



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

Bill 591

**An Act to prohibit shale oil and gas
exploration and development**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Amir Khadir
Member for Mercier**

**Québec Official Publisher
2014**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit shale oil and gas exploration and development, including all forms of hydraulic fracturing, throughout Québec in order to protect the health and safety of Quebecers and preserve the quality of the environment.

The prohibition applies to all shale oil and gas exploration and development projects, including those in progress.

The bill prescribes that its provisions have effect from the date of its introduction.

It also prescribes the penalties to be imposed on natural and legal persons who fail to comply with the prohibition and contains technical provisions.

Bill 591

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT SHALE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The purpose of this Act is to prohibit shale oil and gas exploration and development throughout Québec in order to protect the health and safety of Quebecers and preserve the quality of the environment.

2. For the purposes of this Act,

“exploration and development” means all well drilling operations for exploration or development purposes, well completion and conversion operations, including stimulation operations known as fracturing, and production testing;

“fracturing” means an operation that consists in injecting fluid into a well bore at a pressure sufficient to create fissures or enlarge existing fissures in geological formations;

“shale oil and gas” means the oil and natural gas contained in shale deposits in Québec, including the Utica, Macasty and Lorraine shales.

3. As of (*insert the date of introduction of this bill*), no person may commence or continue shale oil or gas exploration or development.

4. A person who contravenes section 3 commits an offence and is liable

(a) in the case of a natural person, to a fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$20,000 for a first offence and not less than \$4,000 nor more than \$40,000 for a second or subsequent offence, or, in either case, to imprisonment for not more than one year or to both the imprisonment and fine, despite article 231 of the Code of Penal Procedure (chapter C-25.1);

(b) in the case of a legal person, to a fine of not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$250,000 for a first offence, not less than \$50,000 nor more than \$1,000,000 in the case of a second offence, and not less than \$500,000 nor more than \$1,000,000 for a subsequent offence.

5. Whoever does or omits to do something in order to assist a person to commit an offence under this Act or the regulations, or advises or encourages

or incites a person to commit such an offence, is considered to have committed the same offence.

6. If an offence under section 3 or section 5 continues for more than one day, it constitutes a separate offence for each day it continues.

7. Penal proceedings for an offence under this Act are prescribed by two years from the date of the commission of the offence.

8. This Act has precedence over any contrary provision of an earlier Act, regulation or order and, unless expressly provided otherwise, over any contrary provision of a subsequent Act, regulation or order.

9. The Government may, by regulation, prescribe any measure required for the carrying out of this Act.

10. This Act has effect from (*insert the date of introduction of this bill*).

11. This Act comes into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).