring transparency regarding public sector workforce needs, primarily in the various networks, through a quarterly publication on needs to better prepare for training and hiring;
- Encouraging young parents’ return to the workforce by making \$8.70 child care spaces available to all;
- Ensuring that immigration contributes to filling vacant positions in the most affected regions and sectors;
- Speed up recognition for workers’ diplomas that were earned in another province or country.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration is one of the most effective ways of responding to workforce shortages. With the expected decrease in the active population over the coming years, we must, now more than ever, acknowledge its true value as a means of generating prosperity. There is no more time for demagoguery or division on this topic; **we must be realistic and open to the need for immigration that is better aligned with our needs.**

During the period of 2019 to 2022, the government decided to reduce the number of immigrants that Quebec welcomes on an annual basis.

While the number of vacant jobs increased, Quebec deprived itself of 30,000 immigrants, including thousands of potential workers. In 2022, the government decided to significantly increase the immigration thresholds with a range of 67,500 to 70,000 immigrants.

At the same time, the wait time for obtaining permanent residence for a qualified worker selected by Quebec is systematically longer than in other provinces with an average 31-month wait as of May 2022. The difference is enormous and creates obvious problems for retention and competitiveness in the race to attract the best talents.

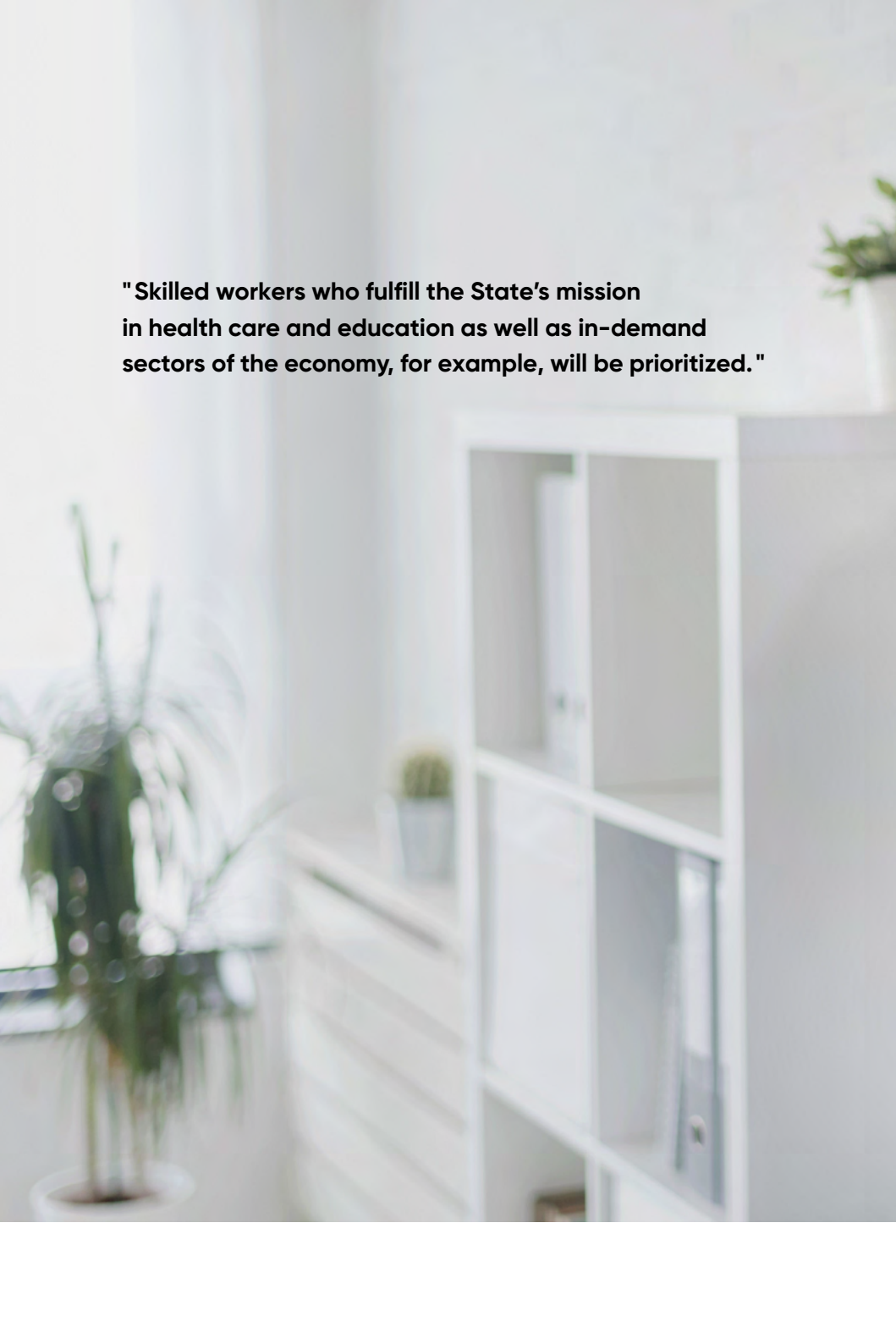
Given the circumstances, we must quickly review our procedures. That is why we propose to **enter into agreements with all of Quebec's regions so that they determine their own immigration needs, taking into account their workforce needs in all sectors of their economy and in function of their reception capacities.** We must encourage the regionalization of

**"We must be realistic and open
to the need for immigration that is better
aligned with our needs."**

immigration as a means of supporting our economy. Currently, less than 30% of immigrants settle outside of the Greater Montreal Area. We will maintain a maximum threshold of 70,000 immigrants per year, the level set for 2022, while we establish agreements with the regions on their needs.

