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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Bill 39

**An Act to establish a new electoral  
system**

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**Introduction**

**Introduced by  
Madam Sonia LeBel  
Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions,  
Electoral Reform and Access to Information**

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

*This bill amends mainly the Election Act to establish a new mixed electoral system with regional compensation.*

*The bill states that the territory of Québec is divided into 80 electoral divisions and 17 electoral regions and maintains the number of seats in the National Assembly at 125. Under the new system, there are two types of seats: 80 division seats and 45 regional seats. The name and delimitation of the electoral regions, which correspond to those of the administrative regions, are determined by the Election Act.*

*Under the bill, the division seats and regional seats are apportioned among the electoral regions. Each region is granted a minimum of one seat of each type, except the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region, which is granted one additional division seat, and the Nord-du-Québec region, which is guaranteed only a division seat. The other seats are apportioned among the regions on the basis of the number of electors domiciled in each region.*

*After the seats have been apportioned, the Commission de la représentation électorale will delimit the electoral divisions and assign them a name, according to the procedure set out in the Election Act. However, the electoral divisions of Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Ungava are established and delimited by the Election Act.*

*The bill allows an independent candidate or a candidate of an authorized party to seek nomination for a division seat or for a regional seat. In the case of a party candidate, nomination for a regional seat will be through a regional list of candidates drawn up by the party. The rules governing nomination and the replacement and withdrawal of candidates are amended accordingly. Lastly, a person is not allowed to seek nomination for two seats simultaneously.*

*Electors are entitled to cast two votes on new ballot papers, the first for a candidate for a division seat and the second for an independent candidate for a regional seat or for a party's regional list of candidates. To take into account those distinctions, the bill amends, in particular, the rules governing authorizations, posters and billboards, the sending of various documents such as electoral*

*lists, the exercise of the right to vote, the counting and addition of votes, judicial recounts, and the contestation of elections. The Election Act is amended as well to ensure that electors are properly informed regarding the operation of the proposed electoral system.*

*The 80 division seats will be allocated by a majority vote and the 45 regional seats will be allocated on the basis of the number of votes obtained on the regional level, with compensation rules being applied to the parties' regional lists with regard to the number of seats allocated to each party. To take part in the allocation of regional seats, an authorized party is required to obtain, throughout Québec, at least 10% of the valid votes cast in favour of all the party's regional lists of candidates.*

*Rules are prescribed for a regional seat that becomes vacant. If the seat was held by a party, it is filled by a candidate from the same regional list as the outgoing Member or, in an exceptional case where the list is exhausted, by an elector designated by the party. If the seat was held by an independent candidate, it is allocated to the independent candidate or the political party who or that, after the seat allocation rules are applied, is the next in line to obtain a seat.*

*Regarding political financing, the bill adjusts the rules governing public financing, with the goal of maintaining the overall budget already dedicated to public financing.*

*As regards election expenses, the bill specifies, in particular, that the official agent of an authorized party is the official agent of that party's candidates for a regional seat. The official agent may authorize election expenses in favour or on behalf of one or more of those candidates. Independent candidates for a regional seat are required to file a return of expenses and may be entitled to advances and the reimbursement of election expenses. An adjustment of election expense limits is also proposed to maintain the same overall expense ceiling for the whole of Québec as is currently applicable.*

*The bill also contains measures to promote parity between women and men in the National Assembly. For that purpose, every authorized party must, after an order instituting a general election is issued, send the Chief Electoral Officer a statement on the parity objectives the party has set for itself. Before polling day, the party must send the Chief Electoral Officer a report on the achievement of those objectives. The statement and the report must be posted on the Chief Electoral Officer's website.*

*The bill provides that the new electoral system will come into force only if, after a referendum to be held on the same day as the day of the first general election after the bill is assented to, a majority of votes is cast in favour of the new electoral system. The bill contains the text of the question that will be submitted to the population by referendum. The Referendum Act will not apply to the referendum.*

*Lastly, the bill contains various final, transitional and consequential provisions.*

**LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:**

- Act respecting the National Assembly (chapter A-23.1);
- Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly (chapter C-52.1);
- Election Act (chapter E-3.3);
- Act to establish the permanent list of electors (chapter E-12.2).

## **Bill 39**

### **AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

AS the people of Québec have a deep attachment to democratic principles of government;

AS the electoral system must more faithfully reflect the plurality and relative weight of the political opinions and ideas existing in society;

AS the electoral system must aim to achieve effective representation of electors and offer equal participation for all in the electoral process;

AS it is necessary to maintain meaningful ties between electors and the Members representing them;

AS the demographic, geographic and sociological characteristics of each of Québec's regions should be taken into account and all regions should be ensured adequate electoral representation;

AS the administrative regions correspond to a strong social and geographical reality, and as they are places of belonging and citizenship deeply rooted in Québec's political culture;

AS more should be done to foster the presence among Members of the National Assembly of, in particular, women, young people and persons from diverse backgrounds;

AS the political parties should seek to attain the parity zone, with women making up between 40% and 60% of their candidates in general elections;

AS the people of Québec expect the electoral system to enable government stability to be maintained;

AS the mixed electoral system with regional compensation introduced by this Act makes it possible to better reconcile those various objectives;

AS the people of Québec should be consulted by referendum before the new electoral system may come into force;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

ELECTION ACT

**1.** Section 3 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) is amended by replacing “The candidate must” by “In a general election, a candidate for a regional seat who has filed a nomination paper and is running in a region other than that in which the candidate is domiciled may also choose to be so considered. Such candidates must”.

**2.** The heading of Chapter I before section 14 of the Act is replaced by the following heading:

“ELECTORAL DIVISIONS AND REGIONS”.

**3.** Section 14 of the Act is replaced by the following sections:

“**14.** For the purposes of this Act, the territory of Québec is divided into 80 electoral divisions and 17 electoral regions.

There are 125 seats in the National Assembly. The seats are of two types: 80 division seats and 45 regional seats.

“**14.1.** The name and delimitation of the electoral regions are those set out in Schedule I.

In this Act, “region” refers to such an electoral region.

“**14.2.** The 80 division seats are apportioned among the regions as follows:

(1) one division seat is granted to each of the 17 regions;

(2) one additional division seat is granted to the Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine region; and

(3) the remaining 62 division seats are apportioned as follows:

(a) for each of the 17 regions, the total number of electors in the region according to the permanent list of electors is successively divided by the divisors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and so forth, so as to obtain the quotients corresponding to each of those divisors;

(b) those quotients are calculated until the 62 highest quotients for all the regions have been obtained;

(c) each of the 62 quotients so obtained is retained and is associated with the corresponding region; and

(d) the number of additional division seats granted to a region is equal to the number of quotients so associated with the region.

**“14.3.** The 45 regional seats are apportioned among the regions as follows:

(1) one regional seat is granted to each of the 16 regions other than the Nord-du-Québec region; and

(2) the remaining 29 regional seats are apportioned as follows:

(a) for each of the 17 regions, the total number of electors in the region according to the permanent list of electors is successively divided by the divisors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and so forth, so as to obtain the quotients corresponding to each of those divisors;

(b) those quotients are calculated until the 29 highest quotients for all the regions have been obtained;

(c) each of the 29 quotients so obtained is retained and is associated with the corresponding region; and

(d) the number of additional regional seats granted to a region is equal to the number of quotients so associated with the region.”

**4.** Section 15 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting the following paragraph at the beginning:

“Taking into account the second paragraph, the rules set out in sections 16 and 17, and the principle that the vote of each elector is of equal weight, the Commission shall delimit the electoral divisions within each region on the basis of the number of electoral divisions granted to the region, in such a way as to ensure that the principle of effective representation of electors is upheld.”;

(2) by replacing “of the region” by “of the territory”.

**5.** Section 16 of the Act is amended by replacing “total number of electors by the number of electoral divisions” by “total number of electors in the region in which the electoral division is comprised by the number of electoral divisions comprised in the region”.

**6.** Section 17 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “électorale” after “Commission de la représentation” in the first paragraph;

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Despite section 16, Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Ungava constitute two electoral divisions. The territorial boundaries of those electoral divisions are described in Schedules II and III, respectively.”

**7.** Section 19 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “following the last delimitation” by “held using the same list of electoral divisions and regions established under this chapter”;

(2) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“However, if less than five years have elapsed since the publication of the list of electoral divisions and regions, the Commission shall postpone the delimitation of the electoral divisions until after the first general election following the expiry of the five-year period.”

**8.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 19:

**“20.** Each time the Commission proposes, indicates or establishes the boundaries of the electoral divisions or each time it publishes a list of the electoral divisions and regions, it shall attach the calculations used to apportion the seats.

The data on the number of electors that is used to make those calculations and delimit the electoral divisions is the data from the permanent list of electors on the day after the general election that precedes the beginning of the new delimitation.”

**9.** Section 25 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentences at the end of the first paragraph: “The Committee shall begin examining the report within 30 days after the end of the public hearings held under section 24 or, as applicable, the public hearings held under section 24.1. If that period expires while the Assembly is not sitting, the examination shall begin within 30 days of resumption.”

**10.** Section 29 of the Act is amended, in the second paragraph,

(1) by replacing “list of the electoral divisions” by “list of electoral divisions and regions”;

(2) by inserting “and the name of the region in which they are comprised” after “boundaries of each”;

(3) by inserting “and region” after “each electoral division”;

(4) by replacing “qu’elle renferme” in the French text by “qu’elles renferment”.

**11.** Section 30 of the Act is amended by inserting “and regions” after “electoral divisions” in the first paragraph.

**12.** Section 31 of the Act is amended by inserting “and regions” after both occurrences of “divisions”.

**13.** Section 32 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “and regions” after “electoral divisions”;

(2) by striking out “, unless it ends before the expiry of three months from publication”;

(3) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“However, if the Legislature ends before the expiry of a three-month period after that publication, the list in force before the end of that Legislature remains in force for the next general election and for the duration of the Legislature following that election. The coming into force of the new list is then postponed until that Legislature ends. The new list is used for the next two general elections and the process provided for in this chapter then resumes.”

**14.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 32:

**“32.1.** The process provided for in this chapter is suspended if the Legislature ends pursuant to section 6 of the Act respecting the National Assembly (chapter A-23.1). It is resumed on the first day of the next Legislature.”

**15.** Section 33 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by inserting “and regions” after “electoral divisions”;

(2) by replacing “of the divisions” by “division”.

**16.** Section 34 of the Act is amended by inserting “and regions” after “list of electoral divisions”.

**17.** Section 37 of the Act is amended by inserting “or at the level of the region in which the division is comprised” after “at the level of the electoral division”.

**18.** Section 38.3 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “among the divisions” by “or in respect of a single region among the divisions or regions”;

(2) by replacing “that include all or part of the division” by “whose territory covers all or part of the territory of the division or region”.

**19.** Section 40.3 of the Act is amended by replacing “the description of electoral divisions” in paragraph 1 by “the electoral divisions and regions”.

**20.** Section 40.12 of the Act is amended by striking out “électorales” in the first paragraph in the French text.

**21.** Section 40.12.20 of the Act is amended by striking out “électorale” in the French text.

**22.** Section 40.15 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “, in the division vote,” after “one on the recommendation of the authorized party that”;

(2) by inserting “, in that vote,” after “the other on the recommendation of the authorized party that”.

**23.** Section 40.16 of the Act is amended by inserting “in the division vote” after “ranked second”.

**24.** Section 40.35 of the Act is amended by striking out “électorales” in the French text.

**25.** Section 40.38.1 of the Act is amended by replacing the last sentence of the first paragraph by the following sentence: “Division Members receive only the list for the electoral division they represent and regional Members receive only the lists for the region they represent.”

**26.** Section 43 of the Act is amended by inserting “and for each region” at the end of the second paragraph.

**27.** Section 44 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(a) by inserting “and regions” after “list of electoral divisions”;

(b) by replacing “new electoral divisions” by “changes made”;

(2) by replacing “for each of the new electoral divisions” in the second paragraph by “for the new electoral divisions”.

**28.** Section 56 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentences at the end of the second paragraph: “From that time, all the regional lists of candidates drawn up by the parties merged in accordance with subdivision 2 of Division I of Chapter IV of Title IV become those of the party resulting from the merger. In each region for which the lists were drawn up, they constitute the sole regional list of the party resulting from the merger. Such a

list is created by placing the lists of the merged parties one after another, starting with the list having obtained the greatest number of votes in the region concerned and ending with the list having obtained the smallest number of votes. If the list includes more candidates than the number allowed, the candidates in excess of that number are withdrawn, starting with the last one. However, if a merger occurs during an election period preceding a general election, the lists are not so combined; the party resulting from the merger shall produce new regional lists of candidates.”

**29.** Section 59 of the Act is amended by replacing subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph by the following subparagraph:

“(2) the name of the electoral division or region, as applicable, in which he is a candidate;”.

**30.** Section 59.1 of the Act is amended, in the third paragraph,

(1) by inserting “domiciliary” before “addresses”;

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end: “However, in the case of an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate for a regional seat, the electors’ domiciliary address may be situated anywhere in the region concerned, but there must be at least one of those electors domiciled in each electoral division comprised in the region.”

**31.** Section 68 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing “entities, or” by “entities;”;

(2) by inserting “, or with Chapter IV.0.1 of Title IV, regarding parity between women and men” at the end.

**32.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 70:

**“70.1.** On the coming into force of a new list of electoral divisions and regions, the Chief Electoral Officer shall withdraw the authorization of an authorized party authority whose territory no longer corresponds to a division or a region. The Chief Electoral Officer may also require that the name of a party authority be changed so that it corresponds to the name of the division or region covered by the authorization.

On the publication of a new list of divisions and regions, the Chief Electoral Officer shall inform the authorized parties of the rules applicable to the closing of party authorities.”

**33.** Section 82 of the Act is amended by replacing “obtained by them at the last general election” in the first paragraph by “calculated by considering the total number of votes cast at the last general election in favour of all their candidates for a division seat and all their regional lists of candidates”.

**34.** Section 82.4 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**82.4.** The Chief Electoral Officer shall pay, in the manner and at the frequency the Chief Electoral Officer determines,

(1) \$2.50 for each dollar contributed to an independent division Member or to an independent candidate for a division seat, up to an annual amount of \$1,250 paid in contributions to each Member or candidate; or

(2) \$2.50 for each dollar contributed to an independent regional Member or to an independent candidate for a regional seat, up to an annual amount of

(a) \$1,250 paid in contributions to each Member or candidate in the case of a region comprising one to three electoral divisions;

(b) \$2,500 paid in contributions to each Member or candidate in the case of a region comprising four to six electoral divisions; or

(c) \$3,750 paid in contributions to each Member or candidate in the case of a region comprising seven electoral divisions or more.”

**35.** Section 88 of the Act is amended by inserting “cast either in favour of all their candidates for a division seat or in favour of all their regional lists of candidates” at the end of subparagraph 7 of the second paragraph.

**36.** Section 91 of the Act is amended by replacing “the region” in the last paragraph by “the surrounding territory”.

**37.** Section 94 of the Act is amended by inserting “or region” after “for the electoral division”.

**38.** Section 117 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing subparagraph 3 of the second paragraph by the following subparagraphs:

“(3) in the case of an authorized party authority, the signature of the division Member if the authority is at the electoral division level, or the signatures of all the party’s regional Members if the authority is at the regional level; in the absence of such a Member, the financial report must be signed by the highest ranking official designated in writing by the authorized party authority;

“(4) in the case of an authorized independent Member, the Member’s signature.”;

(2) by replacing “by the person referred to in subparagraph 3” in the third paragraph by “by the person or persons referred to, as the case may be, in subparagraph 3 or subparagraph 4”.

**39.** Section 128 of the Act is amended by inserting “and, for a general election, each region” after “each electoral division” in the first paragraph.

**40.** Section 129 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “and regions” after “electoral divisions” in the first paragraph;

(2) by replacing “last day of the previous Legislature” in the second paragraph by “polling day of the last general election”.

**41.** Section 129.2 of the Act is amended by replacing “last day of the previous Legislature” in the first paragraph by “polling day of the last general election”.

**42.** Section 130 of the Act is amended by replacing “the seat of a Member in the National Assembly” in the first paragraph by “a division seat”.

