A new GREEN PLAN for Quebec

MORE THAN JUST A COLOR

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More THAN just a COLOR
Preamble

People of Quebec,

It is with great pleasure that I present you our new electoral platform of 2018; A new Green Plan for Quebec! This audacious program aims to transform Quebec society and the State’s priorities in order to protect the environment, to reach an equitable distribution of wealth and to make identity-politics more inclusive and opened to the world.

The new Green Plan takes positions in ecology, economy, social justice but also in the valorization of democracy. Indeed, we are way more than just a color. Our team is composed of young and diversified people who dream of a Quebec that is inclusive, greener and more thriving. We want to make Quebec a world-leader in the fight against climate change and the devastation of the environment. We want to undertake massive investments in health and education systems. We want multinationals, big companies and mining companies, to pay a fair contribution in order to contribute positively to the society, in particular by taking care of our elders.

With your support, there is no limit to what we can accomplish together for Quebec’s future, for the planet, and for the future generations. We are the end of the status quo and the old logics of the big parties. We are the future. Our team is engaged and we are ready to stand for you with integrity, compassion and determination.

Every votes for the Green Party of Quebec will help us to get closer to a better future, and to occupy a bigger place in public debates. Every votes contributes to finance our party and so, to ensure that the environment will be take into account. I invite you to discover our new Green Plan for our province, to discover your local candidates and to vote for the Green Party of Quebec!

In solidarity,

Alex Tyrrell

Chief of the Green Party of Quebec
Candidate in Verdun
A new GREEN PLAN for Quebec

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TRANSPORTATION AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The Green Party of Quebec supports the rapid shift of our society towards urban and interurban public transportation. Our goal is to reduce emissions in the transportation sector by 50% by 2030 and to lower traffic congestion by 90% in the urban regions of Quebec over the same period. In order to achieve this, we propose a range of solutions, financial incentives and tools to change our habits, develop the network of urban and interurban transportation to make it affordable and accessible for everyone.

RAPID, EFFICIENT AND FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Green Party of Quebec proposes making public transportation faster, more comfortable, more efficient and more affordable than private automobiles. To reach this goal, we propose a massive expansion of the network combined with free service. Free service will be an important incentive in raising the number of users. Increased use of public transportation will allow public transportation providers to raise the frequency of service and thereby raise its rapidity and efficiency.

This transition to public transportation will benefit all Quebeckers, who will be able to breathe clean air, waste less time in traffic jams, save money related to purchasing and maintaining a vehicle, while at the same time doing their part in the fight against climate change.

This societal shift will be financed in large part by a carbon tax applied to gasoline consumption, as well as through measures to discourage gas guzzling vehicles.

ACCESSIBILITY

We want to renovate the stations and the transportation methods by creating a complete and inclusive accessibility plan for the population of Quebec. In addition to that, we will make sure that all future stations will be designed and built to be accessible. In this manner, we will ensure the universality of the collective projects, suggesting ways to make travelling smoother and safer for the population of Quebec.

INTEGRATED APPROACH (TOD)

The Green Party of Quebec suggests an integrated approach of the transportation methods here in Quebec. We strongly encourage its use and we desire to develop both neighborhoods and transportation methods to accommodate its usage.

REVOLUTIONIZING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN QUEBEC

The Green Party of Quebec proposes an investment of $250 million per year in the development of infrastructures for cyclists and pedestrians throughout Quebec in order to encourage active transportation, to raise the safety level of users and to improve the health of the population. This means building new bicycle paths, adapting urban landscapes and offering subsidies for the purchase of sports equipment.

We propose to finance active transportation, like bikes for example. The Green Party of Quebec will install a progressive grant program for citizens who acquire a new bicycle or a refurbished one.
We also propose to give more space to cyclists with the creation of bike lanes during certain days of the week. Urban zones without cars to reduce the number of vehicles on roads is also a priority.

A Green government will develop policies with a zero-death vision, the security of cyclists being of the utmost importance. Finally, we propose to sensitize and incite the use of active modes of transportation for our environment but also for the general health of the population.

**NATIONALIZATION OF THE MEN (METROPOLITAN EXPRESS NETWORK)**

The Green Party suggests the nationalization of the metropolitan express network. The vision for our transportation project clashes with the current corporate vision of the project. The privatization of a network with such a scale goes against the principles of our political platform.

**PROPOSITION FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MEN**

We suggest a few extensions to the present-day Metropolitan express network:

- Towards Vaudreuil-Hudson
- Towards the Dorval terminus (VIA line, Vaudreuil-Hudson line, bus terminus)
- Towards St-Jean-sur-Richelieu
EXTENSION OF THE METRO

A green government would like to improve the transportation quality and facilitate regular travelling. A few sectors of the city of Montreal are in need of better transportation access which calls for a great need of funding to connect their population to the downtown area. We propose a loop with metro stations to Bois-Franc, Cartierville and Laval.