Skilled workers who fulfill the State's mission in health care and education as well as in-demand sectors of the economy, for example, will be prioritized. We will also ensure that international students in in-demand fields are part of the solution. **To achieve this, we are committed to accelerating processing times for their files to be comparable to the Canadian average and restore the Programme d'Expérience Québécoise (PEQ) in its original version.**

Furthermore, we would like to receive **full control over the Temporary Foreign Worker Program from the federal government.** We would also like



"Skilled workers who fulfill the State's mission in health care and education as well as in-demand sectors of the economy, for example, will be prioritized."



to decrease delays and have better choices in order to meet our workforce needs, while facilitating access to permanent residence among these workers.

So that we can promote immigrants settling in all of the regions, we must establish all the necessary conditions for their successful integration. Immigrants' full and active participation is closely linked to language. On the one hand, Quebec expects immigration to contribute to the vitality of the French language, regardless of the mother tongue of the people who choose to settle here. On the other hand, immigrants' contribution to economic prosperity requires mastering the working language in a context where the job market often pits French against English. It is therefore imperative that we ensure that these two objectives meet and reinforce one another through effective, diversified French-language training services that are accessible throughout Quebec. To achieve this, **we will increase investments in French-language training**, including by promoting French-language training initiatives in the work place. We will also **study the possibility of modulating language requirements in order to accelerate the process of obtaining a Quebec Certificate of Selection when the region in which the immigration candidate intends to settle is located outside of the metropolitan area, while offering those individuals personalized French-language training.**

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

The pandemic, rising inflation and workforce shortages all have significant financial impacts on our businesses, particularly our SMEs. The number of bankruptcies has increased proportionally more in Quebec than elsewhere in Canada. As an example, Quebec SMEs have accumulated an average debt of over \$108,000 during COVID-19, according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

We cannot allow massive waves of business closures. It would negatively impact all of the regions and the families who make a living from our entrepreneurial fabric. At times like these, government needs to step up.

The pandemic assistance implemented by the government of Quebec must be reimbursed over a 3-year period. In light of the current difficulties,

rising inflation and production costs, we propose to **provide additional flexibility for reimbursing the loans granted within the framework of pandemic-related assistance programs**. The delay will automatically be increased to 5 years. A longer delay could be offered to companies who make the justifiable request based on activity sector, region and their size.

To ensure better financial health for our businesses and to guarantee innovation, we must look beyond pandemic issues and address ongoing issues for our businesses.

Thus, the Liberal Party is committed to:

- **Revising taxation for SMES by reviewing the parameters of the SME deduction so that it fulfills the original purpose for which it was introduced;**
- **Reducing the pressure of payroll taxes by lowering contribution rates to the Health Services Fund;**
- **Offering more effective support for research and development by reviewing existing tax credits to make them more efficient;**
- **Evaluating the sustainability, enhancement and value-added of jobs when analyzing applications for government funding, rather than focusing solely on job creation;**
- **Ensuring that companies with government contracts are not subject to late payments.**

As businesses lack workers, including administrative personnel, it is important to truly tackle the issue of company's administrative burden, particularly when it comes to SMEs. Progress has been made, but the momentum has slowed over the past few years. To do more, **we will adopt a bill on regulatory relief**. This legislation will focus on a 1 to 1 concept, as minimum goal for reducing business' burdens. According to this principle, each new administrative formality must at the same time be accompanied by the abolition of another existing formality with an equivalent cost to the business. The law will also provide for a true accountability process for ministries and organizations.

To ensure economic vitality, we need to offer better support for local businesses. That is why we will **review the rules for public calls for tender to offer more consideration for local purchasing criteria**. We will also implement a **strategy to promote business takeovers**.

AGRICULTURE

The pandemic shook our sense of security on several fronts. One of the first concerns when lockdown was first decreed was to ensure food security for our families. Many Quebecers rediscovered the importance of strong local agriculture, resources we all too often take for granted. Farmers and agricultural workers helped us through the crisis. We need to showcase their products so that their products take up more space on our plates.

Agriculture is at the heart of our regions. The entire biofood chain plays a key role in territorial occupation and gives life to hundreds of cities and towns in our regions.

