

**FAIRE autrement MAINTENANT**

**ECONOMY AND SOCIAL POLICIES**

The economy should serve the people, instead of people serving the economy.

The NDPQ wants to put the economy under democratic control.

We believe that we can build an economy by and for the people, in which the economic levers are in the hands of all Quebecers instead of just a privileged few. In its present form, our economic model polarizes society, every day a little more, between the rich and the poor. Poverty is degrading, exhausting, and economically and socially inefficient; despite this, it continues to spread. The NDPQ will develop and put into place more egalitarian and inclusive social policies, supported by an economic model based on solidarity and cooperation.

Our present welfare system doesn't work in today's economy. It is stigmatizing, inflexible, administratively underperforming and offers little incentive in an increasingly precarious job market. We can do better. The NDPQ proposes a guaranteed minimum income, a simple and transparent way of guaranteeing a decent standard of living for all. This would be flexible, non-stigmatizing, and cheaper to administer than the present system. We know that an income support system built around a guaranteed minimum income will incentivize education and entrepreneurship, while helping limit health expenses.

The NDPQ wants to give citizens the freedom to act within the economy that affects them on a daily basis.

**Our social and economic system faces great challenges, which the NDPQ will overcome:**

- ✓ Promote the development of businesses for a social and solidarity-based economy, including cooperatives and autonomous community activities
- ✓ Foster the development of entrepreneurship in the field of innovative and green technologies
- ✓ Give the regions the structures for dialogue and action necessary for their development autonomy
- ✓ Restore the conditions for social dialogue
- ✓ Defend economic democracy and social progress
- ✓ Create a guaranteed minimum income
- ✓ Plan housing development
- ✓ Universal accessibility
- ✓ Government and day-care
- ✓ Give the state the financial ability to support its social programs

## OUR COMMITMENTS

### ***Promote the development of businesses for a social and solidarity-based economy, including cooperatives and autonomous community activities***

- put into place a five-year action plan including a \$400M subsidy to public enterprises, prioritizing support for those working in the mutual and cooperative sectors and the social economy
- support the *Coopérative de développement régional du Québec* (CRDQ)
- protect local workers in the real cooperative economy from the practices of multinational entities like Uber and AirBnB
- support local development centers (CLDs) in their efforts to help social community-based businesses get started, through the *Fonds d'aide à l'action communautaire autonome* (FAACA)
- work with the *Rassemblement québécois de l'action communautaire autonome* (RQ-ACA) to increase government funding for autonomous community action (ACA) and find the best ways help these organizations grow

### ***Foster the development of entrepreneurship in the field of innovative and green technologies***

- support public investment and encourage venture capital investment in Québec's green tech sector
- support the development of innovative technologies by strengthening the Research and Innovation Organizations Support Program (PSO) of the Québec Research and Innovation Strategy (SQRI):
  - create more synergy between strategic clusters of researchers and strategic industrial clusters
  - stimulate industrial R&D by supporting the transfer of results to the market: facilitate venture capital investment and partnerships with Crown corporations (like Hydro-Québec and the SQDC)
  - increase the budget for matching lenders and borrowers
  - increase funding for research in the Québec Infrastructure Plan (PQI)
- guarantee the survival of Crown corporations (by opposing any privatization) and assign them the role of planning and supervision of the major infrastructure projects necessary for the commercialization of innovative technologies
- conduct an extensive one-year consultation, leading to a major forum on the technological and digital issues of the next decade that could upset our society and economy:
  - automation
  - artificial intelligence and big data
  - genomics

***Give the regions the structures for dialogue and action necessary for their development autonomy***

- stabilize the governance strategy for local and regional development and support for entrepreneurship in order to eliminate the climate of uncertainty for those engaged in local planning
- restore the lost conditions of dialogue between social partners, taking into account the current context. We must give ourselves better tools for working together in regional development and to boost rural and regional development in Québec
- develop a plan to rebuild, develop or support, depending on local/regional dynamics and the situation, the participative and democratic structures of regional development, modeled on the regional development councils (CRD) based on Québec's 17 administrative regions:
  - their mandate will be to facilitate dialogue and generated participation of local and regional development stakeholders
  - they will be composed of:
    - municipal elected officials and MNAs of the region
    - stakeholders from the institutional and parapublic sectors
    - post-secondary education, health, and cultural institutions,
    - civil society groups (chambers of commerce, community development organizations, unions, community groups, and social economy participants)