**43.** Section 134 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“134.** Not later than the twenty-second day preceding polling day, the Chief Electoral Officer must have sent each elector at least one document informing the elector on such matters as voting procedures, the operation of the electoral system, the list of electors and its revision, the financing of political parties and independent candidates, and the control of election expenses. In addition, the Chief Electoral Officer may, during the election period, inform citizens on the above matters by any other means he considers appropriate.”

**44.** Section 135 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “send” by “have sent”;

(2) by replacing “une carte” in the French text by “un document”;

(3) by replacing “the ballot paper” by “each ballot paper”;

(4) by adding the following sentence at the end: “In addition, the reminder may contain information on the matters listed in section 134.”

**45.** Section 146 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for the division seat” after “candidate” in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

“In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer shall also, within the same time, transmit to each independent candidate for a regional seat the information contained in those lists that concerns the region in which the candidate is running.”;

(3) by replacing “The lists” in the second paragraph by “The lists and the information”;

(4) by replacing “, to any other authorized party having so requested and to any authorized independent Member” in the third paragraph by “and to any other authorized party that so requests. The Chief Electoral Officer shall, in the same manner, transmit to any authorized independent Member the information contained in the lists that concerns, as applicable, the division or region represented by the Member”.

**46.** Section 180 of the Act is amended, in the fifth paragraph,

(1) by inserting “for the division seat” after “candidate”;

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end: “In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer shall communicate to each independent candidate for a regional seat the address of those places for the region in which the candidate is running.”

**47.** Section 182 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “, in the division vote,” after “authorized party that” in the third paragraph;

(2) by inserting “, in the division vote,” after “authorized party that” in the fourth paragraph.

**48.** Section 183 of the Act is amended by inserting “, in the division vote,” after “no authorized party ranked second”.

**49.** Section 186 of the Act is amended by inserting “, in the division vote,” after “authorized party that”.

**50.** Section 218 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for the division seat” after “candidate” in the first paragraph;

(2) by replacing “each candidate” in the second and third paragraphs by “each of those candidates”;

(3) by inserting the following paragraph after the third paragraph:

“In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer must also, within the same time periods, send each independent candidate for a regional seat the information contained in those lists that concerns the region in which the candidate is running.”;

(4) by replacing “The lists are sent” in the fourth paragraph by “The lists and information are sent”.

**51.** Section 227 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for the division seat” after “candidate” in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

“In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer shall also, within the same time period, send each independent candidate for a regional seat the information contained in those lists that concerns the region in which the candidate is running.”;

(3) by replacing “The list is sent” in the second paragraph by “The lists and information are sent”.

**52.** Section 230 of the Act is amended by inserting “the ranking of an authorized party for the purpose of appointing revisors is determined by considering the total number of votes cast in favour of all its candidates for a division seat and all its regional lists of candidates. In addition,” after “However,” in the second paragraph.

**53.** Section 233.6 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for the division seat” at the end of the second paragraph;

(2) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer shall also, on the completion of the work, send any abstract of the changes to each authorized party, and do likewise for each independent candidate for a regional seat with respect to the information contained in such an abstract that concerns the region in which the candidate is running.”

**54.** Section 236 of the Act is amended by replacing “No person may be a candidate for election in more than one electoral division” by “A person may be a candidate for election in only one division or region”.

**55.** The Act is amended by inserting the following before section 237:

“§1. — *Candidate for a division seat*”.

**56.** Section 237 of the Act is amended by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”.

**57.** Section 239 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing “in the form prescribed by regulation” by “made in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed by regulation”;

(2) by inserting “, as the case may be,” after “his occupation and”;

(3) by striking out “, if he so wishes,”.

**58.** Section 241 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “in accordance” in subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph by “that complies”;

(2) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“A candidate may provide another photograph that complies with the standards prescribed by regulation before 2:00 p.m. on the sixteenth day preceding polling day.”

**59.** Section 242 of the Act is amended by inserting “domiciliary” before “addresses” in the first paragraph.

**60.** Section 243 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“243.** Each person collecting supporting signatures shall declare under oath, before a commissioner for oaths or the returning officer, that the persons whose names appear on the nomination paper have affixed their signatures in his presence and that, to his knowledge, they are electors of that electoral division.

In addition, each person collecting supporting signatures shall certify, on each page of the nomination paper that bears such signatures, that he personally collected the signatures.”

**61.** Section 244 of the Act is amended by replacing “form” by “nomination paper”.

**62.** Section 245 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(a) by replacing “this division” by “this subdivision”;

(b) by inserting the following sentences after the first sentence: “If such is the case, the returning officer shall issue a receipt confirming that the verifications have been made. The receipt must indicate the day and time on which the nomination paper was received.”;

(c) by replacing “The returning officer shall verify” by “The returning officer shall then verify whether the name of the person seeking nomination as a candidate appears on the list of electors and”;

(d) by adding the following sentence at the end: “Following such verifications, the returning officer shall determine whether the nomination is compliant and, if such is the case, shall issue a notice of compliance that constitutes proof of the nomination.”;

(2) by striking out the second paragraph.

**63.** Section 245.1 of the Act is repealed.

**64.** Section 246 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “and the accompanying documents” at the end of the first paragraph;

(2) by striking out the second paragraph.

**65.** Section 247 of the Act is repealed.

**66.** The Act is amended by inserting the following subdivisions after section 247:

“§2. — *List of candidates of an authorized party for a regional seat*

“**247.1.** In a general election, an authorized party may, for each region, draw up a regional list of candidates for the seats in the region. The list must be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer within the time prescribed in section 237.

The list may contain a number of names that is equal to or less than the total number of regional seats to be filled for the region. The persons seeking nomination as candidates are to be listed in the order set by the party for the allocation of seats.

“**247.2.** The list may be accompanied by a logo of the party that complies with the standards prescribed by the Chief Electoral Officer.

A party may use only one logo for all of its regional lists of candidates.

“**247.3.** The officer of each authorized party designated in writing by the party’s leader for that purpose may, for a region, designate one or more persons to act as mandataries on behalf of all the persons seeking nomination as candidates for regional seats, for the party. The names and signatures of the mandataries, if any, must appear on the regional list.

**“247.4.** Every regional list must include, for each person seeking nomination as a candidate,

(1) the person’s given name and surname, which must comply with section 240, and domiciliary address, date of birth and occupation;

(2) confirmation that the authorized party’s leader recognizes the person as a candidate for the party for a seat in the region concerned; and

(3) confirmation that the person accepts such recognition.

In addition, the list must be accompanied, for each such person, by

(1) an identification paper referred to in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph of section 241; and

(2) a photograph that complies with the standards prescribed by regulation and bears the person’s signature on the back.

**“247.5.** The regional list must bear the signatures and domiciliary addresses of at least 100 electors entered on a list of electors of the region concerned. There must be at least one of those electors domiciled in each electoral division comprised in the region.

The second paragraph of section 242 and sections 243 and 244 apply, with the necessary modifications, to the collection of those signatures.

**“247.6.** On the filing of a regional list, the Chief Electoral Officer shall withdraw from the list, if applicable, the name of any person seeking nomination as a candidate in excess of the number of nominations allowed, starting with the last one.

Subsequently, the Chief Electoral Officer shall verify whether the list appears to meet the requirements of this subdivision and whether all the required documents are attached to it. If such is the case, the Chief Electoral Officer shall issue a receipt confirming that the verifications have been made, specifying for each person seeking nomination as a candidate whether the nomination appears to be compliant or not. The receipt must indicate the day and time on which the list was received. The Chief Electoral Officer shall then verify whether the names of the persons seeking nomination as candidates appear on the list of electors and whether the requirements of the first paragraph of section 247.5 are met.

Following such verifications, the Chief Electoral Officer shall decide whether the regional list is compliant and send the authorized party a notice that includes one of the three following indications:

(1) the indication “compliant” if every person’s nomination is compliant;

(2) the indication “partly compliant” if some persons’ nominations are not compliant; or

(3) the indication “non-compliant” if no person’s nomination is compliant, if the list was filed past the deadline, if it does not bear the name or signature of the persons designated, as the case may be, to act as mandataries, or if the list does not meet one of the requirements set out in the first paragraph of section 247.5.

The notice referred to in subparagraph 2 of the third paragraph must mention which nominations are compliant, and the non-compliant nominations are withdrawn from the list. The order of the remaining nominations is adjusted accordingly. The notice referred to subparagraph 3 of that paragraph must mention the grounds on which the list is considered non-compliant.

The notice constitutes proof of the nominations it indicates as being compliant.

**“247.7.** Section 246 applies, with the necessary modifications, to a regional list of candidates and to the accompanying documents, but they must be examined at the Chief Electoral Officer’s office or at any other place determined by the latter.

*“§3.—Independent candidate for a regional seat*

**“247.8.** In a general election, a person wishing to be an independent candidate for a regional seat shall file a nomination paper with the Chief Electoral Officer within the time prescribed in section 237. The person may designate one or more persons to act in his name as mandataries.

The nomination paper must be made in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed by regulation and be signed by the person wishing to be a candidate. The person shall indicate his given name and surname, which must comply with section 240, and his domiciliary address, date of birth and occupation. In addition, the nomination paper must bear the name and signature of his official agent and, if the person decides to appoint one or more mandataries, the name and signature of his mandatary or mandataries.

**“247.9.** A person seeking nomination as a candidate shall attach to his nomination paper

(1) an identification paper referred to in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph of section 241; and

(2) a photograph that complies with the standards prescribed by regulation and bears the person’s signature on the back.

**“247.10.** The nomination paper must bear the signatures and domiciliary addresses of at least 100 electors entered on a list of electors of the region concerned. There must be at least one of those electors domiciled in each electoral division comprised in the region.

The second paragraph of section 242 and sections 243 and 244 apply, with the necessary modifications, to the collection of those signatures.

**“247.11.** On the filing of the nomination paper, the Chief Electoral Officer shall verify whether it appears to meet the requirements of this subdivision and whether all the required documents are attached to it. If such is the case, the Chief Electoral Officer shall issue a receipt confirming that the verifications have been made. The receipt must indicate the day and time on which the nomination paper was received. The Chief Electoral Officer shall then verify whether the name of the person seeking nomination as a candidate appears on the list of electors and whether the requirements of the first paragraph of section 247.10 are met. Following such verifications, the Chief Electoral Officer shall determine whether the nomination paper is compliant and, if such is the case, shall issue a notice of compliance that constitutes proof of the nomination.

**“247.12.** Section 246 applies to a nomination paper referred to in this subdivision, but it must be examined at the Chief Electoral Officer’s office or at any other place determined by the latter.”

**67.** Section 249 of the Act is amended by inserting “for a division seat or of an independent candidate for a regional seat” after “official agent of a candidate” in the first paragraph.

**68.** The Act is amended by inserting the following division after section 255:

**“DIVISION II.1**

**“MODIFICATION OR REPLACEMENT OF A NOMINATION OR REGIONAL LIST OF CANDIDATES**

**“255.1.** A new nomination paper must be filed in accordance with Division I in the following cases:

(1) an authorized party no longer recognizes a candidate for a division seat or wishes to replace the candidate by another;

(2) an authorized party’s candidate for a division seat wishes, in respect of the same seat, to run as an independent candidate or as a candidate for another authorized party, or wishes to run for a different division seat; or

(3) an independent candidate wishes to run as a candidate for a division seat for an authorized party or wishes to run for a different seat or type of seat.

**“255.2.** A new regional list of candidates must be filed in accordance with subdivision 2 of Division I for making any change to a previously filed list.

However, only the persons whose nomination was not compliant and those who were not already on the previously filed list must provide the information, identification paper and photograph referred to in section 247.4. In addition, the new regional list requires only 25 compliant signatures.

The Chief Electoral Officer shall apply section 247.6 taking into account that nominations already declared compliant remain so.

**“255.3.** The issue by the Chief Electoral Officer of a notice of compliance in respect of a new nomination paper or a notice in respect of a new regional list of candidates voids the nomination paper or the list modified or replaced by the new nomination paper or new list.”

**69.** Section 256 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(a) by replacing “if he files a declaration to that effect with the returning officer” by “by filing a declaration to that effect”;

(b) by inserting “or region, as the case may be,” after “division”;

(c) by adding the following sentence at the end: “The declaration must be sent to the returning officer, in the case of a candidate for a division seat, and to the Chief Electoral Officer, in the case of a candidate for a regional seat.”;

(2) by striking out “with the returning officer” in the second paragraph.

**70.** Section 257 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“257.** The candidate’s name must not appear on the ballot paper if the Chief Electoral Officer is able to make the required corrections before the ballot papers are printed or if he is able to have them reprinted.

In the opposite case, the deputy returning officer must strike the candidate’s name from every ballot paper.”

**71.** Section 258 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “the candidate” in the first paragraph by “the candidate for a division seat”;

(2) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“If, following the withdrawal of a candidate for a regional seat, there is only one way to allocate the regional seats, the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare the candidate or candidates elected for that region.”

**72.** Section 259 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “Where the candidate” in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after the third paragraph:

“A nomination paper filed before the postponement of polling day is valid for a poll so postponed, unless the nomination paper is replaced or modified within the time prescribed for filing nomination papers.”;

(3) by replacing “sections 257 and 258” in the fourth paragraph by “section 257 and the first paragraph of section 258”;

(4) in the last paragraph,

(a) by inserting “for a division seat” after “independent candidate”;

(b) by replacing “sections 257 and 258” by “section 257 and the first paragraph of section 258”.

**73.** The Act is amended by inserting the following after section 259:

**“259.0.1.** If the leader of an authorized party does not, within the applicable time, replace the name of a candidate on a regional list who has died or has withdrawn, the order of the names of the remaining candidates on such a list shall be adjusted accordingly.

**“259.0.2.** The postponement of an election in an electoral division due to the death of a candidate for a division seat or the death of a candidate for a regional seat does not entail, in the region concerned, the postponement of the election of the regional Members.

#### **“DIVISION IV**

#### **“ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION**

**“259.0.3.** If the returning officer has received only one nomination paper for a division seat at the expiry of the time prescribed in section 237, the returning officer shall declare the candidate elected and immediately inform the Chief Electoral Officer.

Likewise, if the Chief Electoral Officer finds that, for a region, there is only one way to allocate the regional seat or seats at the expiry of the time prescribed in section 237, he shall declare the candidate or candidates elected for the region.

#### **“CHAPTER IV.0.1**

#### **“PARITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN**

**“259.0.4.** One of the two officers of each authorized party referred to in paragraph 5 of section 48, who is designated in writing by the party’s leader for that purpose, must, not later than the third day following the issue of an order instituting a general election, send the Chief Electoral Officer a statement relating to the objectives the party has set for itself concerning parity between women and men.

The statement shall be posted on the Chief Electoral Officer’s website not later than the fifth day following the day the order instituting the general election is made.

**“259.0.5.** The officer must, not later than the twelfth day before polling day, send the Chief Electoral Officer a report on the achievement of the objectives set in the statement with respect to the candidates running for the party.

The report shall indicate the total number of party candidates and specify the number of women and the number of men.

The report shall be posted on the Chief Electoral Officer’s website not later than the tenth day before polling day.”

**74.** Section 259.7 of the Act is amended by inserting “for a division seat or independent candidate for a regional seat” after “candidate” in the third paragraph.

**75.** Section 259.8 of the Act is amended by replacing “or candidate” in the first paragraph by “, candidate for a division seat or independent candidate for a regional seat”.

**76.** Section 259.9 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for a division seat, independent candidate for a regional seat” after “candidate”;

(2) by adding the following sentences at the end: “In addition, an authorized party must ensure that its candidates for a regional seat comply with those provisions. Any notices provided for in this chapter regarding posters and billboards that promote one or more of those candidates must be sent to the party concerned. The party must, if applicable, cover the cost of removing such posters or billboards.”

**77.** The Act is amended by inserting the following division after the heading of Chapter V before section 260:

**“DIVISION 0.1**

**“SPECIAL POWER OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER AND INTERPRETATION**

**“259.10.** For the purposes of Divisions I to IV of this chapter, the Chief Electoral Officer may, as he sees fit in the circumstances, use one or more ballot boxes to receive the ballot papers.

