



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

THIRD SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 791

**An Act to amend the Election Act
for the purpose of permanently
protecting the electoral divisions
of Gaspé and Bonaventure**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Madam Maïté Blanchette Vézina
Member for Rimouski**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill amends the Election Act so as to provide that, like the electoral division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bonaventure and Gaspé are electoral divisions despite the requirements on how to delimit electoral divisions provided by that Act. The bill also changes the number of electoral divisions to 126.

The bill provides that the Commission de la représentation is to publish a new list of electoral divisions. It establishes that the new list must maintain the current boundaries of four electoral divisions in the Gaspésie–Bas-Saint-Laurent region, namely, Matane-Matapédia-Mitis, Rimouski, Bonaventure and Gaspé. It also specifies that the new list must indicate the boundaries of the other electoral divisions as established by the Commission in January 2026. It states the day on which the new list of electoral divisions comes into force, based on the date of the end of the 43rd Legislature.

The bill also provides for the creation of a study committee on electoral representation in Québec and specifies its composition and mandate and the length of the mandate, as well as the consultations and analyses the committee must conduct.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Election Act (chapter E-3.3).

Bill 791

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTION ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMANENTLY PROTECTING THE ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF GASPÉ AND BONAVENTURE

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

ELECTION ACT

1. Section 14 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) is amended

(1) by inserting “126” before “electoral” in the first paragraph;

(2) by striking out “, numbering not fewer than 122 nor more than 125,” in the second paragraph.

2. Section 17 of the Act is amended by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Notwithstanding section 16, Bonaventure, Gaspé and the Îles-de-la-Madeleine described in Schedule I are each an electoral division.”

3. Schedule I to the Act is amended by adding the following at the beginning:

“ELECTORAL DIVISION OF BONAVENTURE

The electoral division of Bonaventure comprises the following municipalities: Bonaventure, Caplan, Carleton-sur-Mer, Cascapédia–Saint-Jules, Chandler, Escuminac, Hope, Hope Town, L’Ascension-de-Patapédia, Maria, Matapédia, New Carlisle, New Richmond, Nouvelle, Paspébiac, Pointe-à-la-Croix, Port-Daniel–Gascons, Ristigouche-Partie-Sud-Est, Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia, Saint-Alphonse, Saint-André-de-Restigouche, Saint-Elzéar, Saint-François-d’Assise, Saint-Godefroi, Saint-Siméon and Shigawake.

It also comprises the following Indian reserves: Gesgapegiag and Listuguj.

It also comprises the following unorganized territories: Rivière-Bonaventure, Rivière-Nouvelle and Ruisseau-Ferguson.

“ELECTORAL DIVISION OF GASPÉ

The electoral division of Gaspé comprises the following municipalities: Cap-Chat, Cloridorme, Gaspé, Grande-Rivière, Grande-Vallée, La Martre, Marsoui, Mont-Saint-Pierre, Murdochville, Percé, Petite-Vallée, Rivière-à-Claude, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Sainte-Madeleine-de-la-Rivière-Madeleine, Saint-Maxime-du-Mont-Louis and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.

It also comprises the following unorganized territories: Collines-du-Basque, Coulée-des-Adolphe, Mont-Albert, Mont-Alexandre and Rivière-Saint-Jean.”

CHAPTER II

LIST OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

4. The Commission de la représentation must publish a list of electoral divisions that is updated in accordance with the following:

(1) the notice of the establishment of the list of electoral divisions published in Part 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* dated 14 January 2026 insofar as it sets out the names and boundaries of electoral divisions other than the following: Gaspé-Bonaventure, Matane-Matapédia and Rimouski; and

(2) the list of electoral divisions published in Part 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* dated 2 July 2025 insofar as it sets out the names and boundaries of the following electoral divisions: Bonaventure, Gaspé, Matane-Matapédia-Mitis and Rimouski.

The list must be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* within 10 days after (*insert the date of assent to this Act*). The second paragraph of section 29 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) is, in all other respects, applicable to that publication.

5. The list of electoral divisions published under section 4 comes into force on the day the 43rd Legislature ends, if that day is after 14 July 2026.

However, if the 43rd Legislature ends on or before 14 July 2026, the list of electoral divisions published in Part 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* dated 2 July 2025 then comes into force and remains so until the end of the 44th Legislature. The coming into force of the list of electoral divisions published under section 4 is then postponed until the 44th Legislature ends, and that list will be used for the next general election.

The process set out in Chapter I of Title II of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) then resumes.

6. Sections 4 and 5 have the same effect as if the names of those electoral divisions and their boundaries had been determined by the Commission de la représentation in accordance with Chapter I of Title II of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3).

7. Sections 4 to 6 apply despite any contrary or inconsistent provision of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3).

The first paragraph of section 5 also applies despite section 4 of the Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Matane-Matapédia by Matane-Matapédia-Mitis (2025, chapter 18) and section 3 of the Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Laporte by the name “Pierre-Laporte” (2025, chapter 19), of the Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata by the name “Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata–Les Basques” (2025, chapter 20), of the Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Vimont by the name “Vimont-Auteuil” (2025, chapter 21) and of the Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Arthabaska by the name “Arthabaska-L’Érable” (2025, chapter 22).

CHAPTER III

COMITÉ D’ÉTUDE SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION ÉLECTORALE AU QUÉBEC

8. A committee is formed under the name “Comité d’étude sur la représentation électorale au Québec” (the Committee).

9. The Committee is composed of the following three members:

- (1) a retired judge of the Court of Québec, who presides over the Committee;
- (2) a person having previously held the office of Member of the National Assembly; and
- (3) a person with in-depth knowledge of electoral matters, particularly with respect to electoral representation.

On a motion of the Prime Minister, after consulting with the leaders of the other authorized parties represented in the National Assembly and with the approval of two-thirds of its Members, the National Assembly appoints the members of the Committee.

The Government determines the resources to be made available to the Committee as well as the remuneration and other conditions of employment of its members.

10. The Committee’s mandate is to review the criteria and process for delimiting and naming electoral divisions in Québec.

The purpose of such a review is, in particular, to make recommendations and to propose criteria and a process that ensure

- (1) effective representation of electors;

- (2) a fair and transparent process; and
- (3) a reflection of the diversity of regional realities.

The Committee also reviews the composition and mandate of the Commission de la représentation and makes recommendations in that regard.

The Committee may also make any other recommendation it considers appropriate within the scope of its mandate.

In carrying out its mandate, the Committee must consult

- (1) the Commission de la représentation and the Chief Electoral Officer;
- (2) persons having previously held the office of Member of the National Assembly;
- (3) members of the National Assembly's Committee on Institutions;
- (4) representatives of the municipal sector; and
- (5) professors, academics or researchers with in-depth knowledge of electoral matters, particularly with respect to electoral representation.

11. The Committee must hear the representations made by the Members of the National Assembly and by interested individuals and organizations. For that purpose, it must, after giving notice, hold public hearings in the various regions of Québec.

The Committee must also analyze electoral representation practices elsewhere in Canada and abroad.

12. Not later than 1 February 2028, the Committee must submit a report containing its recommendations to the President of the National Assembly, who tables it in the National Assembly within 30 days after receiving it or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 30 days of resumption.

The President of the National Assembly may, after consulting with the leaders of the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly, grant an extension for the submission of the report provided for in the first paragraph.

The Committee is dissolved on submitting its report.

CHAPTER IV
FINAL PROVISION

13. The provisions of this Act come into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*), except those of section 1, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the list published in accordance with section 4.