With that in mind, a Liberal government will:

- **Defend the supply management model;**
- **Reform the Act Respecting the Preservation of Agricultural Land and Agricultural Activities in partnership with the agricultural sector, among other to review the governance of the *Commission de la Protection du Territoire Agricole* and provide for a better application of the regulations according to regional specificities;**
- **Develop a plan to better use fallow farmland;**
- **Promote agricultural succession through:**
- **Creating a tax incentive on the sale of land to the next generation of farmers to provide young farmers with additional support;**
- **Regulating the acquisition of farmland by people who do not intend to farm on land with high agronomic potential;**

- **Allowing farmland to be parcelled out while ensuring that this possibility does not become an open bar for real estate developers and speculation.**
- **Support farmers in their transformation towards greener, pesticide-limited agriculture, and establish a one-stop-shop for adapting to rapidly changing regulations.**

We know that farming isn't just a profession, it is a calling. One has to juggle fierce international competition, the acquisition of cutting-edge technological tools, the research and development of new procedures to facilitate greener agriculture and collaboration to implement environmental protection measures, etc. These challenges can weigh heavily on the shoulders of industry workers. We therefore have a duty to ensure that they have every possible means of maintaining good mental health. With that in mind, we are proposing **the establishment of a fund to promote farmers' well-being and the deployment of rank and file workers throughout the territory.**

This is a pivotal time in Quebec's agricultural history. The coming years will be filled with opportunities to be seized to achieve a successful generational transition in our farms and maximize their potential. We must do more and do better.

FORESTS

The forestry industry represents a GDP of approximately \$6B year or close to 2% of Quebec's GDP, and represents close to 60,000 direct jobs distributed throughout all of Quebec's regions. It is therefore essential to pay it particular attention within our economy. The Liberal Party has always listened to the industry and will always do so because we recognize its economic potential.

To better support the industry, we are committed to reviewing the **forestry regime** which has not yielded the desired effect. We will do this in collaboration with sector stakeholders. A bill will be presented by the end of 2024 to fulfill this commitment.

"This is a pivotal time in Quebec's agricultural history. The coming years will be filled with opportunities to be seized to achieve a successful generational transition in our farms and maximize their potential. "





We must provide **more predictability for silvicultural work**, over a 5-year period rather than 3, as well as recurrent financial support. That must be accompanied by a **sustainable forestry management policy**, developed to ensure adequate protection for the resource while meeting Quebec's lumber needs, notably with areas of intensified silvicultural work.

We must share the forest's uses and do it in an efficient manner. Let's protect what needs protecting while developing the resources as much as we can.

The Liberal Party has always recognized the forestry industry's strategic role in the fight against climate change and in achieving Quebec's green house gas reduction targets. We will therefore continue to support the industry in its efforts to **valorize the forestry biomass**. We will support **projects to convert polluting products to wood-based products**, for example the creation of cardboard packaging instead of single-use plastics. We will accelerate **initiatives to use wood in the construction industry**.

FISHING

The fisheries sector is essential in some of Quebec's eastern regions, but it's profitable for Quebec as a whole. That being said, Quebecers know very little of its potential. Over 80% of the fisheries and aquaculture industry's production is destined for export.

We must better recognize the industry to help it grow. **That is why a Liberal government will appoint a Minister of Fisheries**. By naming a minister exclusively dedicated to this sector, the industry will benefit from better communication with the government in addition to having more targeted support for companies and workers.

Food autonomy in Quebec also includes fishing. That is why we need to combine the winning conditions to support the development and valorization of this industry in Quebec. The Minister of Fisheries will be mandated with developing and **implement a real strategy to valorize fishing and aquaculture products**. It is not normal that our products



are better known and loved outside of Canada than they are here at home. Such a strategy would be beneficial to producers, distributors, restaurateurs and consumers throughout Quebec.

MINES

Quebec's mining sector represents \$9B for Quebec's GDP. In some of Quebec's regions it is a major economic factor. We believe in its potential and capacity for development but it must be accompanied by social acceptability, tried-and-true environmental practices and adequate financial guarantees.

It is particularly important to ensure that the municipalities, where the mines are operated, receive fair consideration for the impact of those operations. **We are committed to reviewing the proportion of mining royalties that are paid to the local communities.**

Mining operations must be executed responsibly. **Dumping mine waste into lakes will no longer be an option.** Furthermore, **we want to quickly increase the annual value of restoration work on abandoned mines**, prioritizing sites whose contamination compromises the quality of residents' drinking water or the economic and tourism-based development in the affected communities.



Chapter 05

Climate changes

Since its creation over 150 years ago, the Quebec Liberal Party has met- and surpassed- all of the challenges that have fashioned the Quebec we know today. Collectively, these challenges with which we are periodically confronted represent opportunities for innovation, as Quebecers have demonstrated with resilience each and every time their courage and determination were put to the test. Each time we demonstrated the strength of our character and relied on our collective wealth.

The great challenges of our time, those that surpass all others, are protecting our environment and the fight against climate change. Why? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has confirmed the climate emergency- there's no time to lose. If nothing is done, global warming could exceed 4 degrees by the end of the century and lead to irreversible consequences, where the northern territories are most affected. We are already seeing the signs: forest fires, heatwaves, shoreline erosion and violent storms. Scientists are unanimous, urgent action is required. It is no longer alarmist to be alarmed. It is not time for transition, but for action. That is why we are proposing to take concrete action to accelerate Quebec's green shift.