In addition, those divisions must be read making the necessary modifications to take into account the fact that no election for regional seats is held in a by-election or in any election in a region that does not have a regional seat.”

**78.** Section 260 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“As soon as the period specified in section 237 ends, the returning officer shall, if he has received more than one nomination paper, post a notice of a poll in his office and make it available, on a technological medium, to the candidates and their mandataries.”;

(2) in the second paragraph,

(a) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;

(b) by adding the following sentence at the end: “The same information must appear on the notice of a poll as concerns the candidates for a regional seat in the region in which the electoral division is comprised.”

**79.** Section 261 of the Act is repealed.

**80.** Section 262 of the Act is amended by striking out the second paragraph.

**81.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 262:

**“262.1.** Electors may exercise their right to vote by casting two votes on two separate ballot papers:

(1) one vote on a division ballot paper for a candidate running in the electoral division of their domicile; and

(2) one vote on a regional ballot paper for an independent candidate for a seat in the region in which that electoral division is comprised or for one of the regional lists of candidates drawn up by the authorized parties for the region.

If the vote is cast in person, the two votes must be cast consecutively in a single visit to the polling station and, if the vote is cast by mail, the ballot papers must be sent together.”

**82.** Section 264 of the Act is amended by replacing “332” by “332.1”.

**83.** Section 266 of the Act is amended by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“When the elector is admitted to vote, the person assigned to voting at the returning officer’s office gives the elector a division ballot paper and a regional ballot paper. The person assigned to voting must initial the ballot papers in the spaces reserved for that purpose and remove the counterfoil from each ballot paper. After voting, the elector places each ballot paper in the ballot box provided for that purpose.”

**84.** Section 267 of the Act is amended, in the second paragraph,

(1) by inserting “for the division seat” after “candidates”;

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end: “After each day, the Chief Electoral Officer sends each authorized party the lists of electors who have voted, and he does likewise for each independent candidate for a regional seat, for the region in which the candidate is running.”

**85.** Section 270 of the Act is amended by replacing “332” by “332.1”.

**86.** Section 275 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**275.** Electors admitted to vote outside their electoral division receive two ballot papers, each printed on a single sheet, prepared according to the models provided in Schedule V. Electors also receive

(1) a list of all the candidates for the electoral division of the electors’ domicile and the parties they represent, if applicable;

(2) a list of the options for the allocation of the regional seats in the region of their domicile;

(3) an envelope bearing the name of the electoral division of their domicile; and

(4) an envelope bearing the name of the region in which the electoral division of their domicile is comprised.

The information referred to in subparagraphs 1 and 2 of the first paragraph appears in the order determined according to the rules set out in sections 324 and 324.1, respectively.”

**87.** Section 276 of the Act is amended by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Electors cast their votes by indicating,

(1) on the division ballot paper, the given name and surname of the candidate of their choice from among those on the list of candidates for the electoral division of their domicile; they may also add the name of the political party the candidate represents or the indication “independent”, as the case may be; and

(2) on the regional ballot paper, the given name and surname of the independent candidate or name of the authorized party of their choice for the regional seats concerned, from among the options for the allocation of the seats in the region of their domicile.”

**88.** Section 277 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“277.** Electors must place the division ballot paper and the regional ballot paper in the envelopes provided for each and marked accordingly. The envelopes must not allow the electors to be identified. Electors seal the envelopes containing the ballot papers and place them in the ballot box provided for that purpose.”

**89.** Section 279 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: “Each voting day, the Chief Electoral Officer sends each authorized party and each independent candidate for a regional seat the lists of electors in the region who have voted outside their electoral division.”

**90.** Section 280 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out “or boxes” in the first paragraph;

(2) by replacing “divides” and “according to electoral divisions” in the second paragraph by “sorts” and “by electoral division and by region”, respectively.

**91.** Section 283 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The request may be filed using the electronic form prescribed by the Chief Electoral Officer. In such a case, one of the documents referred to in the second paragraph must bear the elector’s signature. The elector’s declaration attesting that he or she is the elector identified in the registration form for voting outside Québec then stands in lieu of the signature required under the first paragraph.”

**92.** Section 287 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “the list of candidates and the address of the Chief Electoral Officer’s website on which that list is posted” in the first paragraph by “the lists of candidates and the address of the Chief Electoral Officer’s website on which those lists are posted”;

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The ballot papers, each printed on a single sheet, are prepared according to the models provided in Schedule VI.”

**93.** Section 288 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“288.** Not later than the fourteenth day before polling day, the Chief Electoral Officer sends each elector the list of candidates for the electoral division, and the list of the options for the allocation of the seats in the region in which the elector was last domiciled.

The Chief Electoral Officer also sends, to the places designated by the Government, the list of candidates for each electoral division and the list of the options for the allocation of seats for each region.”

**94.** Section 289 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“289.** Electors must cast their votes in the manner set out in section 276.”

**95.** Section 290 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“290.** After voting, electors must place the division ballot paper and the regional ballot paper in the envelopes provided for each and marked accordingly. The envelopes must not allow the electors to be identified. Electors seal the envelopes containing the ballot papers and place them in another envelope, bearing their signature, on which they must indicate their name and domiciliary address in Québec or, where applicable, their last domiciliary address in Québec.”

**96.** Section 291 of the Act is amended by replacing “their ballot papers” by “the envelope bearing their signature”.

**97.** Section 292 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“292.** On receiving the envelope, the Chief Electoral Officer verifies the signature on it. If the signature matches the one on the request filed under the first paragraph of section 283 or, if the request is filed using an electronic form, on the document accompanying the elector’s request, the Chief Electoral Officer keeps the envelope without opening it.

If the signatures do not match, the Chief Electoral Officer rejects the envelope without opening it.

The Chief Electoral Officer also verifies whether the envelope is from an elector removed from the list of electors by the board of revisors. If such is the case, the Chief Electoral Officer rejects the envelope without opening it.”

**98.** Section 293 of the Act is amended by replacing “votes” in the French text by “bulletins de vote”.

**99.** Section 298 of the Act is amended by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Inmates vote on ballot papers, each printed on a single sheet, prepared according to the models provided in Schedule VII.”

**100.** Section 300 of the Act is amended by replacing the second sentence of the first paragraph by the following sentences: “The returning officer immediately informs each candidate for the division seat and each authorized party authority at the division level of the addresses of those polling stations. In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer immediately informs each authorized party of the addresses of those polling stations, and he does likewise for each independent candidate for a regional seat regarding the addresses of those polling stations for the region in which the candidate is running.”

**101.** Section 301.1 of the Act is amended by inserting “332.1,” after “332,” in the first paragraph.

**102.** Section 301.3 of the Act is amended, in the second paragraph,

- (1) by inserting “division and regional” after “separate envelopes the”;
- (2) by striking out “bearing a number”.

**103.** Section 301.5 of the Act is amended

- (1) by inserting “for the division seat” after “candidates”;
- (2) by replacing “At the end of each day” by “After each day”;
- (3) by adding the following sentence at the end: “In a general election, after each day, the Chief Electoral Officer sends each authorized party the lists of the electors in the region who voted in the advance poll, and he does likewise for each independent candidate for a regional seat regarding the lists of the electors who voted in the advance poll in the region in which the candidate is running.”

**104.** Section 301.9 is amended by inserting the following at the end: “for the electoral division seat. In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer sends each authorized party the lists of the electors who made such a request, and he does likewise for each independent candidate for a regional seat, for the entire region in which the candidate is running”.

**105.** Section 302 of the Act is amended, in the last paragraph,

(1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end: “In a general election, the Chief Electoral Officer shall, within the same time, inform each authorized party of those places, and he shall do likewise for each independent candidate for a regional seat, for the entire region in which the candidate is running.”

**106.** Section 303 of the Act is amended by replacing “381” in the third paragraph by “380.1”.

**107.** Section 310 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “in the electoral division vote” after “came first” in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting “in that vote” after “came second” in the second paragraph.

**108.** Section 310.1 of the Act is amended by inserting “in the electoral division vote” after “came third”.

**109.** Section 311 of the Act is amended by inserting “in the electoral division vote” after “came second”.

**110.** Section 313 of the Act is amended

(1) by adding the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: “The Chief Electoral Officer or the returning officer shall immediately send that information to the authorized parties.”;

(2) in the second paragraph,

(a) by replacing “He” by “The returning officer”;

(b) by adding the following sentence at the end: “The Chief Electoral Officer or the returning officer shall immediately inform the authorized parties of such changes.”

**111.** The heading before section 316 of the Act is replaced by the following heading:

**“Representatives—electoral division seats”.**

**112.** Section 316 of the Act is amended

- (1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;
- (2) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The leader of an authorized party and the party’s candidates, or an independent candidate for a division seat, may not designate more than one representative per place where a polling station is established, regardless of whether the representative is designated under this section or section 319.1.”

**113.** Section 317 of the Act is amended by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”.

**114.** The heading before section 318 of the Act is replaced by the following heading:

**“Poll runners—electoral division seats”.**

**115.** Section 318 of the Act is amended

- (1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;
- (2) by replacing “polling stations are established” by “a polling station is established”;
- (3) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“A person designated by the leader of an authorized party and the party’s candidates may not designate more than one poll runner per place where a polling station is established, regardless of whether the poll runner is designated under this section or section 319.2.”

**116.** Section 319 of the Act is amended by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”.

**117.** The Act is amended by inserting the following after section 319:

**“Representatives—regional seats**

**“319.1.** A candidate for a regional seat may attend every operation related to the poll, in all the electoral divisions in the region concerned.

An independent candidate for such a seat may, in addition, designate persons and give them a power of attorney to represent him before the deputy returning officers and officers in charge of information and order in a region’s electoral divisions, or before each of them. Likewise, the leader of an authorized party may give persons a power of attorney to represent all the candidates on a regional list before those deputy returning officers or officers in charge of information and order.

Section 317 applies, with the necessary modifications, to any power of attorney referred to in this section.

An independent candidate for a regional seat may not designate more than one representative per place where a polling station is established in the region.

**“Poll runners—regional seats**

**“319.2.** An independent candidate for a regional seat may also designate, on polling day, a person for each place where polling stations are established in the region concerned, and give that person a power of attorney to collect the lists of the electors who have already exercised their right to vote. That person may be the person the independent candidate has designated as his representative before the officer in charge of information and order.

A person designated by the leader of an authorized party may also designate, on polling day, a person for each place where polling stations are established in the regions for which the party has drawn up a regional list of candidates, and give that person a power of attorney to collect the lists of the electors who have already exercised their right to vote.

Section 319 applies, with the necessary modifications, to any power of attorney referred to in this section.

An independent candidate for a regional seat may not designate more than one poll runner per place where a polling station is established in the region.”

**118.** Section 320 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The Chief Electoral Officer shall have ballot papers printed according to the models provided in Schedule VIII. Each ballot paper must be printed on a single sheet.”;

(2) by replacing “model ordered by the returning officer” in the second paragraph by “printed using the models ordered”.

**119.** Section 321 of the Act is amended by striking out the second sentence.

**120.** Section 323 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(a) by replacing “The ballot papers” in the first paragraph by “Each ballot paper”;

(b) by replacing “reverse” by “back”;

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraphs:

“Each ballot paper must have, on the back, a space reserved for the initials of the deputy returning officer and a space reserved for the name and address of the printer. In addition, the division ballot paper must have a space for designating the electoral division, and the regional ballot paper must have a space for designating the region.

The most recent compliant photograph referred to in section 241 must be reproduced in black and white on the division ballot paper, opposite the name of the candidate for a division seat.”

**121.** Section 324 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Division ballot papers must allow each candidate for a division seat to be clearly identified.”;

(2) by striking out “if he has indicated it in his nomination paper” in the second paragraph;

(3) by inserting “and specify the appropriate manner to do so” at the end of the third paragraph.

**122.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 324:

**“324.1.** Regional ballot papers must contain, on the front, the list of options for the allocation of the seats in the region of the elector’s domicile. The Chief Electoral Officer shall, in the manner he determines, draw lots per region to determine the order in which those options are to appear.

For independent candidates, the given name and surname of each candidate must appear on the ballot papers, spelled as in the nomination paper, and the indication “independent” must be entered under the name. In addition, the indication “IND.” must be entered to the left of the given name and surname of the candidate.

For the regional lists of candidates of an authorized party, the name of each party must appear first on the ballot papers, and the given names and surnames of the candidates on the party’s list must be shown underneath the party’s name, in the order determined by the party. If the authorized party has included a compliant logo, the logo must be reproduced in black and white, to the left of the party’s and candidates’ names.”

**123.** Section 325 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out “for each electoral division” in the first paragraph;

(2) by striking out “be of uniform size and shape, and shall” in the second paragraph.

**124.** Section 327 of the Act is amended by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The returning officer also gives the deputy returning officers

(1) a sealed envelope, bearing the returning officer’s initials on the seal, containing a number of division ballot papers at least equal to the number of electors entered on the list, without splitting a ballot paper booklet, plus 25; and

(2) an additional sealed envelope, bearing the officer’s initials on the seal, containing the same number of regional ballot papers.”

**125.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 332:

**“332.1.** The officer in charge of information and order shall make available, in the manner prescribed by the Chief Electoral Officer and so that electors can easily examine them, the options for the allocation of the seats in the region of the elector’s domicile, accompanied by photos of the candidates. The options must appear in the same order as on the regional ballot paper, along with the same indications.”

**126.** Section 340 of the Act is amended by adding the following subparagraph at the end of the first paragraph:

“(7) who is mobility impaired, if the voting place is not accessible on polling day.”

**127.** Section 341 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“341.** The deputy returning officer shall give the elector admitted to vote a division ballot paper and a regional ballot paper. The deputy returning officer must remove the counterfoil from each ballot paper after initialling them in the spaces reserved for that purpose.”

**128.** Sections 342 and 343 of the Act are replaced by the following sections:

**“342.** After receiving the ballot papers, the elector shall enter the polling booth, mark the ballot papers and fold them; he shall allow the initials of the deputy returning officer to be examined by the latter, the poll clerk and the representative of a candidate or authorized party for the place where the polling station is located, if they so desire; then, in full view of the persons present, the elector shall remove the stub of each ballot and hand it to the deputy returning officer, who shall dispose of it, and the elector himself shall place each ballot paper in the ballot box provided for that purpose.

**“343.** The elector shall mark the division ballot paper and the regional ballot paper in one of the circles with a pencil given to him by the deputy returning officer at the same time as the ballot papers.”

**129.** Section 345 of the Act is amended by replacing “any ballot paper” by “a ballot paper”.

**130.** Section 347 of the Act is amended by replacing “son bulletin de vote” in the introductory clause of the first paragraph in the French text by “un bulletin de vote”.

**131.** Section 348 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “a template, in accordance with the model prescribed by regulation” by “any template required that complies with the model or models prescribed by the Chief Electoral Officer”;

(2) by replacing the second sentence by the following: “The deputy returning officer shall then indicate, in accordance with the needs expressed by the elector,

(1) the order in which the options appear on the division ballot paper and read each option aloud, stating the name of each candidate and the indication entered under it; and

(2) the order in which the options appear on the regional ballot paper and read each option aloud, stating, for each option, the name of the authorized party that submitted a regional list and the name of each candidate on the list, or the name of the independent candidate and the indication “independent” below it.”

**132.** Section 350 of the Act is amended by inserting “or a regional list of candidates” at the end of subparagraph 4 of the first paragraph.

**133.** Section 352 of the Act is amended by inserting “, including a party’s regional list of candidates” after “candidate” in the first paragraph.

**134.** Sections 356 and 357 of the Act are amended by replacing “of the candidate in favour of whom” by “of a candidate or the regional list of candidates of an authorized party for whom or which”.

**135.** Section 358 of the Act is amended by replacing “of the candidate for whom” by “of a candidate or the regional list of candidates of an authorized party for whom or which”.

**136.** Section 359 of the Act is amended by replacing “for whom he has voted” by “for which candidates or which regional list of candidates of an authorized party he has voted”.

**137.** Section 361 of the Act is amended by replacing “and their representatives” in the first paragraph by “, their representatives and the representatives of authorized parties for the place where the polling station is located”.