***Restore the conditions for social dialogue***

- rewrite Québec's social legislation to create a framework for three-way dialogue and a balance of power between employers, employees (including unions and self-employed workers) and the government; thoroughly review and merge into a single body of law:
  - the Labour Code
  - Labour Standards Act
  - the Quebec Retirement Act, and pension legislation
- improve productivity by making workplaces more participative, inspired by the German and Scandinavian models:
  - ensure that companies have employee participation programs and involve employees and unions in decision-making
  - encourage setting up share ownership programs for employees

***Defend economic democracy and social progress***

- ensure that workers in precarious jobs have access to the same protections and advantages that others do
- increase the minimum wage to \$15-an-hour
- increase retirement benefits and secure pension funds
- apply true wage equity

### **Create a guaranteed minimum income**

- change the income support system to bring hundreds of thousands of Quebecers out of poverty and adapt it to today's reality
- ensure, at the same time, income security and the necessary flexibility to adjust to an era of growing inequality and changing labour market conditions that have created more and more precarity
- give everyone the freedom to choose the right path for themselves without fear of falling into extreme poverty
- introduce a new guaranteed minimum income program that will ensure everyone has a decent standard of living and the possibility to make their own choices, while reducing the administrative burden on government bureaucrats:
  - give all adults aged 18-64 the right to receive a monthly payment:
    - The payment will decrease from a defined amount for each dollar of supplemental income earned.
    - the introduction of this policy will proceed progressively over a 10-year period
    - a series of provincial income support programs will be progressively abolished, including social assistance, the Solidarity Tax Credit, the Tax Shield Credit, the work premium tax credit, and the housing allocation
  - evaluate continually the impact of the guaranteed income on poverty reduction and the accompanying improvements in health, educational participation, and entrepreneurial activities

### **Plan housing development**

- finance the construction and delivery of 2500 social housing units per year over 4 years. Base financing on the construction costs of the current year and index financing to the increase in interest rates
- assist non-profit organizations that pilot and co-fund projects with their fundraising under the *Accèslogis* programme
- reduce the waiting period for affordable housing by 5% per year over the next 5 years. Make this goal a priority when working with the city of Montréal
- ease pressure on the affordable housing waiting list by providing rent supplements and placement in mixed housing units directed by housing cooperatives or non-profits
- review strategies for mandatory inclusion of social housing units in all new residential development project across the territory of Québec
- protect homebuyers better by ensuring that all building inspectors are subject to the following obligations:
  - registering with an ad-hoc governmental entity
  - responsibility if they fail to respect the norms established by the *Association des inspecteurs en bâtiments du Québec* (AIBQ)
  - having their competence certified by minimal mandatory training
  - taking out insurance covering the risks incurred by buyers who are victims of damages attributable to poorly made inspections

**Universal accessibility**

- mandate the assessment of the extent of facilities for people who are disabled in existing commercial operations that are open to the public
- require the owners or managers of these commercial buildings to conduct this evaluation with an accredited organization representing people with disabilities, which will work with the businesses to ensure necessary renovations are made on the basis of the principle of reasonable accommodation to public needs
- establish a standard of minimum measures required for accessibility
- implement a financial support program to help owners and managers of existing buildings open to the public complete the required work to make their buildings accessible
- institute a legal requirement that any conversion of an existing building into a place of business requires making it accessible to people with disabilities
- remove the exclusions in the Quebec Construction Code regarding the scope of the accessibility requirements for all new buildings
- require all new commercial establishments to conform with legal requirements on accessibility, in a uniform manner across all Quebec's territory

**Government and day-care**

- progressively reduce subsidies to for-profit day cares and reinvest that money in nonprofit and family day cares
- put an end to means-testing parents and return to a single price
- review the operation of the Single Access Window for day care services to ensure that placements are made respecting the *La Place 0-5* norms
- require custodial families (RFGs) to accept families that have part-time needs

**Giving the state the financial ability to support its social programs**

- create a fairer corporate tax regime:
  - founded on societal and environmental responsibility
  - supporting small job-creating businesses
- maintain government revenue at the current level
- collaborating with the Canadian Revenue Agency, modernize Quebec's tax system, to collect income and other taxes hidden away off-shore
- pass a law requiring businesses to disclose their results in all countries in which they operate
- strengthen the powers and staffing of *Revenu Québec*, giving better protection to whistleblowers and applying pressure on the federal government to work with Quebec on this issue.
- develop a special initiative to identify and reduce tax credits that only benefit the richest people
- aim for a balanced budget by setting the maximum limit of a potential budget deficit at \$5 billion, in order to preserve the best conditions for Quebec borrowing on the global markets.