In order to limit climate upheavals, we must be ambitious. We need to stop investing in energies of the past such as hydrocarbons. It is time to make a huge leap forward, relying on our strengths as we have always done.

To move forward, to innovate, we need to ask ourselves: In 2022, as part of the fight against climate change, what assets does Quebec have that sets itself apart from others?

Its water. It's blue gold. Hydro-electricity. The legacy of Robert Bourassa's vision.

The project for the future is the **ECO Project**: ecology and economy. Our strengths.

By 2050, 100 billion dollars in public and private investments in a green economy combining electricity and green hydrogen. Generating the production equivalent of two James Bay's worth of clean energy in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Quebec Liberal Party is also launching the Water Strategy which is

comprised of 63 measures and include a variety of investments totalling over \$550 million dollars. Ensuring quality water for the population, protecting and restoring aquatic environments, promoting the sustainable use of water and focusing on water's economic potential are all essential to Quebec's future.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

Under the impetus of the Commission Jeunesse, in November of 2021 members of the Quebec Liberal Party adopted a resolution to include a 9th Liberal value; environmental protection. By doing so, each of our party's actions is considered from this perspective.

That being said, while a political party's action is good, we need to do more. Society as a whole must follow suit. A Liberal government will therefore adopt a bill to **include the right to biodiversity and environmental preservation among the fundamental rights protected by the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.**

This right will lead to the development of a true **Strategy for the Protection of Natural Environments and Biodiversity** which will seek, among others, to support the renaturalization of natural environments, better governance over wetlands and better tools to protect threatened and vulnerable species.

CARBONEUTRALITY

The first step is to set an ambitious goal. Today, the 2030 objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 37.5% below 1990 levels. We must demonstrate greater audacity and **increase this objective to 45% by 2030.**

Given the magnitude of this issue, the **Premier will be directly responsible for achieving these greenhouse gas emission reduction targets as part**





of their responsibility for the fight against climate change. To ensure effective governmental coordination, the Premier will be supported by **a scientific officer in charge of the issue, based in the Ministry of the Executive Council.**

We must establish a game plan for achieving our goals. Bolstered by Liberal leadership on the international stage, Quebec has long been considered a leader in the global fight against climate change. After four years of inconsistencies, it is time to reclaim this leadership position and encourage others to adopt best practices.

The Quebec Liberal Party will organize a “COP-Quebec”, which will gather scientists, researchers and governments from throughout North America. For each State, it will be an opportunity to take stock of the climate change measures in place and operationalize collaborative arrangements that will leverage Quebec’s expertise, which includes hydroelectricity. We will aim to hold this event within the first 100 days of a Liberal government.

This “COP-Quebec” reminds us of the urgency and necessity of taking action to protect the climate and doubling our efforts in order to achieve the carbon neutrality goals in 2050 in addition to ensuring cohesion among North American stakeholders. It will also help us to coherently define the actions that the government of Quebec will have to implement over the coming years in order to achieve our goals.

Beyond the ECO Project, we have identified certain measures that need to be implemented right away to chart a course toward our commitments.

A **Law on carbon neutrality** will be adopted and will establish five-year targets to achieve **carbon neutrality in 2050**. Specific targets in the oil and gas sector are anticipated. The necessary exercise of reducing GHGs must be done while taking the impacts on families and businesses into account. We need predictability if we want to be successful. It is essential to reflect upon a fair transition.

The Law should be accompanied by a transparency exercise by the State which will **measure the entire government apparatus’ carbon footprint**. We cannot ask our businesses and individuals to make efforts without the government doing its part.

We will ensure maximum efficiency of the carbon exchange, while contributing to protecting jobs and ensuring competitiveness. The Carbon Market is a Liberal achievement which demonstrates our ability for environmental innovation and the fight against climate change. We must ensure that we reach the full potential that it can offer us.

Our buildings, both private and public, must also become carbon neutral. To do so, we will overhaul the **Quebec Building Code** to include the use of more responsible material and efficient systems. Moreover, **1% of the government of Quebec's infrastructure budgets will be dedicated to the development of green infrastructures**, including the use of wood as a building material and urban greening measures to mitigate the impact of heat islands.

The QLP **adheres to putting an end to the exploration and development of oil and natural gas within its territory**. That means that no new permits for exploration will be issued, current development permits will be halted and the necessary funds will be invested to identify and secure several dozen abandoned boreholes which are the sources of methane leaks and soil contaminations.

The development of oil and natural gas is not, even as a temporary measure, a solution to the fight against climate change or a means of achieving international climate goals.

This commitment does not mean halting hydrogen production if it is produced by water electrolysis, nor does it mean stopping the transformation of natural gas distribution infrastructures so that they can be used to transport green hydrogen.

We must withdraw the Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec from fossil fuels within 5 years. In 2017, the Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec's (CDPQ) investments in fossil fuels amounted to a record-breaking 18.5 billion dollars, representing 6.2% of its portfolio. The Caisse committed to liquidating its assets in the oil sector by the end of 2022 and it also anticipates an end to all investments in new pipeline constructions. We must ensure that this transformation is completed quickly.