**138.** Section 362 of the Act is amended by inserting “, calculating separate totals for the division ballot papers and regional ballot papers” after “unused ballot papers” in paragraph 2.

**139.** Section 363 of the Act is amended by replacing “the tally sheet provided” by “the tally sheets provided”.

**140.** Section 364 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“364.** The deputy returning officer opens the ballot box.

The division ballot papers and the regional ballot papers are counted separately.

The deputy returning officer counts the division ballot papers first, one by one, and allows each person present to examine them.”

**141.** Section 365 of the Act is amended by inserting “division” after “every” in the first paragraph.

**142.** Section 366 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

- (1) by inserting “division” after “No”;
- (2) by replacing “destroys it” by “disposes of it”.

**143.** Section 367 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “or a candidate’s representative” by “, his representative or an authorized party’s representative for the place where the polling station is located”;

- (2) by replacing “a ballot paper” by “a division ballot paper”.

**144.** Section 368 of the Act is amended

- (1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The deputy returning officer draws up the statement of votes for the division ballot papers and signs it. The poll clerk and the representatives who wish to do so initial the statement.”;

- (2) by inserting “division” after “reasons why” in the second paragraph.

**145.** Sections 369 to 370.2 of the Act are replaced by the following sections:

**“369.** After counting the division ballot papers and drawing up the statement of votes for those ballot papers, the deputy returning officer places in separate envelopes the ballot papers marked for each candidate, the rejected ballot papers, the spoiled or cancelled ballot papers, the unused ballot papers and the statement of votes for the division ballot papers.

**“370.** The deputy returning officer gives a copy of the statement of votes for the division ballot papers to the returning officer and to each representative.

**“370.1.** Once the division ballot papers have been counted, the steps set out in sections 364 to 370 are repeated to count the regional ballot papers, with the following adaptations:

(1) for the purposes of the first paragraph of section 365, a regional ballot paper is declared valid if it is marked in a circle opposite the given name and surname of one of the independent candidates for a seat in the region or opposite one of the regional lists of candidates of an authorized party for that region;

(2) for the purposes of subparagraphs 4 and 5 of the second paragraph of section 365, a regional ballot paper must be rejected if it is marked in favour of more than one option or in favour of an option for which no notice confirming its compliance was issued;

(3) for the purposes of section 367, an objection as to the validity of a regional ballot paper may be raised by any candidate for a regional seat, by the representative of an independent candidate for such a seat or by the representative of an authorized party at the place where the polling station is located;

(4) for the purposes of the first paragraph of sections 368 and 370, the representatives concerned are the representatives of an independent candidate for a regional seat and the representatives of an authorized party at the place where the polling station is located; and

(5) for the purposes of the first paragraph of section 369, the ballot papers marked for each regional list of candidates or each independent candidate for a regional seat must be placed in separate envelopes.

**“370.2.** Once the division and regional ballot papers have been counted, the deputy returning officer seals the various envelopes in which the ballot papers were placed and places them in the ballot box, along with the poll book and the list of electors. The ballot box must also be sealed.

The deputy returning officer and the poll clerk, as well as the representatives concerned who wish to do so, initial the various seals.

**“370.2.1.** The deputy returning officer gives the ballot box to the returning officer or the person designated by the returning officer.”

**146.** Section 370.5 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(a) by inserting “and region” after “electoral division” in subparagraph 2;

(b) by replacing “ballot paper was” in subparagraph 3 by “division ballot paper and only one regional ballot paper were”;

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Once those verifications have been made, if everything is in compliance, the envelope containing the division ballot paper and the envelope containing the regional ballot paper are removed from the envelope containing them and placed in the ballot box.”

**147.** Section 370.8 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “, calculated by considering the total number of votes cast in favour of all its candidates for a division seat and all its regional lists of candidates” at the end of the second paragraph;

(2) by inserting “, calculated in the same manner” at the end of the third paragraph.

**148.** Section 370.9 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(a) by replacing “counts the votes. The votes” by “first counts the division ballot papers. The ballot papers”;

(b) by replacing “370.2” by “370”;

(2) by inserting “division” in the third paragraph after “No”.

**149.** Section 370.10 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first sentence of the first paragraph by the following sentence: “The deputy returning officer, after counting the division ballot papers for each electoral division, draws up a statement of votes for those ballot papers for each electoral division and signs each of them.”;

(2) in the second paragraph,

(a) by replacing “ballot papers marked” by “division ballot papers marked”;

(b) by striking out “seals the envelopes and” and “sealed”;

(3) by striking out the third and fourth paragraphs.

**150.** Sections 370.11 and 370.12 of the Act are replaced by the following sections:

**“370.11.** Once the division ballot papers have been counted, the steps set out in sections 370.9 and 370.10 are repeated to count the regional ballot papers for each region, taking into account, for the purposes of section 370.9, the adaptations provided for in paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of section 370.1.

**“370.12.** Once the division and regional ballot papers have been counted, the deputy returning officer seals the various envelopes in which the ballot papers were placed and places them in the ballot box, along with the poll book and the list of electors. However, the Chief Electoral Officer keeps a copy of the poll book and a copy of the list of electors. The ballot box must also be sealed.

The deputy returning officer and the poll clerk, as well as the representatives concerned who wish to do so, initial the various seals.

**“370.13.** The deputy returning officer gives the ballot box and the statements of votes to the Chief Electoral Officer or the person designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.”

**151.** Section 371 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end: “The Chief Electoral Officer shall communicate that information to the authorized parties, for each of the 80 electoral divisions.”

**152.** Section 372 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“372.** The returning officer shall add up the division votes by using the statements of votes for the division ballot papers contained in the ballot box and compiling the votes cast in favour of each candidate for a division seat, in each polling subdivision of the electoral division.

The returning officer shall then add up the regional votes cast in his electoral division for the allocation of the regional seats in the region in which the electoral division is comprised. He shall use the statements of votes for the regional ballot papers contained in the ballot box and compile the votes cast in favour of each independent candidate for such a seat and in favour of each regional list of candidates, in each polling subdivision of the electoral division.

He shall use the copies of the statements of votes for the ballot papers received in envelopes if he received them at the time of the addition of the votes. Otherwise, he shall use the results communicated by the Chief Electoral Officer.”

**153.** Section 374 of the Act is amended by striking out “provided for in section 371”.

**154.** Section 375 of the Act is amended by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The returning officer shall declare elected the candidate for the division seat who, once the division votes have been added up, has received the greatest number of votes. The returning officer shall then communicate to the Chief Electoral Officer the result of the addition of the regional votes cast in his electoral division for a seat in the region in which the electoral division is comprised.”

**155.** Section 376 of the Act is amended by inserting “in the poll for a division seat” after “tie-vote”.

**156.** Division IV of Chapter V of Title IV of the Act is replaced by the following division:

**“DIVISION IV**

**“ALLOCATION OF SEATS, DECLARATION OF ELECTION AND PUBLICATION OF RESULTS**

**“§1. — *Division seats***

**“377.** If no application for a judicial recount of votes is filed within the time prescribed, the returning officer shall declare elected the candidate for the division seat who received the greatest number of votes. The returning officer shall send a copy of the declaration to each candidate for that seat.

The returning officer shall, without delay, send the declaration of election and the result of the addition of division votes to the Chief Electoral Officer.

**“378.** The returning officer shall then send the Chief Electoral Officer a complete report on the election proceedings.

The returning officer shall also send the Chief Electoral Officer all the division and regional ballot papers, the statements of votes for those ballot papers, the lists of electors and the poll books.

“§2.—*Regional seats*

**“Allocation of regional seats**

**“379.** Once the Chief Electoral Officer has received, for a region, all the results of the addition of votes and all the declarations of election for division seats, and if no application for a judicial recount concerning all or part of the counting of ballot papers for the region was filed within the time prescribed, he shall allocate the seats.

Despite the first paragraph, the Chief Electoral Officer must, if an election is postponed due to the death of a candidate for a division seat or if a new election is held due to a tie-vote for a division seat, allocate a region’s seats up to the number of seats whose allocation will remain unchanged regardless of the result of the election to be held, in those cases, in an electoral division.

**“379.1.** The Chief Electoral Officer shall allocate the first regional seat to the independent candidate for a regional seat or the authorized party who or that obtains the highest quotient when the number referred to in subparagraph 1 is divided by the number referred to in subparagraph 2:

(1) in the case of an independent candidate, the total number of votes in the candidate’s favour or, in the case of a party, the total number of votes in favour of the party’s regional list; and

(2) in the case of an independent candidate, the number 1 or, in the case of a party, the result obtained by adding the number 1 to half the number of candidates of the party elected as division Members for that region; however, if that half includes a decimal, the decimal is rounded off to the higher digit.

The calculation is repeated for the allocation of each subsequent seat. However, each time a seat is allocated to a party, the number 1 is added to the divisor mentioned in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph, for the purposes of the subsequent calculation applicable to that party. The Chief Electoral Officer shall allocate each subsequent seat, up to the total number of regional seats to be allocated for the region, to the independent candidate or to the party who or that obtains, in a given allocation, the highest quotient.

**“379.2.** To participate in the allocation of regional seats, an authorized party must have obtained, across Québec, at least 10% of the valid votes cast in favour of all its regional lists of candidates.

**“379.3.** The regional seats allocated to an authorized party are successively awarded to the candidates whose names appear on the party’s regional list of candidates, in the order in which they appear.

When a party's regional list of candidates is exhausted, the quotients obtained by that party are no longer considered for the purpose of allocating seats in the region concerned.

**“379.4.** If the quotient for allocating the seats in a region is the same for two or more options and the number of seats available does not allow a seat to be allocated to each of the independent candidates and authorized parties whose quotients are tied, the Chief Electoral Officer applies for a judicial recount in accordance with Division V of this chapter.

**“379.5.** The results of a by-election in an electoral division do not affect the allocation of regional seats carried out following a general election.

#### **“Declaration of election**

**“379.6.** Once the seats in a region have been allocated, the Chief Electoral Officer shall make the resulting declarations of election.

He shall send a copy of those declarations of election to each independent candidate for a seat in the region and to each authorized party that has presented candidates in the region.

*“§3. — Publication of results, detailed report of the election and retention of documents*

**“380.** After sending the list of the candidates declared elected to the Secretary General of the National Assembly, the Chief Electoral Officer shall, as soon as possible, publish a notice in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, stating the surnames and given names of the elected candidates, their political affiliation or the indication “independent”, as the case may be, the name of their electoral division or region, as the case may be, and the date the Secretary General received the list.

Candidates declared elected become Members of the National Assembly as of the receipt, by the Secretary General, of the list of the candidates declared elected.

**“380.1.** The Chief Electoral Officer shall, as soon as possible after the election, publish a detailed report on the election containing, among other things, the poll results for each polling station.

The report must also, for each region, contain all the calculations relating to the allocation of seats as well as the authorized parties' regional lists of candidates and mention the independent candidates for the regional seat.

The report must be posted on the Chief Electoral Officer's website. The Chief Electoral Officer shall immediately notify the Secretary General of the National Assembly of the posting.

**“380.2.** The Chief Electoral Officer shall keep the documents sent to him by the returning officers for one year after they are sent or, if the election is contested, for one year after the judgment on the contestation becomes final.”

**157.** Section 383 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;

(2) by replacing “may apply for a judicial recount where the majority is not over one-thousandth of the votes cast.” by “may, where the majority is not over one-thousandth of the votes cast, apply for a judicial recount for that electoral division. In the case of a tie-vote in an electoral division, such an application must be made by the returning officer.

A candidate for a regional seat may apply for a judicial recount of the division votes for one or more electoral divisions comprised in the region concerned and for a judicial recount of the regional votes for the region if the quotient he obtained as an independent candidate or party candidate is at most one one-thousandth below the quotient corresponding to the last seat allocated in that region.

In the case referred to in section 379.4, such an application must be made by the Chief Electoral Officer.”

**158.** Sections 384 and 385 of the Act are replaced by the following sections:

**“384.** The application for a judicial recount is made to a judge of the Court of Québec.

If it solely concerns a division seat, it is filed in the judicial district in which all or part of the electoral division concerned is situated. If the application concerns a regional seat, it is filed in any judicial district in which all or part of the region concerned is situated.

**“385.** Under pain of being dismissed, the application must be served on the Chief Electoral Officer, as well as the returning officers and the candidates concerned, and must be presented within four days after all the votes concerned by the application have been added up.”

**159.** Section 386 of the Act is amended by replacing “the presentation of the application” by “the decision granting the application”.

**160.** Sections 387 and 388 of the Act are replaced by the following sections:

**“387.** The judge shall give at least one clear day’s notice in writing of the day, time and place of the recount. The notice must be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer and the leaders of the authorized parties concerned and the candidates concerned.

The judge shall summon any returning officer and assistant concerned by the application for a recount and order them to bring the ballot boxes and statements of votes. They must obey the summons.

If the application concerns a regional seat, the Chief Electoral Officer must bring a copy of the calculations relating to the allocation of the regional seat concerned as well as any envelope required for the purposes of the judicial recount that contains votes received in envelopes. He may designate a person to assist in the recount.

The judge may consolidate or separate two or more applications for a recount concerning one or more division or regional seats in the same region.

**“388.** On the appointed day, the judge shall examine the ballot papers and other relevant documents in the presence of the persons mentioned in section 387. The persons are entitled to examine the ballot papers and relevant documents.

The judge shall conduct the recount in the order he considers appropriate.”

**161.** Section 389 of the Act is amended by replacing “Sections 365, 366 and the last paragraph of section 370.9” by “Sections 365 and 366, paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 370.1, the last paragraph of section 370.9 and section 370.11”.

**162.** Section 392 of the Act is amended by striking out “cast in favour of each candidate” in the first paragraph.

**163.** Section 393 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“393.** The returning officer or the Chief Electoral Officer, as the case may be, shall make the declarations of election that follow from the results certified by the judge.

The returning officer shall send a copy of the declaration of election to the candidates for the division seat concerned.

The Chief Electoral Officer shall send each independent candidate for the regional seat concerned and each authorized party that presented candidates in the region concerned a copy of the declarations of election for the region.”

**164.** Section 394 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “tie-vote” in the first paragraph;

(2) by adding the following at the end of the third paragraph: “A nomination paper filed for the purposes of the initial election is valid for the new election, unless the nomination paper is replaced or modified within the time prescribed for filing nomination papers.

In the case of a tie in quotients for the allocation of a regional seat, the seat is allocated to the independent candidate or authorized party having obtained the greatest number of votes, provided, in the case of an independent candidate, that he is still a qualified elector or, in the case of a party, that the percentage of votes cast in favour of all its regional lists allows it to participate in the allocation of the seat. If there is a tie in the number of votes obtained, the seat is allocated by drawing lots in the manner the judge determines.”

**165.** Section 395 of the Act is amended by replacing the second and third paragraphs by the following paragraph:

“In the cases provided for in section 383, the person who applied for the recount pays no costs. In the other cases, he bears the following costs:

(1) the costs of the candidate for a division seat who obtained the greatest number of votes after the votes were added up, if his situation remains unchanged after the recount; and

(2) the costs of the independent candidates to whom a regional seat was allocated by the Chief Electoral Officer and the costs of the party candidates entitled to a seat under the seat allocation rules, if their situation remains unchanged after the recount.”

**166.** Section 401 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

“For the purposes of Divisions II to IV of this chapter and subject to section 434.1, the word “candidate” does not refer to a party candidate for a regional seat. However, for the purposes of sections 402 and 404, it includes one or more candidates for a regional seat.”;

(2) by inserting “405.1,” after “403,” in the second paragraph.

**167.** Section 404 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “a meeting in an electoral division for the selection of a candidate” in paragraph 4 by “a meeting in an electoral division or region for the selection of one or more candidates”;

(2) by replacing “a meeting to select a candidate in an electoral division” in paragraph 5 by “such a meeting”;

(3) by inserting “or section 319.1” at the end of paragraph 14.

**168.** Section 405 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: “That person automatically becomes the official agent of all the party’s candidates for a regional seat.”

**169.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 405:

**“405.1.** The official agent of an authorized party may authorize election expenses to be incurred in favour or on behalf of one or more of the party’s candidates for a regional seat.”