Our platform suggests:

• The extension of the yellow line which would follow Taschereau all the way to the metro station

• Panama of the MEN (Metropolitan express network)

• The extension of the green light up to Arlie and Lafleur on Newman

• Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau

TRAINS (TRAM)

The Green Party of Quebec plans to create a tramway network in the west-island of Montreal: the large median routes as well as the Des Sources, Saint-Jean et Saint-Charles roads must be transformed to tramways with the right of way. The tramways would not have to stop at the traffic lights. The three lines should cover the MEN and Vaudreuil-Hudson.

Trains must be accessible in the areas of Notre-Dame, René-Lévesque et Victoria. The trains in those areas would have the possibility to travel faster in specific zones, near the autoroute 20 or in the east of Papineau for example. They would have to slow down in the dense areas and the residential areas where there is a great need for transportation.
Saint-Lawrence River
Proposal of fast tramway line
Proposal of tramway line
Point of interest

TRAMWAY LINES
Frequent and reliable
PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN:
CITY OF MONTREAL CENTER

TRAMWAY LINES
Frequent and reliable
PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN:
CITY OF MONTREAL

High speed tramway line proposal
Tramway line proposal
Point of interest
TRAMWAY LINES
Frequent and reliable
PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN:
CITY OF MONTREAL WEST

PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN:
CITY OF MONTREAL EAST
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NETWORK OF HIGH-SPEED TRAINS

With regards to intercity transportation between Quebec’s cities, the Green Party of Quebec supports the project of high-speed trains proposed by VIA Rail, along with a few additional features.

We propose to connect Gatineau, Laval, Montreal, Trois-Rivières, Quebec City, Saguenay, Matane, Gaspé, Sherbrooke and Drummondville to this network. The project will be public, use entirely renewable electricity and will offer affordable service, making it an attractive alternative to using a private automobile.

This major project will allow Quebeckers and tourists to move quickly around the province without emitting GHGs and will contribute to regional economic development while offering a safe means of transportation at a low price.
SUBURBAN RAILWAY

We want to connect the city of Montreal to multiple transportation methods. It's in this light that we will extend the train services to suburban areas, if we are elected. We also suggest to completely convert our current electricity network. Our networks must function with renewable energy as soon as possible.

CAR-SHARING

The Green Party seeks to encourage car-sharing services and reduce the number of vehicles on the road by offering alternatives to owning private vehicles. The current regulations are obsolete and do little to encourage the development of alternatives to the automobile. The PVQ relies on the report prepared by Équiterre to formulate the points proposed in its platform. We propose to:

• Modernize existing policies and regulations in collaboration with industry. Some regulatory barriers hinder the development of car-sharing services, including the maximum amount allowed for ride-sharing services.

• Coordinate public transportation services. The different transportation options fall under different ministries and levels of government.

• Combining efforts in transportation would provide a harmonized and sustainable vision with specific goals. Partnerships between the various transport services have also led to better service to users, by reducing subscription fees, for example (including STM and Communauto).

• Create incentives to help the industry. Financial measures could include, for example, the reduction of subscription fees, tax credits for subscriptions to such services, the reduction of parking fees for car-sharing, or even more incentives to build fleets of electric vehicles.

• Ensure that the services on offer meet the needs of users. At present, for example, it is very difficult to use the car-sharing system to go from one municipality to another.

ELECTRIFICATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Commuter trains, new rail infrastructure, buses and trams all have electrification options without batteries. In big cities, we support electrical bus feeds by overhead wires. Connecting power directly to public transportation is an effective way to reduce our GHGs while avoiding the harmful effects of batteries on the environment.

POLICY ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Although most electric vehicles powered by hydropower emit less GHG than petroleum-powered vehicles, their ecological impact is important and should not be underestimated. The environmental impact of electric vehicles is particularly heavy in the mining sector and has adverse effects on surface water and land use planning.

In Quebec, several private companies are proposing to dig new rare earth mines to produce batteries for electric vehicles. This toxic process consumes an astronomical amount
of drinking water. In addition, the process of chemical extraction involves the storage of waste, the creation of settling ponds and even radioactive pollution.

Experts say that simply converting to electric vehicles is not a sustainable solution. To respect the limits of our ecosystems and our atmosphere, we must massively reduce our use of private automobiles, regardless of the type of energy used.

According to the Green Party of Quebec, the Quebec government currently gives too much importance to electric vehicles in the shift to clean energy. It is misleading to say that the electrification of private vehicles will solve the ecological problems of our mode of transportation. Instead, we must aggressively fight against the individual use of the car and favor public transportation in every way we can.

In our opinion, the current subsidy of up to $ 8,000 for each electric vehicle purchased in Quebec in an effort to offset their higher price, does not represent proper use of public funds earmarked for energy transition. Car manufacturers may even raise prices knowing that the government will foot the bill.