We will also **work with Energir to hasten its decarbonization**. We should not aim to grow this network, but rather to use it more responsibly.

The transition using the network for clean energy, such as green hydrogen, must be accelerated.

TRANSPORTATION

Achieving carbon neutrality must include a transformation of the transportation sector, which represented 43.3% of our greenhouse gas emissions in 2019.

We must begin by **improving our public transportation offer** in metropolitan areas as well as in the regions. Currently, many Quebecers would like to do their part by taking public transportation, but the service offer just does not meet their needs. 90% of the GHGs produced by urban transportation are generated by personal automobile use. We must work with local stakeholders to support the public transit projects that they have developed and adapted to their needs. To improve the offer, we must ensure adequate funding for the transit authorities who found themselves with significant deficits due to the pandemic. At this time, uncertainty is leading those corporations to reduce their services. **That is why we must guarantee them funding that will allow them to maintain their services and develop their networks.** The long-term viability of public transit requires both the elimination of public transit authority deficits and funding for development projects. We will work with them to find the best means of guaranteeing their revenues.

To encourage more people to use public transportation we must also work on accessibility. That is why we will introduce **free public transportation for students and for those aged 65 and up throughout Quebec**, at no cost to the transit authority. We will also **gradually establish the *Passport Mobilité* throughout Quebec. It is an application and universal mobility card that can be used in all of Quebec's sustainable transportation services.**

Next, we must undertake major changes in our vision of road transportation. We are well aware of the vastness of our territory and of the fact that our roads are important vectors of economic development. Given that climate change is at the heart of our concerns, we must reflect on the ways in which we shape our territory. **There will be no new highway**

projects announced in metropolitan regions until we have conducted a neutral and transparent analysis of the interactions between mobility, urban planning and public transportation service offers in these regions.

By doing so, a Liberal government will prioritize asset retention projects, road repairs for safety issues as well as construction to meet essential needs. Recall that only 56% of Quebec's road network is in good condition, and that motorists are paying the price of this poor maintenance in vehicle repairs.

We must continue our efforts to electrify vehicles. In the last budget, the eligible amounts for the Roulez Vert changed. Given that the program was working toward its goal of 1.6 million electric vehicles by 2030, we find it difficult to see why the transformation's momentum was curbed.


We will enhance the current Roulez Vert program by reinstating the refund amounts that were cut in the last budget. **We will accelerate the transformation of government vehicles.** Despite the target of 100% of the government's fleet being electric, we are currently at approximately 28% of the Transport Ministry's total light-duty vehicle fleet. The State needs to do more and lead by example.

To generate popular buy-in for the electrification of a greater number of vehicles, we must develop our own network of electric charging stations in a more intensive manner throughout the territory. **We will triple the number of public network charging stations for electric vehicles.** As part of that exercise, we will also ensure that municipalities in rural areas have at least one charging station.

Furthermore, as part of the Building Code's overhaul, **we foresee the addition of electric charging stations in all new buildings and will also implement installation objectives in existing buildings**, so that there are as many charging stations throughout Quebec as possible, as soon as possible.

We will also **review the framework for vehicle advertising** to force gas consumption to be more up front so that consumers can be more aware of the advantages of leaving gasoline powered cars behind and promote the choice of smaller vehicles.



A photograph of a person's hand holding a smartphone, looking at the screen. The person is seated on a public transit vehicle, with blue seats and a vertical orange pole visible. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**"We will introduce
free public transportation
for students and for
those aged 65 and up
throughout Quebec."**

PROTECTED AREAS

In order to counteract the lack of leadership demonstrated by the CAQ which has abandoned over 80 protected area projects in Southern Quebec, **the Liberal Party will accelerate the conservation of protected area projects which were abandoned by the CAQ in southern Quebec.**

These projects, which are the fruit of consensus among municipalities, environmental groups and businesses, have been pending for years.

We are committed to achieving the 30% protected area target by 2030.

There needs to be genuine political will in order for those protected areas to be located close to urban centres and for them to be accessible to citizens to ensure the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

A MORE RESPONSIBLE ECONOMY

Once and for all, we need to stop presenting the economy and the environment and the fight against climate change as oppositional. Our ECO Project is the proof that we can combine these elements to propel Quebec forward. We need to go further in our efforts to transform our economy into a truly modern economy.

The GDP is an indicator of economic activity that does not take into account other issues in our society. But can we really limit a society's progress to economic statistics? Today, we no longer think that is the case. Over the years, several more comprehensive indicators have been proposed as alternatives to the GDP. One among them is particularly interesting, *Genuine Progress Indicator* (GPI). In addition to economic statistics, this progress indicator includes social and environmental progress indicators. It has 26 components in all. We believe that it is time for us to expand our understanding of progress.

That is why we are proposing to implement a new indicator of socioeconomic progress for Quebec. Developed, calculated and published on an annual basis by the Institut de la Statistique du Québec, for each of the regions and for the province as a whole, it will provide a

more accurate and realistic measurement of Quebec society's evolution and of the impacts of our projects and our public policies.