**170.** Section 408 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“408.** Every candidate for a division seat and every authorized independent candidate for a regional seat are required to have an official agent.

Section 406 applies, with the necessary modifications, to any such official agent.”

**171.** Section 411 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“411.** If the official agent of a candidate for a division seat is appointed or replaced before polling day, the Chief Electoral Officer shall, without delay, inform the returning officer of the electoral division concerned. The latter shall make available a notice of replacement with the notice of the poll and send a copy of the notice of replacement to each candidate for the division seat or his mandatary.

If the official agent of an independent candidate for a regional seat is appointed or replaced before polling day, the Chief Electoral Officer shall, without delay, inform all the returning officers of the electoral divisions comprised in the region concerned. He shall also make available a copy of the notice of replacement to the leaders of authorized parties who submitted a regional list of candidates in the region concerned and to the other independent candidates for the regional seat or their mandataries.

If an authorized party’s official agent who acts as official agent for the party’s candidates for a regional seat is appointed or replaced before polling day, the Chief Electoral Officer shall, without delay, inform the returning officers of the electoral divisions concerned and each independent candidate for a regional seat concerned or his mandatary. He shall also make available a copy of the notice of replacement to the leaders of authorized parties who submitted a regional list of candidates in a region concerned.”

**172.** Section 422 of the Act is amended by striking out “of the same region”.

**173.** Section 422.1 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

- (1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;
- (2) by replacing “the second” by “subparagraph 2 of the first”.

**174.** Section 423 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “or region” after “the candidates of the same electoral division”;

(2) by inserting “cast either in favour of all its candidates for a division seat or in favour of all its regional lists of candidates” after “at least 3% of the valid votes”.

**175.** Section 425 of the Act is amended by replacing “or to the candidate himself” in the second paragraph by “, to the candidate for a division seat concerned or to the independent candidate for a regional seat concerned”.

**176.** Section 426 of the Act is amended by replacing the first, second and third paragraphs by the following paragraphs:

“In a general election, election expenses must be limited so as never to exceed

(1) for a party, the sum of the following amounts:

(a) \$0.70 per elector registered in a region in which the party is presenting a regional list of candidates, plus \$0.15 per elector in an electoral division of the region in which the party is presenting an official candidate; and

(b) \$0.70 per elector registered in an electoral division in which the party is presenting an official candidate, if the electoral division is comprised in a region in which the party is not presenting a regional list of candidates;

(2) for each candidate for a division seat: \$0.61 per elector registered in the electoral division concerned, plus \$0.20 per elector for the electoral divisions in the regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Côte-Nord, and \$1.09 and \$0.35 per elector for the electoral divisions of Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Ungava, respectively; and

(3) for each independent candidate for a regional seat, the sum of the following products:

(a) the product obtained by multiplying the number of electors in the electoral division having the greatest number of electors in the region by \$0.70; and

(b) the product obtained by multiplying the same number of electors by \$0.15 and then multiplying the result by the number of regional seats in the region concerned.

Despite subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph, in the case of an independent candidate for a regional seat running in a region that comprises only one electoral division, election expenses are limited to the amount applicable under subparagraph 2 of that paragraph.

In a by-election, the election expenses of a candidate for a division seat are limited to the amount applicable under subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph, increased by \$0.70 per elector.”

**177.** Section 427 of the Act is amended

- (1) by replacing “and 457.1” in the first paragraph by “, 457.0.1 and 457.1”;
- (2) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate” in the second paragraph;
- (3) by inserting “and for each region. The Chief Electoral Officer shall also inform each independent candidate for a regional seat of the number of electors in the region in which the candidate is running” at the end of the third paragraph.

**178.** Section 432 of the Act is amended

- (1) in the first paragraph,
  - (a) by replacing “candidate” by “party candidate for a division seat”;
  - (b) by adding the following sentence at the end: “The same applies to the official agent of an authorized independent candidate for a division or regional seat.”;
- (2) by inserting “authorized” before “independent candidate” in the third paragraph.

**179.** Section 434.1 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: “The declaration must also confirm that the party candidates for a regional seat have been reminded of the rules.”

**180.** Section 441 of the Act is amended by inserting “authorized” before “independent candidate” in the first and second paragraphs.

**181.** Section 448 of the Act is amended by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Such applications may not be heard without a notice of at least three clear days to the Chief Electoral Officer and,

- (1) in the case of an application regarding a candidate for a division seat, to each other candidate in the electoral division;
- (2) in the case of an application regarding an authorized independent candidate for a regional seat, to each leader of an authorized party and each other independent candidate for a seat in the same region; or
- (3) in the case of an application regarding the leader of an authorized party, to each other leader of an authorized party.”

**182.** Section 451 of the Act is amended

- (1) in the first paragraph,
  - (a) by inserting “division” before “votes”;
  - (b) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate”;
  - (c) by replacing “the second” by “subparagraph 2 of the first”;
- (2) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“Where, on receipt of the results of the addition of regional votes, the Chief Electoral Officer finds that an authorized independent candidate for a regional seat is entitled to a reimbursement under section 457.0.1, he shall, without delay, pay an advance on the reimbursement equal to 35% of the election expense limit applicable, as the case may be, under subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph of section 426 or under the second paragraph of that section.”

**183.** Section 454 of the Act is amended by inserting “or 457.0.1, as the case may be,” after “457” in the first paragraph.

**184.** Section 456.1 of the Act is amended by inserting “subparagraph 1 of” after “expenses under” in the first paragraph.

**185.** Section 457 of the Act is amended

- (1) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate” in the introductory clause of the first paragraph;
- (2) by replacing “independent candidate” in the second paragraph by “authorized independent candidate for such a seat”;
- (3) by replacing “fixed under the second” in the third paragraph by “set under subparagraph 2 of the first”.

**186.** The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 457:

**“457.0.1.** The Chief Electoral Officer shall reimburse, to each authorized independent candidate for a regional seat declared elected or who obtained at least 15% of the valid votes, an amount equal to 50% of the election expenses incurred and paid in accordance with this Act.

In the case of such a candidate who was not elected, the reimbursement may not exceed the sum of the amount of the debts resulting from the candidate’s election expenses and the amount of the candidate’s personal contribution.

The election expenses that may be reimbursed may not exceed the limit applicable, as the case may be, under subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph of section 426 or under the second paragraph of that section.”

**187.** Section 457.1 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “cast either in favour of all its candidates for a division seat or in favour of all its regional lists of candidates,” after “valid votes” in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting “subparagraph 1 of” after “fixed under” in the second paragraph.

**188.** Section 457.7 of the Act is amended by striking out the second paragraph.

**189.** Section 457.8 of the Act is amended by replacing “and to each candidate” in the first paragraph by “, to each candidate for a division seat and to each independent candidate for a regional seat”.

**190.** The Act is amended by inserting the following title after section 457.21:

“**TITLE IV.1**

“**VACANCY OF A REGIONAL SEAT**

“**CHAPTER I**

“**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

“**457.22.** When the seat of a regional Member becomes vacant, the President of the National Assembly shall notify the Chief Electoral Officer so that a person may be declared elected in accordance with this Title or so that it may be determined that the seat is to remain vacant until the next general election.

“**457.23.** Section 380 applies, with the necessary modifications, to candidates declared elected under this chapter.

“**457.24.** The application of this chapter is interrupted if an order instituting a general election is issued, if the vacancy occurs six months or less before the scheduled date of the next general election in accordance with the second paragraph of section 129 or if the Chief Electoral Officer makes the publication provided for in section 129.1.

## “CHAPTER II

### “AUTHORIZED PARTY’S SEAT

“**457.25.** If the seat that has become vacant was, in the last general election, allocated to an authorized party, the seat is awarded to the candidate whose name appears first on that party’s regional list for the region concerned, omitting the candidate already declared elected during the current Legislature and any candidates who are no longer qualified electors.

The Chief Electoral Officer shall immediately notify the candidate concerned in writing. The candidate is declared elected if the Chief Electoral Officer receives, within 10 days following the notice, written confirmation signed by the leader of the authorized party that the candidate wishes to fill the allocated seat.

In the absence of such confirmation, the seat is allocated, on the first day following the expiry of that 10-day period, to the next candidate. That candidate is immediately notified in writing and is granted the same period of time for the Chief Electoral Officer to receive written confirmation and declare him elected. If need be, the process is repeated until the seat is allocated and a candidate of the party has been declared elected or the list has been exhausted.

If the list is exhausted, the Chief Electoral Officer shall immediately notify the party, which may then designate an elector to hold the seat, provided he is not disqualified. The elector is proclaimed elected if the Chief Electoral Officer receives, within 10 days following the notice, written confirmation signed by the leader of the authorized party that the candidate wishes to fill the allocated seat. If no written confirmation is received by the Chief Electoral Officer within that period, the seat remains vacant until the next general election.

## “CHAPTER III

### “INDEPENDENT MEMBER’S SEAT

“**457.26.** If the seat that has become vacant was allocated, in the last general election, to an independent candidate, the seat is filled as follows:

(1) the Chief Electoral Officer shall draw up, in decreasing order, a list of the quotients calculated in the region in the last general election, omitting quotients that have already given entitlement to the allocation of a seat, quotients obtained by parties not allowed to participate in the allocation of regional seats and quotients obtained by independent candidates who are no longer qualified electors; and

(2) the Chief Electoral Officer shall immediately send a written notice to, as the case may be, the independent candidate or the leader of the authorized party having obtained the highest quotient under subparagraph 1 and

(a) in the case of a party, Chapter II applies, with the necessary modifications, for designating the person to whom the seat is awarded and for declaring that person elected; or

(b) in the case of an independent candidate, the candidate is declared elected if the Chief Electoral Officer receives, within 10 days after the candidate receives the notice, written confirmation that the candidate wishes to fill the seat.

In cases where subparagraph *b* of subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph applies, if the Chief Electoral Officer does not receive written confirmation within the period prescribed in that subparagraph, he shall successively offer the seat, as the case may be, to the other independent candidates or to the other authorized parties that presented a regional list, in decreasing order of the quotients obtained under subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph and in the manner described in subparagraph 2 of that paragraph, until a candidate has been declared elected or it has been determined that the seat will remain vacant until the next general election.

In the case of a tie in two or more quotients, the seat is allocated to the independent candidate or authorized party having obtained the greatest number of votes, provided, in the case of an independent candidate, that he is still a qualified elector or, in the case of a party, that the percentage of votes cast in favour of all its regional lists allows it to participate in the allocation of the seat. If there is a tie in the number of votes obtained, the seat is allocated by drawing lots in the manner the Chief Electoral Officer determines.

#### “CHAPTER IV

#### “CONTESTATION OF AN ELECTION

“**457.27.** If the election for a regional seat is the subject of a contestation at the time the seat becomes vacant, the application of the provisions of this Title is interrupted until judgment on the contestation becomes final.

If the judgment confirms the election of the candidate declared elected in the general election, the Chief Electoral Officer shall allocate the seat in accordance with this Title.

However, if the judgment annuls the election of the candidate declared elected in the general election, the seat is allocated to the person designated to as elected in the judgment. If the judgment does not designate such a person, the seat remains vacant until the next general election.

“**457.28.** If an election is contested after a seat was the subject of a declaration of election following a vacancy, the contestation becomes void if the judgment declares elected a person other than the person declared elected in the last general election. In such a case, the person declared elected in the

judgment is declared elected in the place and stead of the person declared elected in accordance with this Title. If the judgment does not designate the person who was elected, the seat remains vacant until the next general election.”

**191.** Section 458 of the Act is amended

- (1) by replacing “in that division” by “for a seat in that division”;
- (2) by inserting “division” before “Member”;
- (3) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“In addition, any elector entitled to vote in a region or any candidate for a seat in the region may contest the election held there, if such an election, or the allocation of seats or the related declaration, is irregular or if a corrupt electoral practice was used whereby it is alleged that the election of a regional Member is void.”

**192.** Section 459 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

**“459.** An election is contested by way of an application to the Court of Québec.

If the application solely concerns a division seat, it is brought in the judicial district in which all or part of the electoral division concerned is situated. If the application concerns a regional seat, it is brought in any judicial district in which all or part of the region concerned is situated.”

**193.** Section 461 of the Act is amended by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The Chief Electoral Officer and the returning officers concerned are made parties to the case in any contestation of an election.”

**194.** Section 464 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The Court may consolidate or separate two or more contestations of an election that concern one or more division or regional seats in the same region.”

**195.** Section 468 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

- (1) by inserting “relating to an application based solely on the first paragraph of section 458” after “hearing” in the introductory clause;
- (2) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate” in subparagraph 1;
- (3) by inserting “such” after “official agent of” in subparagraph 2.

**196.** The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 468:

“**468.1.** If a hearing relating to an application based on the second paragraph of section 458 establishes

(1) that a corrupt electoral practice was used by a candidate for a regional seat or, with his consent, by another person, the candidate must be considered guilty of a corrupt electoral practice and, if he was elected, his election is void; or

(2) that a corrupt electoral practice was used

(a) by the representative, mandatary or official agent of an independent candidate for a seat in the region, the candidate’s election is void; or

(b) by the mandatary of one or more candidates on an authorized party’s regional list of candidates, by the official agent of such a party acting as the official agent of such candidates, or by the representative of such a party for the place where a polling station is located, the election of the candidate or candidates is void.

A candidate’s election must not be declared void under subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph if it is established that the deed is of minor gravity and could not have affected the result of the election, and that the candidate took reasonable precautions. In addition, the election of one or more candidates in a region may not be declared void under subparagraph *b* of that subparagraph unless it is established that the corrupt electoral practice concerned was used in the region or that it targeted or concerned the election in the region.

“**468.2.** The fact that an election for a division seat is void does not affect the allocation of regional seats carried out following a general election nor the resulting declarations of election.

The fact that an election for a regional seat is void does not affect the allocation of the other regional seats carried out following a general election nor the resulting declarations of election.”

**197.** Section 469 of the Act is amended by inserting “for a division seat” after “that a candidate”.

**198.** Section 473 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**473.** No election may be declared void by reason of the fact that a person who supports a nomination paper or a regional list of candidates is not an elector or is not domiciled at a place that meets the requirements applicable to nomination papers or to regional lists of candidates.”

**199.** Section 489 of the Act is amended by inserting “and regions” after “electoral divisions” in the first and second paragraphs.

**200.** Section 489.1 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “by the electoral division” by “by an electoral division or region”;

(2) by replacing “the filing of nomination papers” by “nomination”.

**201.** Section 490 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: “He may also, during those periods and for the same reasons, adapt a provision of an agreement entered into between the leaders of the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly and the Chief Electoral Officer under section 489.”

**202.** Section 510 of the Act is amended by striking out “électorale” in the first paragraph in the French text.

**203.** Section 532 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by striking out “électorales” in the French text;

(2) by inserting “, and to calculate the number of division seats and regional seats granted to each region” at the end.

**204.** Section 548 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “and regions” after “list of electoral divisions”;

(2) by inserting “électorale” after “Commission de la représentation”;

(3) by replacing “de ces” in the French text by “des”.

**205.** Section 552 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing paragraph 2 by the following paragraph:

“(2) every person who supports, as the case may be, a nomination paper or a regional list of candidates, including a modification to such a list, when he is not an elector domiciled at the place required in accordance with the conditions applicable to nomination papers or regional lists of candidates;”;

(2) by inserting “or a regional list of candidates” after “nomination paper” in paragraph 3;

(3) by replacing paragraph 4 by the following paragraph:

“(4) every candidate or mandatary who collects signatures of support and falsely declares, as the case may be, that the persons whose names appear on the nomination paper or on the regional list of candidates affixed their signatures in his presence or that, to his knowledge, they are electors in the electoral division or region;”;

(4) by replacing paragraph 6 by the following paragraph:

“(6) every candidate who contravenes section 236;”;

(5) by inserting “for a division seat” after “candidate of an authorized party” in paragraph 7.

**206.** Section 553.1 of the Act is amended by replacing “votes” in paragraph 1 by “exercises his right to vote”.

**207.** Section 554 of the Act is amended by replacing “the statement” in paragraph 1 by “a statement”.

**208.** Section 558 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “or a regional list of candidates” after both occurrences of “candidate” in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting “or a regional list of candidates” after both occurrences of “candidate” in the second paragraph.

