



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 490

**An Act respecting the greater use of
wood in construction**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Denis Trottier
Member for Roberval**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The object of this bill is the greater use of wood in construction in Québec.

As of 1 January 2012, every new building, other than a residential building, to be built in Québec must contain a minimum of 5% of materials made of wood that is certified and processed in Québec.

Also as of 1 January 2012, every new building of a State entity to be built in Québec must contain a minimum of 25% of materials made of wood that is certified and processed in Québec. However, the Minister may, in a substantiated decision published in the Gazette officielle du Québec, exempt the construction of a building from that requirement if the use of wood materials is inconsistent with regulatory health or safety requirements or the function of the building.

In addition, the Government must, before 31 December 2011, amend the Construction Code or pass or amend any other regulation with a view to the greater use of wood in construction.

Lastly, the bill contains technical provisions.

Bill 490

AN ACT RESPECTING THE GREATER USE OF WOOD IN CONSTRUCTION

AS the Government has undertaken to lead by example as regards a greater use of wood products;

AS wood is a noble, ecological and renewable resource and its use helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

AS use of this resource will help Québec meet the Kyoto Protocol targets;

AS wood has been, is and will continue to be an important resource in Québec's economic development;

AS it is important to promote the use of this resource, particularly in construction;

AS wood has unique properties, such as fire resistance, an aesthetic added value and benefits as a healthy material;

AS the greater use of wood will contribute to the development of a new forest culture and a sense of pride in the resource while fostering sustainable development in all the regions of Québec;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The object of this Act is the greater use of wood in construction in Québec.

2. As of 1 January 2012, every new building, other than a residential building, to be built in Québec must contain a minimum of 5% of materials made of wood that is certified and processed in Québec, calculated on the total volume of materials used.

3. As of 1 January 2012, every new building of a State entity to be built in Québec must contain a minimum of 25% of materials made of wood that is certified and processed in Québec, calculated on the total volume of materials used.

However, the Minister may, in a substantiated decision published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, exempt the construction of a building from the

application of this section if the use of wood materials is inconsistent with regulatory health or safety requirements or the function of the building.

4. For the purposes of this Act, the following are State entities:

(1) any public body, government agency or government enterprise within the meaning of the Auditor General Act (R.S.Q., chapter V-5.01);

(2) the Université du Québec and its constituent universities, research institutes and superior schools within the meaning of the Act respecting the Université du Québec (R.S.Q., chapter U-1);

(3) any educational institution at the university level referred to in paragraphs 1 to 11 of section 1 of the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level (R.S.Q., chapter E-14.1) that is not referred to in paragraph 2;

(4) any general and vocational college established under the General and Vocational Colleges Act (R.S.Q., chapter C-29);

(5) any school board governed by the Education Act (R.S.Q., chapter I-13.3) or the Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons (R.S.Q., chapter I-14), and the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal;

(6) any private educational institution accredited for purposes of subsidies under the Act respecting private education (R.S.Q., chapter E-9.1);

(7) any other educational institution more than half of whose expenditures are provided for in the budgetary estimates tabled in the National Assembly otherwise than under a transferred appropriation;

(8) any public or private institution under agreement governed by the Act respecting health services and social services (R.S.Q., chapter S-4.2);

(9) the regional council established by the Act respecting health services and social services for Cree Native persons (R.S.Q., chapter S-5);

(10) any municipality and any body referred to in section 18 or 19 of the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Elected Municipal Officers (R.S.Q., chapter R-9.3);

(11) any regional conference of elected officers established under the Act respecting the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire (R.S.Q., chapter M-22.1);

(12) any local development centre established under the Act respecting the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (R.S.Q., chapter M-30.01); and

(13) any agency referred to in paragraph 4 of section 4 of the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act (R.S.Q., chapter T-11.011).

5. Not later than 31 December 2011, the Minister must determine, by regulation,

(1) the standards for determining whether materials are made of wood that is certified and processed in Québec; and

(2) the method for calculating the volume of materials made of wood that is certified and processed in Québec contained in a building in relation to the total volume of the materials used.

6. Not later than 31 December 2011, the Government must amend the Construction Code (R.R.Q., chapter B-1.1, r. 0.01.01) or pass or amend any other regulation with a view to the greater use of wood in construction.

7. The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife is responsible for the administration of this Act.

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