Beyond the manner in which we calculate progress, the government must also lead by example. It can take action on several fronts and the next Liberal government will use all of the tools at its disposal, including **establishing social and environmental criteria to governmental purchasing**.

Each year the government spends billions of dollars under the terms of calls for tender which consider particular criteria. The Quebec Liberal Party proposes to confer value to responsible environmental choices. For example, it would be possible to require that a product is made with renewable energy. Or we might favour a local product in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions that would be emitted during the product's transport.

"We need to stop presenting the economy and the environment and the fight against climate change as oppositional. "

Our businesses need to be a part of the change. Fighting climate change needs to become an exceptional driver for innovation that combines boldness and social consciousness; two values that are at the very heart of the Quebec Liberal Party's track record. As a corollary of the enhanced criteria for public calls for tender, we think that it is also advisable for **companies that benefit from government investments of financial aid to demonstrate economic, social and environmental exemplarity, too.**

In order to accelerate transformation within our businesses, we **will create new companies: mission-based companies**. Mission-based companies pursue social and environmental contribution goals in addition to financial profitability. These public interest objectives are enshrined in the company's articles of association and the administrators must ensure that the company conducts its operations in a responsible and

sustainable manner. The company must also publish an annual social and environmental report in accordance with accepted standards.

The modern economy of the 21st century will be able to rely on a new generation of entrepreneurs that are aware of the world's environmental realities. After the creation of a legal status for these mission-based companies, we will encourage their development including through tax incentives and accelerated qualification for public procurement. Mission-based companies exist in close to 40 American states, as well as in British Columbia.

Mission-based companies will have access to an accelerated and simplified procedure to acquiring government authorization or for eligibility for assistance programs, for projects that fall within the government's priorities for the climate transition and the green economy. **They will also benefit from tax breaks.**

Furthermore, we will **promote green industrial strategies and support efforts in the agricultural and forestry sectors** for the transformation toward more environmentally responsible technologies and processes.

The population can also take part in the economic component of the transition by making investment choices that coincide with that vision. To encourage more and more Quebecers to follow suit, we will **establish a green RRSP**. Investment choices need to become more attractive in responsible investments rather than traditional tax-based investments, as we do with investments in labour-sponsored funds.

Innovation and audacity are two key words when it comes to envisioning an economy that is stronger and greener in the future. All stakeholders can contribute and a Liberal government will stimulate the economy by supporting innovation among companies who make respecting the planet's capabilities a priority. **To achieve this, we will develop a circular economy strategy. We will adopt a law to counter programmed obsolescence which will enhance the right to repair goods.** Given the scarcity of certain natural resources and the environmental impact of their extraction and transformation, it is essential to encourage better productivity by stimulating new business models. The anticipated benefits are significant, both in terms of the economy and the environment.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DECREASED USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Given the unforgiving observations made by *the Bureau d'Audiences Publiques sur l'Environnement* in its analysis of the status and management of final waste products, we must review our practices when it comes to waste management in Quebec. To do so, we must develop a long-term vision that will take into account the principles of the 4R-D hierarchy: reduction at the source, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal.

If nothing is done, nine landfills that are currently being used will reach their maximum capacity by 2030 and new disposal installations, incinerators, will be required. It is clear that reduction at the source and reuse are preferable to increasing recycling efforts.

Rather than focusing on successive dump expansions, **we are proposing an approach based on local management and cohabitation with the environment, in addition to developing new technologies by entrusting RECYC-QUÉBEC with the mandate of accompanying municipalities and a technological monitoring role.**

We will also ensure to reduce the tonnage of waste consumed **by accelerating the deployment of brown compost bins for organic waste collection in all municipalities.** Half of our municipalities currently plan to do so.

We will also **make sure that the deposit system announced by the government is truly effective.** We must do things correctly to ensure that they work and that everyone is on board. We cannot miss out on this opportunity. We will therefore work with stakeholders to meet our goals and ensure successful implementation. Additionally, we are committed to publishing the system's results annually.

LIGHT POLLUTION

In an effort to reduce energy use, promote cohabitation and limit inconveniences related to artificial lighting in our cities and villages, we would like to take action to limit the excessive use of artificial light, also known as light pollution.

During the night, artificial lighting has several negative impacts on ecosystems, health and in some case is actually a poor use of our energy. The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially recognized that disruptions to one's biological clock can lead to a number of health issues including insomnia, depression, diabetes, obesity and even cancer.

In the next mandate, a Liberal government will ensure that the renewal of all municipal or governmental lighting equipment is carried out in compliance with recognized standards for limiting light pollution.

Four factors have been put forth by the Bureau de la Normalisation du Québec to limit light pollution including the quantity of light produced, the direction it shines, its spectral composition and the duration of its use. Highway lighting as well as commercial and industrial lighting, architectural lighting and illuminated displays are all included in these parameters.