**209.** Section 563 of the Act is amended by inserting “or the statement referred to in section 259.0.4” after “127.9” in the first paragraph.

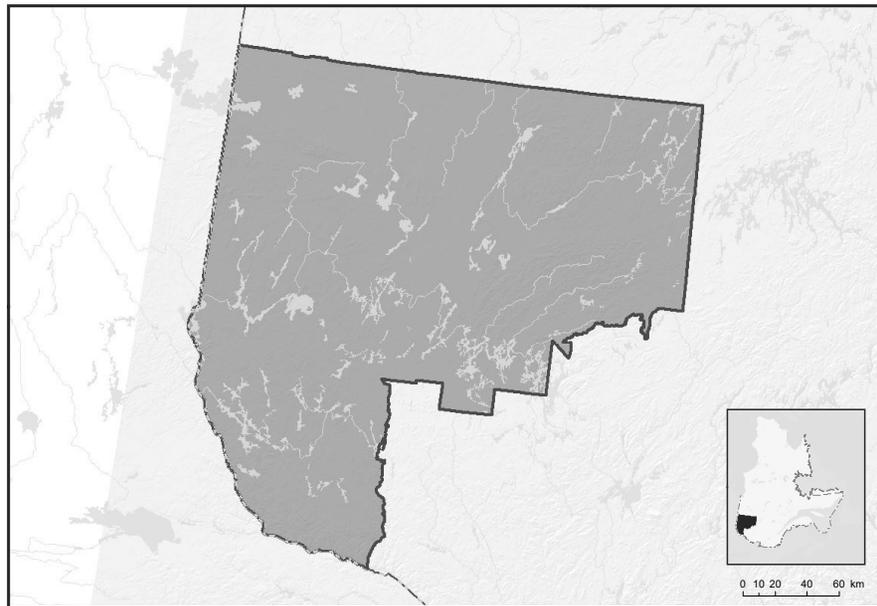
**210.** The Act is amended by replacing Schedules I to V by the following schedules:

**“SCHEDULE I**  
**“(Section 14.1)**

**“ELECTORAL REGIONS**

**1. Abitibi-Témiscamingue**

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:

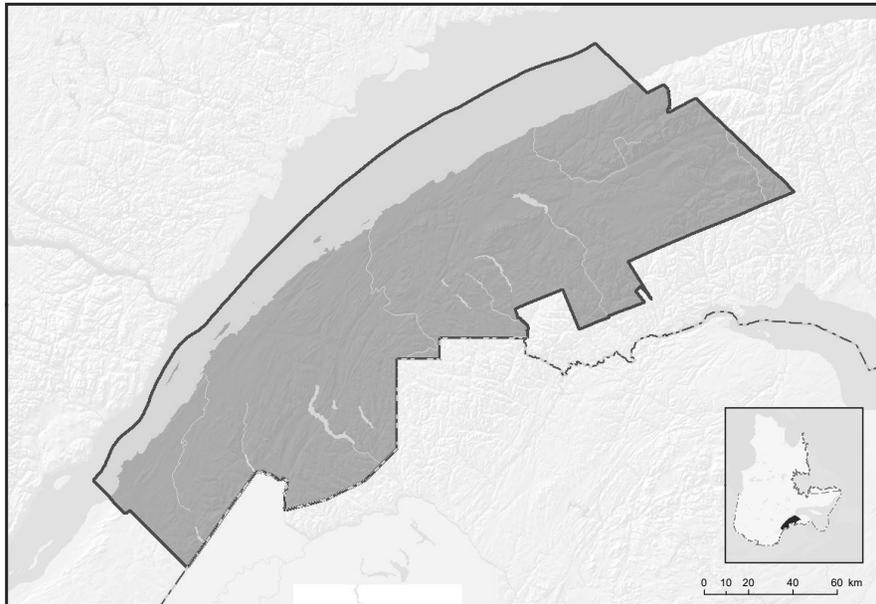


This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

- Municipalité régionale de comté d’Abitibi
  - Municipalité régionale de comté d’Abitibi-Ouest
  - Municipalité régionale de comté de La Vallée-de-l’Or
  - Municipalité régionale de comté de Témiscamingue
- Ville de Rouyn-Noranda

## 2. Bas-Saint-Laurent

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:

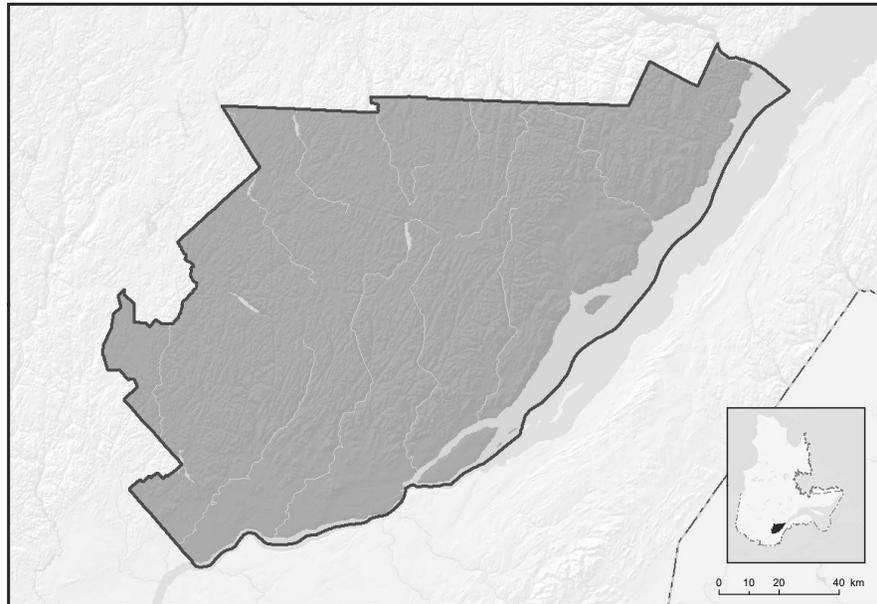


This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following regional county municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté de Kamouraska  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Matanie  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Matapédia  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Mitis  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Rimouski-Neigette  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Rivière-du-Loup  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Témiscouata  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Basques

### 3. Capitale-Nationale

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities and reserve, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté de Charlevoix  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Charlevoix-Est  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Côte-de-Beaupré  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Jacques-Cartier  
Municipalité régionale de comté de L'Île-d'Orléans  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Portneuf

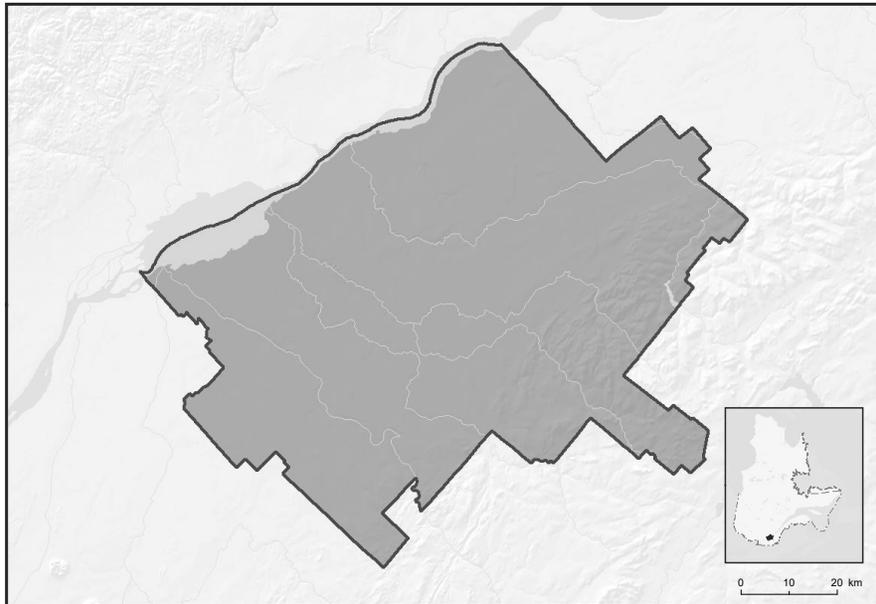
Paroisse de Notre-Dame-des-Anges

Réserve Wendake

Ville de L'Ancienne-Lorette  
Ville de Québec  
Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures

#### 4. Centre-du-Québec

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:

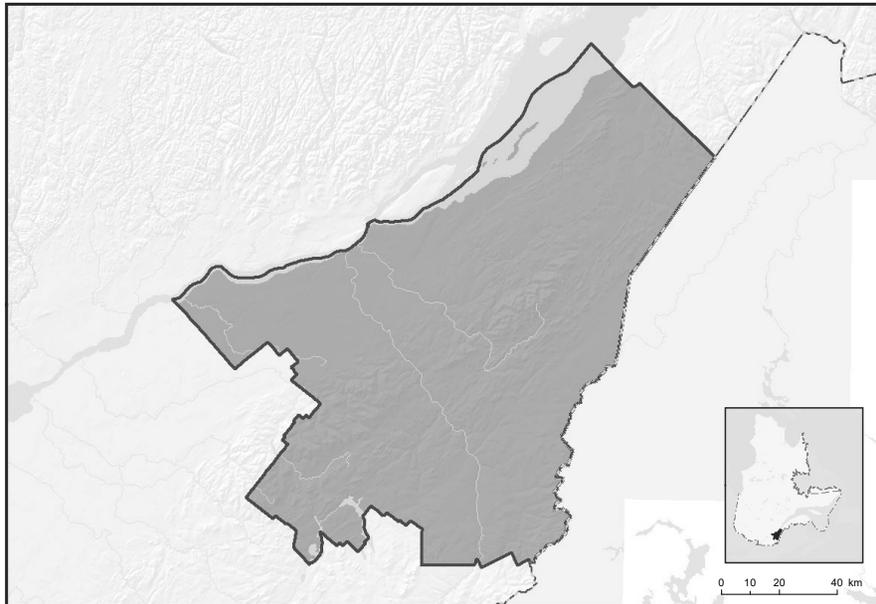


This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following regional county municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

- Municipalité régionale de comté d'Arthabaska
- Municipalité régionale de comté de Bécancour
- Municipalité régionale de comté de Drummond
- Municipalité régionale de comté de L'Érable
- Municipalité régionale de comté de Nicolet-Yamaska

## 5. Chaudière-Appalaches

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



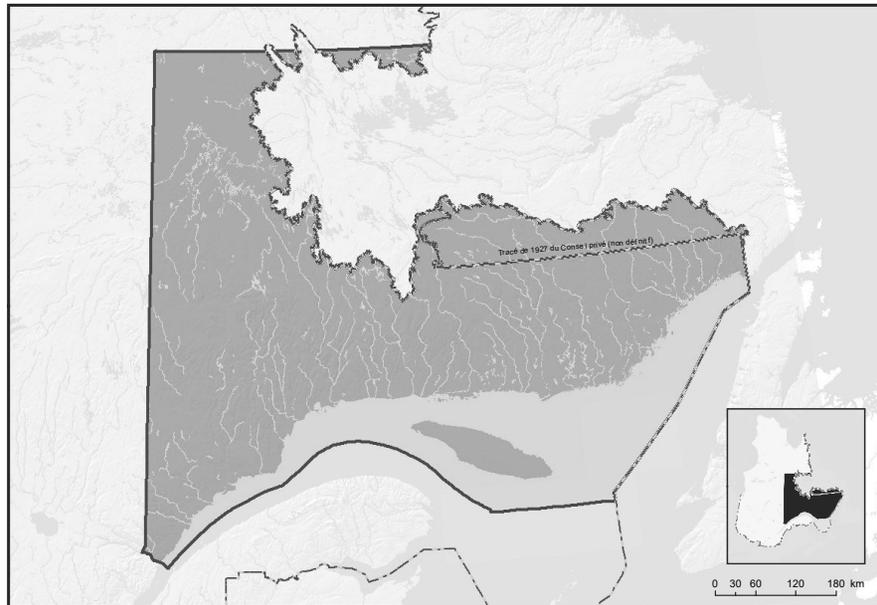
This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté des Appalaches  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Bellechasse  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Beauce-Sartigan  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Etchemins  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Nouvelle-Beauce  
Municipalité régionale de comté de L'Islet  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Lotbinière  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Montmagny  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Robert-Cliche

Ville de Lévis

## 6. Côte-Nord

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:

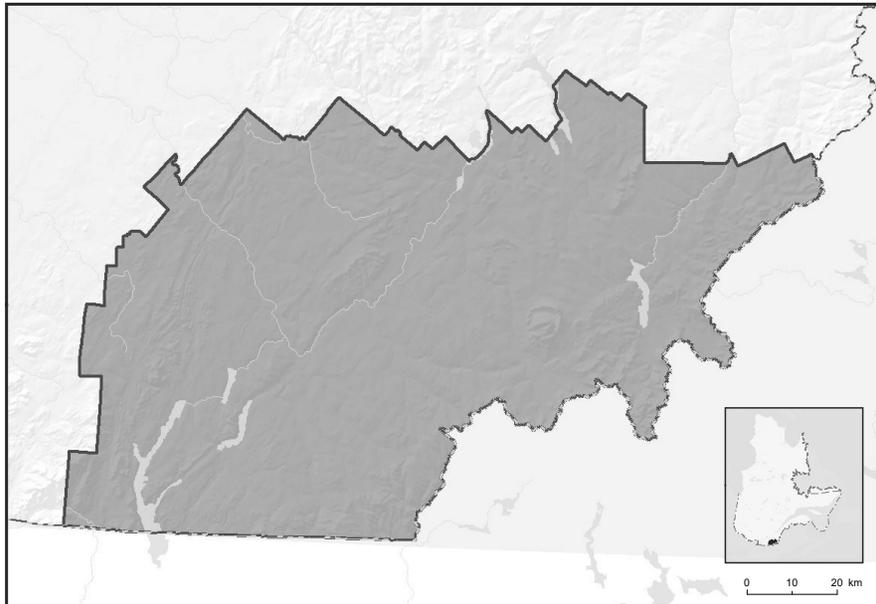


This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following regional county municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté de Caniapiscau  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Haute-Côte-Nord  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Manicouagan  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Minganie  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Sept-Rivières  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent

## 7. Estrie

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



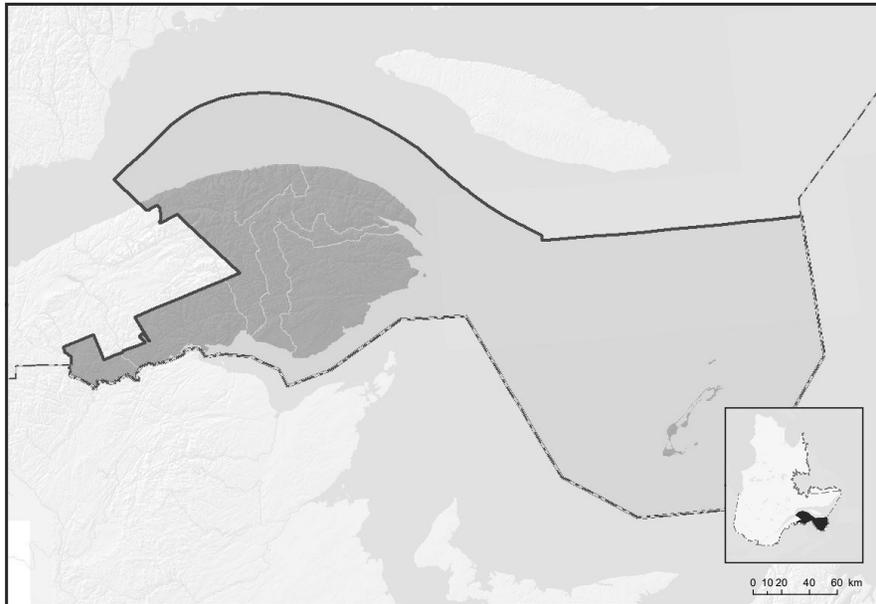
This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté de Coaticook  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Memphrémagog  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Sources  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Granit  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Haut-Saint-François  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Val-Saint-François

