



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Bill 690

**An Act to promote socially
responsible investments**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Martin Ouellet
Member for René-Lévesque**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill provides that the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec and Investissement Québec must adopt a policy aimed at achieving a carbon neutral portfolio, as well as a plan for gradually divesting their assets in low-tax jurisdictions and in activities consisting in acquiring, holding or investing in coal, oil or gas resources of fossil origin.

The bill also amends the mission of La Financière agricole du Québec to specify that it must carry out its mission by fostering respect for the environment and the achievement of the Government's objectives regarding the fight against climate change and by promoting socially responsible investments.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Act respecting the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (chapter C-2);
- Act respecting Investissement Québec (chapter I-16.0.1);
- Act respecting La Financière agricole du Québec (chapter L-0.1).

Bill 690

AN ACT TO PROMOTE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

ACT RESPECTING THE CAISSE DE DÉPÔT ET PLACEMENT DU QUÉBEC

1. Section 13.1 of the Act respecting the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (chapter C-2) is amended

(1) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph 7:

“(7.1) adopt a policy to achieve a carbon neutral portfolio by *(insert the year that is 10 years after the year of assent to this Act)*”;

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

“The policy referred to in subparagraph 7.1 of the first paragraph shall be reviewed five years after its adoption.”

2. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 13.1:

“**13.1.1.** The board shall, by resolution, before *(insert the date that is one year after the date of assent to this Act)*, adopt a plan for gradually divesting the Caisse’s assets in the following jurisdictions and activities:

(1) low-tax jurisdictions; and

(2) activities consisting in acquiring, holding or investing in oil or gas resources of fossil origin or in coal resources, as well as activities consisting in administering and developing such resources through third persons.

The plan shall provide that such divestment is to be completed by *(insert the year that is five years after the year of assent to this Act)*.

“**13.1.2.** The divestment plan shall be submitted to the Minister of Finance within 15 days of its adoption by the board. It shall be tabled in the National Assembly within 15 days of being submitted to the Minister or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 15 days of resumption.

The competent committee of the National Assembly shall hear the president and chief executive officer within three months after the divestment plan is tabled in the Assembly and every year thereafter.

“**13.1.3.** The Government shall draw up and periodically update, by regulation, a list of the low-tax jurisdictions for the purpose of preparing the divestment plan.”

ACT RESPECTING INVESTISSEMENT QUÉBEC

3. Section 13 of the Act respecting Investissement Québec (chapter I-16.0.1) is amended

(1) by inserting “that must provide that its portfolio is to be carbon neutral by *(insert the year that is 10 years after the year of assent to this Act)* and” after “investment policy” in the first paragraph;

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

“The policy must be reviewed with respect to the carbon neutrality of its portfolio at least once and not later than five years after its adoption.”

4. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 13:

“**13.1.** The board of directors must, by resolution, before *(insert the date that is one year after the date of assent to this Act)*, adopt a plan for gradually divesting the Caisse’s assets in the following jurisdictions and activities:

(1) low-tax jurisdictions; and

(2) activities consisting in acquiring, holding or investing in fossil oil or gas resources or in coal resources as well as activities consisting in administering or developing such resources through third parties.

The plan must provide that such divestment is to be completed by *(insert the year that is five years after the year of assent to this Act)*.

“**13.2.** The Minister submits the divestment plan to the Government for approval, after consultation with the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and other ministers, as regards the sectors of activity under their respective responsibility.

“**13.3.** The Minister tables the divestment plan in the National Assembly within 15 days of its approval or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 15 days of resumption.

The competent parliamentary committee of the National Assembly examines the plan and, to that end, hears the representatives designated by the Company, after which the Government specifies any changes the Company must make to the plan.

The Minister tables the amended divestment plan in the National Assembly.

“13.4. The Government draws up and periodically updates, by regulation, a list of the low-tax jurisdictions for the purpose of preparing the divestment plan.”

5. Section 35.2 of the Act is amended, in paragraph 2,

(1) by replacing “or petroleum, the mining of the former or production of the latter” by “, its production or mining”;

(2) by striking out “or petroleum”.

ACT RESPECTING LA FINANCIÈRE AGRICOLE DU QUÉBEC

6. Section 3 of the Act respecting La Financière agricole du Québec (chapter L-0.1) is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The agency carries out its mission by fostering respect for the environment and the achievement of the Government’s objectives regarding the fight against climate change and by promoting socially responsible investments.”

7. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 21:

“21.1. A program established under this Act may not be applied to an enterprise that holds assets in low-tax jurisdictions. The Government draws up and periodically updates, by regulation, a list of those jurisdictions.”

8. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 33:

“33.1. The agency or a subsidiary of the agency must ensure that its investments are socially responsible and that its assets respect the environment and help achieve the Government’s objectives regarding the fight against climate change.

In addition, the agency or a subsidiary of the agency may not hold assets in low-tax jurisdictions or in enterprises that hold assets in such jurisdictions.”

FINAL PROVISION

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