Chapter 06

Culture and identity

As a Francophone nation in North America, Quebec must continue to protect its cultural specificities. For the Quebec Liberal Party this mission has to be executed while defending Quebec's place within the Canada. We have to prove ambitious for our nation and our country. We must resume our role as a leader within the Canadian federation. We are the only resolutely federalist party in Quebec and we intend to actively play that role.

Belonging to Quebec and belonging to Canada are part of the liberal values that propel our political action. They take on the following forms:

BELONGING TO CANADA

While adhering to Canadian federalism, for the past forty years the Quebec Liberal has continually asserted that as the primary expression of the French fact in Canada, Quebec could not simply be a province among others within the federation. Through the voices of all of those who have led it to date, Quebec has maintained that, in addition to being a province in the legal sense of the term, it is a distinct society in many respects including its language, culture, judicial system, institutions, and its way of life. The Quebec Liberal Party is nonetheless convinced that maintaining the Canadian federal relationship is the most judicious constitutional option for promoting the Quebec's best interests and those of its partners.

BELONGING TO QUEBEC

To identify with Quebec means to identify with its French-speaking majority. It posits that we take on the majority's aspirations, its history, language and culture, institutions, ways of life and specificities. The Quebec Liberal Party recognizes the special character that the French majority lends to Quebec society, and is committed to constantly affirming and defending Quebec's French character, especially by being a party that has a clear French predominance, without prejudice to equal rights among all its members.

From these values stems the need for a strong Quebec nation within our country, Canada. We need to be able to defend our specificities within the Canadian framework.

With that in mind, we will continue to make clear demands to the federal government, including:

- **Vigorously defending Quebec's jurisdictions within the federation;**
- **Ensuring that Quebec's demographic weight within the federation is maintained, particularly with regards to the number of seats in the House of Commons;**
- **Legislating to frame the federal government's spending powers in areas of provincial jurisdiction, including to formally provide for withdrawal rights with full compensation;**
- **Requiring increased federal health transfers so that they represent 35% of the province's health expenses and so that no conditions are imposed on these transfers;**
- **Obtaining full control over the Temporary Foreign Worker Program;**
- **Receiving the compensation owed to Quebec to follow up on federal support for the Muskrat Falls project which constitutes unfair competition to Hydro-Québec;**
- **Building on the work undertaken by Robert Bourassa in terms of cultural sovereignty and repatriating complete jurisdiction over culture.**

PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

For the Quebec Liberal Party, it is primordial to ensure that government actions do not generate unjustified restrictions on individual freedoms. In order to be acceptable, any limitation to these freedoms must be justified by a conclusively established greater good.

In that sense, we believe that Bill 21 on the laicity of the State proposed by the CAQ government is too far-reaching, particularly in terms of the prohibition of religious symbols for teachers. That is why we will reverse that upon taking power. Additionally, we will not renew the law's notwithstanding clause.

A Liberal government will not apply the notwithstanding clause to bills in a preventive manner and without clear guidelines. The very nature of the notwithstanding clause requires that it must not be used lightly, and even less so with a view of dividing the population.

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

The French language is at the very heart of our specificity, of our nation. It is the focal point around which Quebecers of all ages, of all origins and all regions can come together to maintain a just, prosperous and inclusive society.

It is also an integral part of our history at the Quebec Liberal Party. Recall that it was a Liberal government led by Robert Bourassa in 1974, that endowed the French language with its official status as Quebec's official language. This major step forward for the Quebec nation was the foundation that led to the Charter of the French Language. Robert Bourassa's legacy remains ingrained in our party's DNA and in our values and it is still a source of inspiration today.

The protection of our French language, which is only spoken by 2% of North America's inhabitants, calls for vigilance. That vigilance does not, however, mean disavowing the rights of the English-speaking community. It has rights and we wholeheartedly defend their institutions. That is why we defended their right to maintain the structure of school boards and will continue to do so. It is also why we are opposed to the reforms to the Charter of the French Language, Bill 96, which was too far-reaching to be considered constructive.

We can be in favour of protecting the French language without being in favour of Bill 96. We will favour a more balanced approach that will also

improve the quality of the French language, as demonstrated in the 27 proposals that we advanced in the spring of 2021.

We will always work with the goal of balance and inclusion. Therefore we will:

- **Give students back the right to attend the CEGEP of their choice;**
- **Give the magistrature back the right to appoint judges according to their needs;**
- **Dispel any concerns about access to health care and social services;**
- **Ensure that all infrastructure project assessments in the health and education networks are considered in accordance with real needs, rather than according to language;**
- **Evaluate the administrative burden imposed on businesses by Bill 96;**
- **Eliminate the 6-month delay imposed on immigrants for communicating with the State in French;**
- **Remove the notwithstanding clause that has been imposed without guidelines in Bill 96.**

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Our objective must be equality of opportunity for all. The responsibility for achieving that falls to us collectively and calls on us to offer minorities adequate protections.

The accumulation of racial profiling cases among people of diverse ethnocultural origins has led to a collective consciousness about the issue of systemic racism. In Quebec people of diverse ethnocultural origins as well as First Nations People are subject to behaviours or processes which include discriminatory or racial bias, whether conscious or unconscious



in nature. It is important that we correct these situations, by having the maturity, as society, to recognize them openly and advance solutions.