Ville de Sherbrooke

## 8. Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



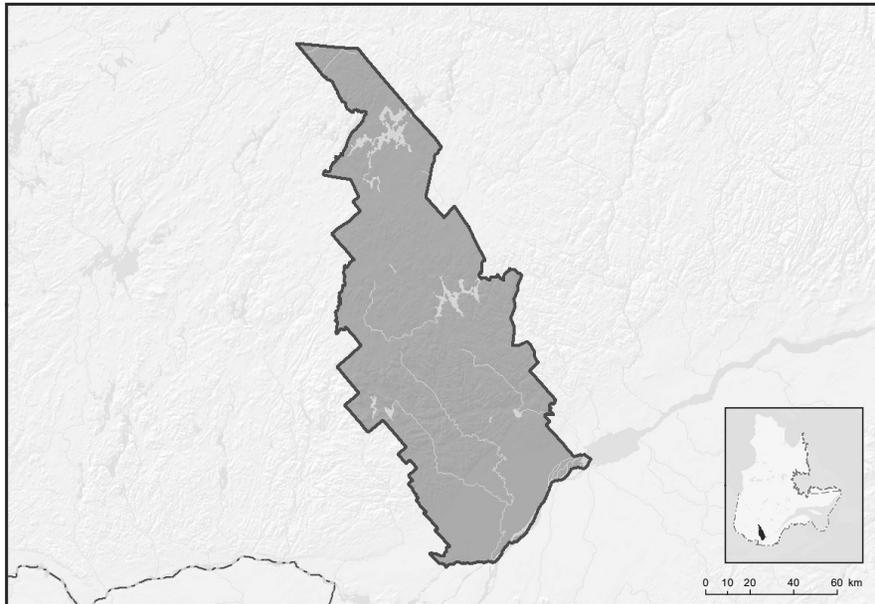
This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité de Grosse-Île  
Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Municipalité régionale de comté d'Avignon  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Bonaventure  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Côte-de-Gaspé  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Haute-Gaspésie  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Rocher-Percé

## 9. Lanaudière

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:

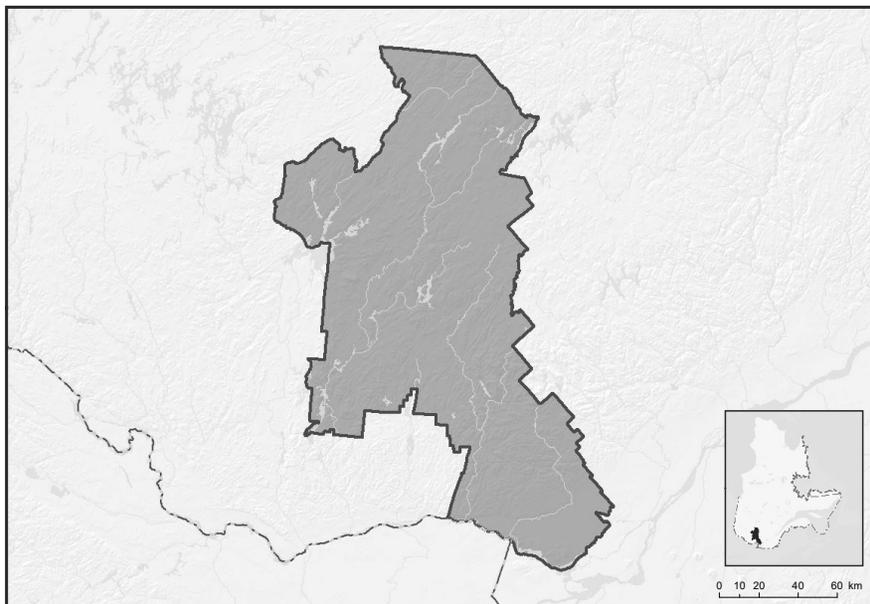


This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following regional county municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté de D'Autray  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Joliette  
Municipalité régionale de comté de L'Assomption  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Matawinie  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Montcalm  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Moulins

## 10. Laurentides

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



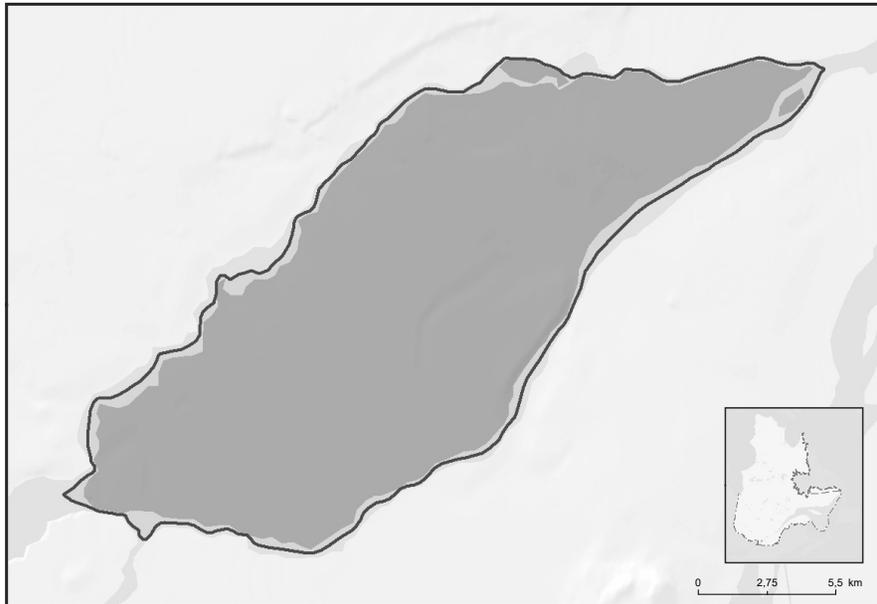
This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté d'Antoine-Labelle  
Municipalité régionale de comté d'Argenteuil  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Deux-Montagnes  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Rivière-du-Nord  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Thérèse-De Blainville  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Laurentides  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Pays-d'en-Haut

Ville de Mirabel

## 11. Laval

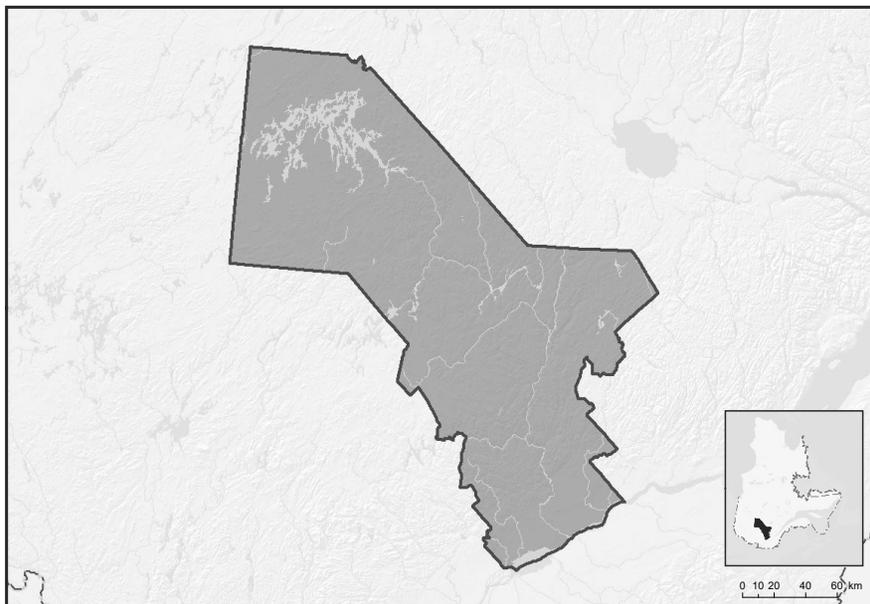
This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of Ville de Laval, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*.

## 12. Mauricie

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

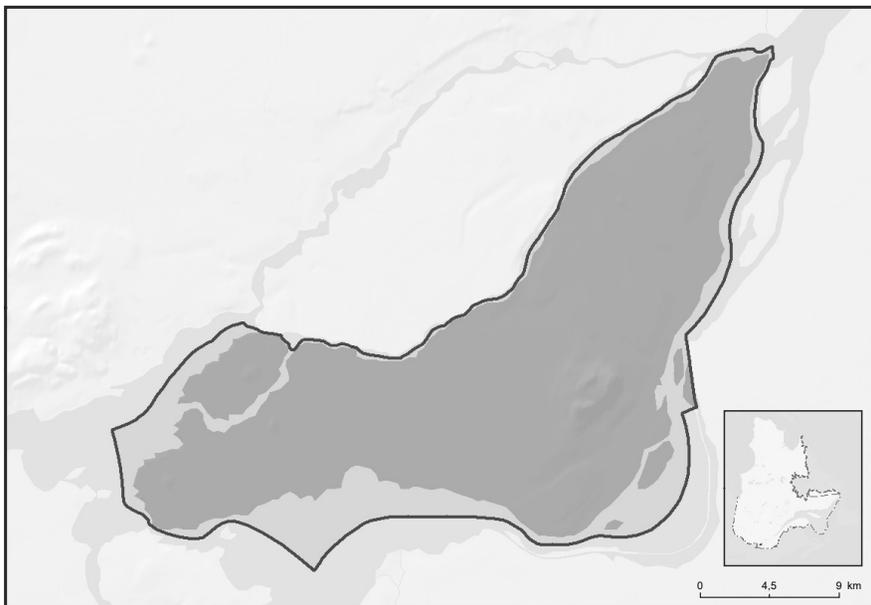
Municipalité de La Bostonnais  
Municipalité de Lac-Édouard

Municipalité régionale de comté de Maskinongé  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Mékinac  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Chenaux

Ville de La Tuque  
Ville de Shawinigan  
Ville de Trois-Rivières

### 13. Montréal

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Village de Senneville

Ville de Baie d'Urfé

Ville de Beaconsfield

Ville de Côte-Saint-Luc

Ville de Dollard-Des-Ormeaux

Ville de Dorval

Ville de Hampstead

Ville de Kirkland

Ville de L'Île-Dorval

Ville de Montréal

Ville de Montréal-Est

Ville de Montréal-Ouest

Ville de Mont-Royal

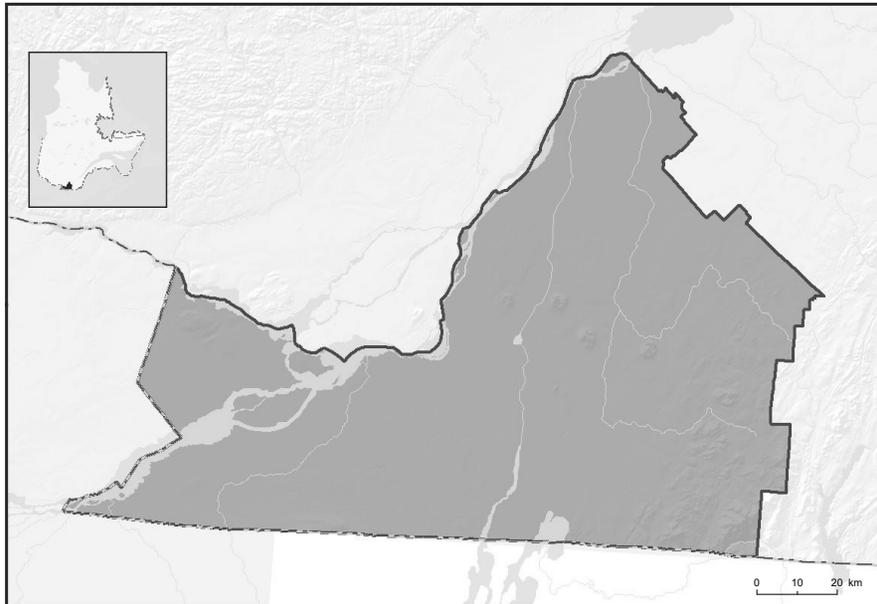
Ville de Pointe-Claire

Ville de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Ville de Westmount

## 14. Montérégie

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



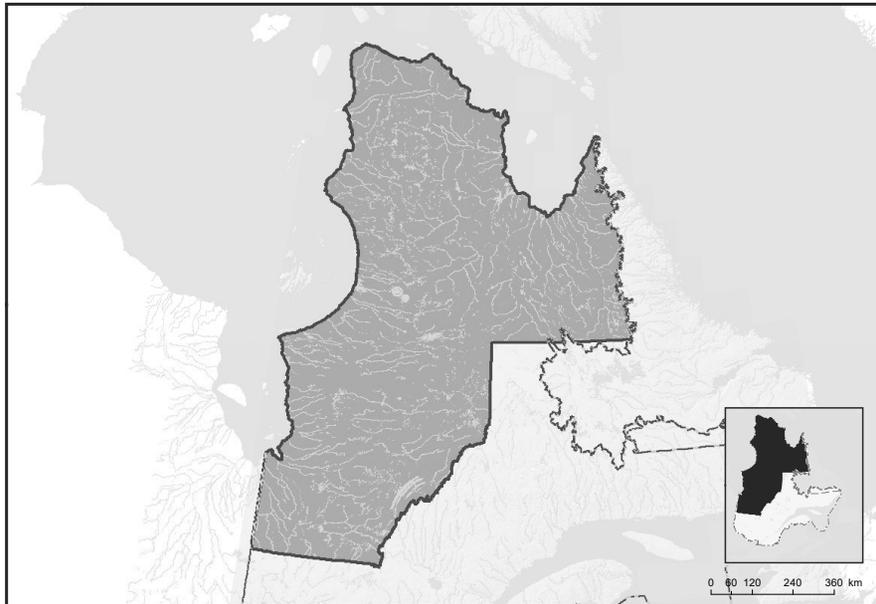
This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté d'Acton  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Beauharnois-Salaberry  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Brome-Missisquoi  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Haute-Yamaska  
Municipalité régionale de comté de La Vallée-du-Richelieu  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Marguerite-D'Youville  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Pierre-De Saurel  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Roussillon  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Rouville  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Vaudreuil-Soulanges  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Jardins-de-Napierville  
Municipalité régionale de comté des Maskoutains  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Haut-Richelieu  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Haut-Saint-Laurent

Ville de Boucherville  
Ville de Brossard  
Ville de Longueuil  
Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville  
Ville de Saint-Lambert

## 15. Nord-du-Québec

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral region comprises any territory situated north of the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté d'Abitibi-Ouest, Municipalité régionale de comté d'Abitibi, Municipalité régionale de comté de La Vallée-de-l'Or, Ville de La Tuque, Municipalité régionale de comté du Domaine-du-Roy, Municipalité régionale de comté de Maria-Chapdelaine, Municipalité régionale de comté du Fjord-du-Saguenay and Municipalité régionale de comté de Caniapiscau.

In addition, it comprises mainly the following territories, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

the territory of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government;

the territory of Ville de Matagami, Ville de Lebel-sur-Quévillon, Ville de Chibougamau and Ville de Chapais;

the territory of the Cree villages (Category IB lands) and the Naskapi village (Category IB-N lands);

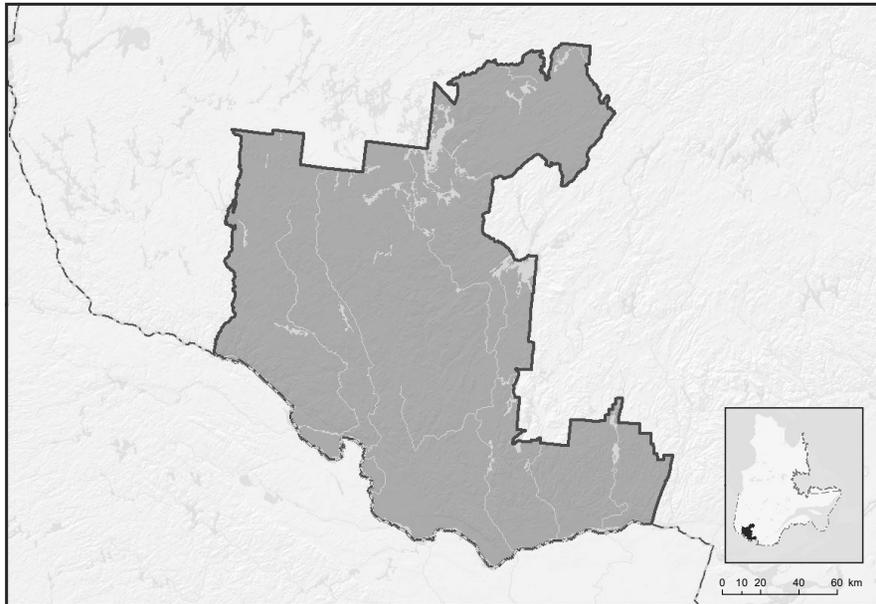
the Category IA lands and Category I lands for the Chisasibi Inuit community;

the unorganized territories corresponding to geographical codes 99910, 99914, 99916, 99918, 99920, 99922 and 99924 (Category II lands);

the territory of the Kativik Regional Government.