When we want to solve a problem, we need to be able to identify it. It is not normal that a racialized person is questioned on average four times more than a Caucasian, or that it is more difficult for them to obtain employment or housing accommodations. It's not just semantics; for the victims it is so much more than that.

We are therefore committed to presenting a **clear action plan to fight systemic racism** in the first year of our mandate.

Protecting minorities also calls on us to **protect and promote the rights of the LGBTQ+ community**. We will continue awareness efforts within the population while supporting initiatives among organizations that work on the ground.

RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The past few years have been marked by several major events for First Nations and Inuit communities. Recall the tragic events that led to the death of Joyce Echaquan at the Joliette Hospital, the discovery of mass graves linked to indigenous residential schools, or the deaths of several homeless indigenous people in Montreal's downtown core during cold snaps. We cannot remain silent. It is a complicated path, but one that requires genuine political will.

From the outset, we need to recognize that Indigenous communities are in the best position to make decisions for themselves, whether that has to do with youth protection, training, economic development, land planning, etc. Recognition for nation-to-nation dialogue must be conveyed in our actions, especially when it comes to adapting public services to their realities.

Over the past years, **several reports** have offered solutions to pave the way towards reconciliation, including that of the Vien Commission and

"Recognition for nation-to-nation dialogue must be conveyed in our actions, especially when it comes to adapting public services to their realities."

the Federal Report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. **It goes without saying that we must follow up on the recommendations related to the Government of Quebec**, for example the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. **We are also committed to launching a public inquiry on the issue of residential schools.** Families have the right to know exactly what occurred and why.

CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Culture is essential to affirming our specificity as Quebecers. The COVID-19 pandemic delivered a hard blow to the cultural sector and its artisans, especially the living arts. During the heart of the pandemic, thousands of jobs in the cultural sector disappeared in Quebec alone, and several artists decided to reorient their careers and won't ever return.

Morale is low and the living arts sector needs additional support. But the sector needs so much more than money. It needs to be considered and truly heard so that culture can reclaim the place it once held in our lives and so that Quebec's creativity and inventiveness can be showcased throughout the world.

As such, **the Liberal government will hold estates general on the living arts** which will focus on theatre, music, dance, children's theatre, the top schools (École Supérieure de Danse, Conservatoires, etc.). In the presence of sector representatives, we can organize public hearings to take stock of needs and future prospects. To do what should have been done by



the government: listen to the cultural sector to consider its future with the ultimate goal of painting a portrait of the post-pandemic situation and establishing a specific plan for supporting the living arts. It will include reflecting on the results of financial assistance during the pandemic, future prospects, psychological distress among artists, the ever-growing importance of digital technology, future generations and cultural dissemination in the regions.

There is much work to be done to support our artisans from all spheres of the cultural sector, but many of the solutions are already known. As a central element of the new cultural policy "*Partout la culture*", revising the laws on the status of the artist is essential. **We will see that a modernization of the laws on the status of the artist is completed, not only in terms of legislation, but in terms of implementation as well.**

**"A Liberal government will establish
a new fund dedicated to culture and media which
will support Quebec creations."**

Requested by the sector, this revision of laws is necessary in order to broaden the scope of application of two laws which were adopted in the late 1980s, to ensure a healthy and safe work environment for creators, to fight harassment and to help self-employed artists improve their socio-economic conditions. This is something that affects all creators: actors, writers, musicians, technicians, producers, dancers, production directors and designers. A Liberal government will also establish a new **fund dedicated to culture and media** which will support Quebec creations. The fund will be financed by imposing a temporary **3% tax on the revenues of digital giants** whose global revenues exceed \$1B and who do not declare revenues in Quebec, until the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) adopts coherent universal tax measures. In doing so, we will ensure that Internet giants make an equitable contribution to Quebec cultural ecosystem. It is high time that

we ask Internet giants to do their part to contribute to our culture, just like France and Australia have done.

Protecting and showcasing our culture are also about promoting our heritage. And yet the number of ruined or at-risk heritage buildings has not ceased to increase over the past years due to a lack of leadership from the CAQ government. Demolitions by abandonment are multiplying and nothing has been done to halt this trend. These buildings that are a testament to our history are being erased or sold, much to citizens' dismay. We must take quick and effective action to have the economic values of these heritage buildings recognized by their owners and municipalities. Conservation must become more profitable than demolition.

A building with heritage value that is in good condition has a positive impact on the sale price of neighbouring properties, whose value increases. Heritage that is well maintained also can stimulate tourism and pride. In sum, protecting heritage buildings is profitable for municipalities in terms of property taxes, for the local economy in terms of tourism and even beneficial from an environmental perspective.

That is why we will **offer a 10-year property tax break in the form of compensation to municipalities for any owner or purchaser of an unoccupied heritage building who restores the building** to live there or rent it for residential or commercial purposes. Unoccupied heritage buildings are those most at risk of being demolished as their condition deteriorates quickly when they require work.



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