## 16. Outaouais

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté de La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

Municipalité régionale de comté de Papineau

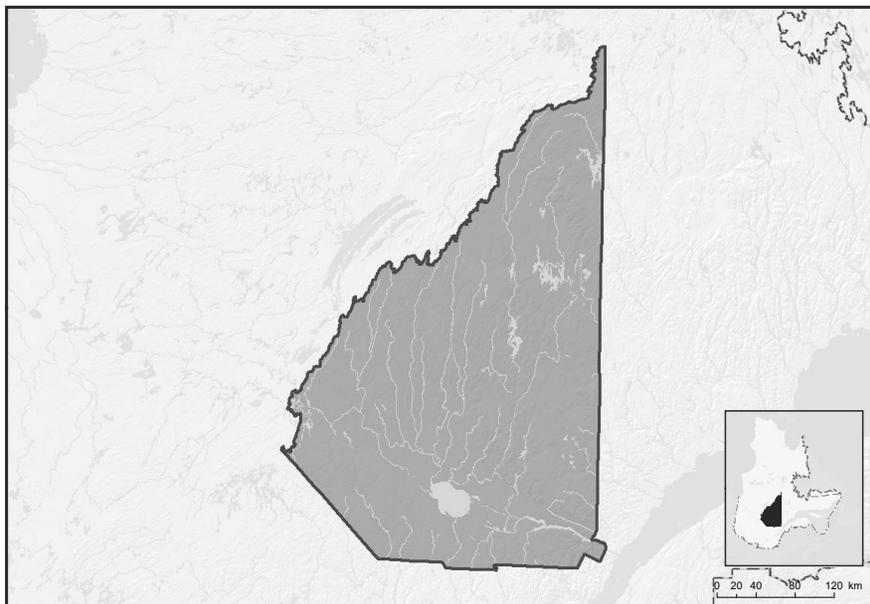
Municipalité régionale de comté de Pontiac

Municipalité régionale de comté des Collines-de-l'Outaouais

Ville de Gatineau

## 17. Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

This electoral region covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral region comprises mainly the territory of the following municipalities, as of *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*:

Municipalité régionale de comté du Domaine-du-Roy  
Municipalité régionale de comté du Fjord-du-Saguenay  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Lac-Saint-Jean-Est  
Municipalité régionale de comté de Maria-Chapdelaine

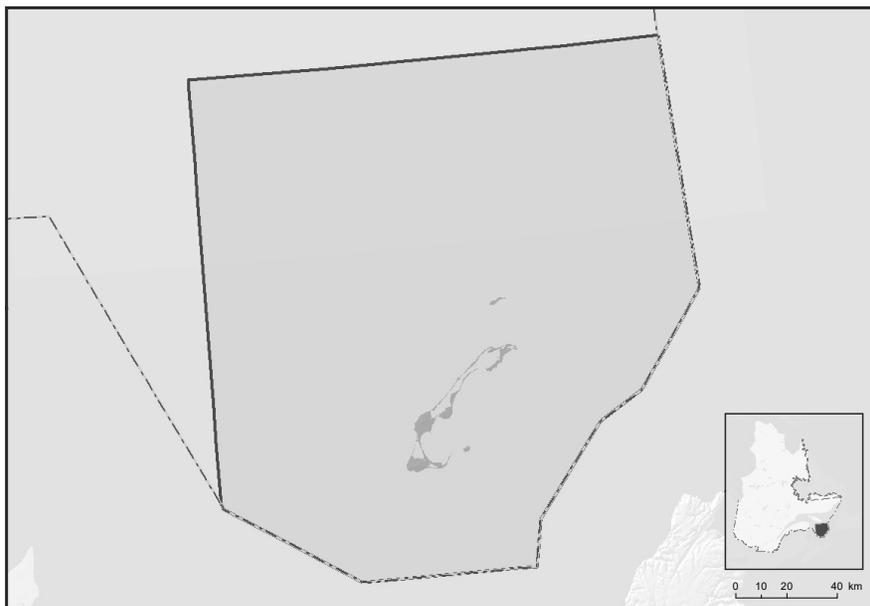
Ville de Saguenay

**“SCHEDULE II**

**“(Section 17)**

**“ELECTORAL DIVISION OF ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE**

This electoral division covers the territory shown on the following map:



This electoral division is situated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, between parallels 47°10' and 48°00' North latitude and meridians 61°00' and 62°20' West longitude.

This electoral division comprises mainly Île d'Entrée, Île du Havre Aubert, Île du Havre aux Maisons, Île du Cap aux Meules, Île au Loup, Grosse Île, Île de la Grande Entrée, Île Shag, Île Brion, rocher aux Margaulx, rocher aux Oiseaux, Corps-Mort and other islands situated in whole or in part within those boundaries, as well as the territory of Municipalité de Grosse-Île and Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

**“SCHEDULE III**

*“(Section 17)*

**“ELECTORAL DIVISION OF UNGAVA**

The electoral division of Ungava comprises a territory identical to the territory of the electoral region of Nord-du-Québec.

**“SCHEDULE IV**

*“(Sections 136, 361, 481, 499, 509, 529 and 534)*

**“OATH OF OFFICE**

I, *name*, declare under oath that I will fulfil the duties assigned to me under the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) faithfully and honestly without fear of or favour towards anyone, and that I will not reveal, unless expressly authorized, anything that may come to my knowledge due to my office.

**“SCHEDULE V**  
**“(Section 275)**

**“BALLOT PAPERS FOR ELECTORS OUTSIDE THEIR ELECTORAL**  
**DIVISION**

1. Division Ballot Paper

FRONT

<b>Electoral division</b>	<b>I VOTE FOR</b>		
	Candidate's first and last names		
	Political affiliation		

BACK

No.	<b>D</b>
No.	<b>D</b>
 ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC	<b>D</b>
<input type="text"/> Polling attendant's initials	
<input type="text"/> Electoral division of	
<b>Month day, year</b> Printer 123, avenue La Rue Municipality	

## 2. Regional Ballot Paper

FRONT

**Electoral region**

**I VOTE FOR**

Political affiliation or independent candidate's first and last names

BACK

No. **R**

No. **R**

  
**ASSEMBLÉE  
NATIONALE  
DU QUÉBEC**

Polling attendant's initials

Electoral region of

**Month day, year**  
Printer  
123, avenue La Rue  
Municipality

**“SCHEDULE VI**  
**“(Section 287)**

**“BALLOT PAPERS FOR ELECTORS OUTSIDE QUÉBEC**

**1. Division Ballot Paper**

**FRONT**

<b>Electoral division</b>	<b>I VOTE FOR</b>		
		Candidate's first and last names	
			Political affiliation

**BACK**

 <b>ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC</b>	<b>D</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"><hr/><p>Deputy returning officer's initials</p></div>	
Electoral division of <b>NAME OF ELECTORAL DIVISION</b>	
Month day, year	
Élections Québec 3460, rue de La Pérade Québec (Québec)	

## 2. Regional Ballot Paper

FRONT

<b>Electoral region</b>	<b>I VOTE FOR</b>
	Political affiliation or independent candidate's first and last names

BACK

 <b>ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC</b>	<b>R</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"><hr/><p>Deputy returning officer's initials</p></div>	
Electoral region of <b>NAME OF ELECTORAL REGION</b>	
Month day, year	
Élections Québec 3460, rue de La Pérade Québec (Québec)	

“**SCHEDULE VII**  
“(Section 298)

“**BALLOT PAPERS FOR INMATES**

1. Division Ballot Paper

FRONT

<b>Electoral division</b>			
	<b>Marie BONENFANT</b> Political affiliation	<b>Jean-Charles BUREAU</b> Political affiliation	<b>Pierre-A. LARRIVÉE</b> Independent
	<i>— ALPHABETICAL ORDER —</i>		
	<b>Electoral division</b>		

BACK

**D**

Deputy returning officer's initials



**ASSEMBLÉE  
NATIONALE  
DU QUÉBEC**

Electoral division of  
**NAME OF ELECTORAL DIVISION**

Month day, year

Printer  
123, avenue La Rue  
Municipality

## 2. Regional Ballot Paper

FRONT

<b>Electoral region</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>Political affiliation</b> Marie Bonenfant, Jean-Charles Bureau, Pierre-A. Larrivée, Marie Bonenfant, Jean-Charles Bureau
	<input type="radio"/>	<b>Marie Bonenfant</b> Independent
	<input type="radio"/>	<b>Political affiliation</b> Marie Bonenfant, Jean-Charles Bureau, Pierre-A. Larrivée

— RANDOM ORDER —

BACK

**R**

Deputy returning officer's initials

  
**ASSEMBLÉE  
NATIONALE  
DU QUÉBEC**

Electoral region of  
**NAME OF ELECTORAL REGION**

Month day, year

Printer  
123, avenue La Rue  
Municipality

“**SCHEDULE VIII**  
“(Section 320)

“REGULAR BALLOT PAPERS

1. Division Ballot Paper

FRONT

Electoral division		
	<b>Marie BONENFANT</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>Jean-Charles BUREAU</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>Pierre-A. LARRIVÉE</b> Independent	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Independent	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Independent	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Independent	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>
	<b>First name LAST NAME</b> Political affiliation	<input type="radio"/>

BACK

No.	<b>D</b>
No.	<b>D</b>
No.	<b>D</b>

ASSEMBLÉE  
 NATIONALE  
 DU QUÉBEC

Electoral division of  
**NAME OF ELECTORAL DIVISION**

Month, day, year  
 /  
 /  
 /  
 Municipality

1. Date of election  
 2. Name of candidate



## ACT RESPECTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**212.** Section 1 of the Act respecting the National Assembly (chapter A-23.1) is amended by inserting “and regions” after “divisions”.

**213.** Section 18 of the Act is amended by replacing “the seat of a Member of” by “a division Member’s seat in”.

**214.** Section 88 of the Act is amended by inserting “, calculated by considering the total number of votes cast in favour of all its candidates for a division seat and all its regional lists of candidates” at the end of subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph.

**215.** Section 104 of the Act is amended

(1) in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph,

(a) by replacing “in the electoral division of each Member to receive his electors” by “, in their electoral division in the case of division Members, or in their electoral region in the case of regional Members, to receive their electors,”;

(b) by replacing “Member’s offices” by “Members’ offices”;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

“For the purposes of subparagraph 4 of the first paragraph, the delimitation of the electoral divisions concerned is the delimitation that applied on (*insert the date preceding the date of assent to this Act*).”

## ACT RESPECTING THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE PENSION PLAN OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**216.** Section 7 of the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly (chapter C-52.1) is amended by replacing “cast, according to the official addition of the votes cast throughout Québec at the last general election” in subparagraph *b* of subparagraph 6 of the first paragraph by “, computed by considering the total number of votes cast in favour of all its candidates for a division seat and all its regional lists of candidates at the last general election, according to the official addition of the votes”.

## ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PERMANENT LIST OF ELECTORS

**217.** Section 3 of the Act to establish the permanent list of electors (chapter E-12.2) is amended by replacing “divisions” by “divisions and regions established in accordance with the Election Act (chapter E-3.3)”.

## TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

**218.** Unless the context indicates otherwise,

(1) in any Act or regulation, “Commission de la représentation” is replaced by “Commission de la représentation électorale”;

(2) in any other document, a reference to the Commission de la représentation is a reference to the Commission de la représentation électorale.

**219.** As of the first day of the 43rd Legislature, the Commission de la représentation électorale must begin a first delimitation of the new electoral divisions based on the new electoral system established under this Act. For the purposes of the first paragraph of section 22 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3), the preliminary report must be submitted to the President or Secretary General of the National Assembly within 12 months after that process begins.

The first list of electoral divisions and regions resulting from that process comes into force at the end of the 43rd Legislature, unless its coming into force is postponed due to the application of section 32 of the Election Act, as amended under section 13. If such a postponement takes place, the provisions of the Election Act, as they read before (*insert the date of assent to this Act*), continue to apply for the purposes of the following general election.

**220.** The provisions of the Election Act, as they read before (*insert the date of assent to this Act*), apply for the purposes of any by-election ordered before the first general election to be held using the first list of electoral divisions and regions.

**221.** From the date that is six months after the publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* of the first list of electoral divisions and regions, the Chief Electoral Officer may send the Government a notice indicating that the Chief Electoral Officer considers that, due to the imminence of the first general election to be held using that list, no by-election should be held until the first day of the following legislature.

The notice is published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. From the date of publication, the Government is not required to make any order instituting a by-election, despite section 130 of the Election Act, as amended by section 42.

**222.** Until the first day of the legislature that follows the first general election held using the first list of electoral divisions and regions, the obligation to send the lists of electors to the Members under Chapter III.1 of Title II.1 of the Election Act ceases to apply.

However, Members may, in January and April of each year, and at the times referred to in section 38.3 of that Act, as amended by section 18, request the lists referred to in that section; such lists are to be drawn up on the basis of the first list of electoral divisions and regions.

**223.** If the coming into force of the first list of electoral divisions and regions results in the withdrawal of an authorization due to the application of section 70.1 of the Election Act, as enacted by section 32, the time limit for filing with the Chief Electoral Officer the financial reports required under section 75 of that Act is, if it expires during an election period, extended for 60 days. If it expires during the period for filing a return of election expenses, the deadline is deferred for 120 days or to the 135th day after the polling date, whichever is later.

**224.** Section 82.4 of the Election Act, as it read before (*insert the date of assent to this Act*), applies regarding any Member elected in a general election or by-election held using the first list of electoral divisions and regions, as well as any independent candidate in such an election.

**225.** In the month following each of the first three general elections held under the electoral system established by this Act, a committee is to be established to conduct an analysis and assessment of the system and make recommendations. It may also make recommendations on the provisions of the Election Act whose purpose is to promote parity between women and men in the National Assembly. The committee is to report to the National Assembly not later than during the year after the general election concerned.

The committee is to be composed of the Chief Electoral Officer and two experts designated by the Government, after consultation with the leaders of the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly. The experts are designated for the purpose of producing a single report, but may be designated more than once.

Sections 527 and 529, the first paragraph of section 536 and the new Schedule IV of the Election Act apply, with the necessary modifications, to the committee.

**226.** The Referendum Act (chapter C-64.1) does not apply to the referendum required under this Act.

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

**227.** Section 226 of this Act comes into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).

Subject to the first paragraph, this Act comes into force only if, following a referendum to be held on the same day as the first general election after (*insert the date of assent to this Act*), the majority of the votes declared valid, that is 50% of the votes plus one vote, are in favour of the new electoral system provided for by this Act. The text of the question to be submitted to the referendum is the following text:

“Do you agree with replacing the first-past-the-post electoral system by the mixed electoral system with regional compensation set out in the Act to establish a new electoral system?

Yes/No”.

If the majority referred to in the second paragraph is obtained,

(1) sections 2 to 15 and 36, paragraph 2 of section 40, sections 41, 172 and 201, paragraph 2 of section 203, section 204, section 210 insofar as it replaces Schedules I to IV to the Election Act, and sections 211 and 218 to 220 of this Act come into force on the first day of the 43rd Legislature;

(2) the other provisions of this Act come into force on the date of the publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* of the first list of electoral divisions and regions, except sections 22, 23, 25, 28, 33, 42, 47 to 49, 52, 107 to 109 and 147, paragraph 2 of section 174 and sections 190 to 198, 212 to 216 and 225, which come into force on the first day of the legislature beginning after the first general election held using that list.