For these reasons, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to abolish subsidies for the purchase of electric vehicles and to invest these sums in the community, that is, in urban and interurban transit infrastructures. The best way to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles is to oblige car manufacturers to sell a predetermined percentage of them each year. A coalition of environmental groups claims that 50% of cars will be electric by the year 2025. We support building charging stations to allow citizens to use electric vehicles on an adequate recharging network. Any new construction should also make it easy to install one or more charging stations for electric vehicles. The building code should also take this into account.
Greater Montreal:

- Create the pink line in Montreal. The construction of the pink line would not only work to compensate for the surcharge problems on the green and the orange lines but it would also give the opportunity to some neighborhoods to have access to cheaper transportation methods.

- The construction of 14 tramway lines on the island of Montreal, in order to unclog the Western, the center and the eastern part of the island, as well as a line in Longueuil and in Laval stations.

- The finalization of the orange line as the initial project proposed.

- An appropriate support to extend the blue line.
SPECIFIC TRANSIT PROJECTS IN GREATER MONTREAL AND THE QUÉBEC REGION

The Green Party of Quebec believes that ambitious transit development projects would make it possible to decongest major centres while saving money on road maintenance over the long term. The GPQ believes that a coordinated approach to transportation would achieve specific objectives and optimize resource investment. While several transit projects are under consideration, we need to use evidence-based studies, and determine the needs of major centers in order to decide which projects should be prioritized.

The pink line should be developed. The construction of the pink line would not only help overcome the overload problems of the green and orange lines, but also connect areas of the city where getting around is overly laborious. This line would facilitate access to employment and contribute to the economic development of the regions involved.

Quebec Region:

- A project to create two metro lines going from Cap Rouge to the Cité-Limoilou and to Levis.
- A project to create a tramway that would cover Quartier 4-5, Vieux-Moulin, Saint Louis and the south shore from Charny to Place-Martinière.
DISCOURAGING THE USE OF LARGE VEHICLES

In Quebec, consumers are buying more and more large energy-consuming vehicles. In 2017, two thirds of new vehicles sold in Quebec were light-duty trucks (SUVs or vans) and our gas consumption was never higher than in 2017, when we consumed nearly 10 billion liters of gasoline. This trend must change quickly. Quebeckers are paying more and more for less efficient vehicles. In fact, the purchase of new vehicles costs Quebeckers $16.5 billion each year. Expenditures for private transport are the second largest single expense for our citizens, only outpaced by housing.

To combat this new trend, the Green Party of Quebec supports a registration rate based on a vehicle's weight and displacement. Under a Green government, it will be significantly more expensive to buy and register large fuel-consuming vehicles. Compact, electric and hybrid vehicles will be favored in the calculation of registration fees.

URBAN ZONES WITHOUT CARS IN THE 30 LARGEST CITIES IN QUÉBEC

Require the 30 largest cities in Quebec to develop car-free zones in the heart of their downtown core. They will be able to rely on generous provincial grants for pedestrian and active transportation development.

ABOLISHING LEGISLATIVE BARRIERS TO CAR-SHARING

Carpooling is an essential part of reducing our oil consumption. Despite this fact, Quebec imposes strict guidelines that prevent anyone from benefiting from carpooling, meaning that a person can accept passengers in his vehicle provided that he charges only the price of the fuel and the costs associated with the vehicle. In other words, the driver is not entitled to be compensated monetarily for accepting passengers. This slows down the development of carpooling applications since drivers cannot operate commercially. The Quebec Green Party supports a regulatory framework that encourages carpooling, which recognizes that it is perfectly reasonable to compensate drivers for their service and that single passenger cars are a source of astronomical emissions and a nuisance in the fight against climate change.

FORESTS AND GREEN SPACES

PROTECTION OF GREEN SPACES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

All throughout Quebec, the green spaces near urban areas are becoming less and less. The lack of plans to protect and develop those spaces have serious consequences. The Green Party of Quebec commits to densify urban areas while nurturing green spaces. We believe that some spaces that are underexploited could be used to fill the need for development.

• Put forth organizations such as “un arbre pour mon quartier” as well as other citizens’ green initiatives around the province.

FOREST CONSERVATION

Current logging practices in Quebec are not sustainable. Mature forests, woodland cari-
bou and biodiversity are all at risk because of government policies that favor logging at any cost to the detriment of the natural environment. For these reasons, the Green Party of Quebec supports greater protection of Quebec’s forests. This implies the designation of vast conservation areas throughout Quebec and tapping into the knowledge of First Nations, who should be given the power to block any project on their ancestral lands that is not in their interest.

A POLICY TO COMBAT URBAN SPRAWL

The Quebec Green Party supports the implementation of a national land-use and urban planning policy in order to ensure coordination of the actions of the State and municipalities that favor the achievement of the major national objectives in terms of environment, health, energy efficiency and more.

NATIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE FOREST EXPLOITATION

The Green Party of Quebec supports the nationalization of the logging industry. The exploitation, transportation and processing of resources will be managed by a new Crown corporation named Forests Quebec.

This Crown corporation will be mandated to execute the sustainable extraction of the resource with a management plan that leaves more room for conservation, protection of sensitive environments and greater respect for First Nations rights and communities.

Workers in the industry will be able to count on job stability, better working conditions and can be represented en bloc by one or more unions.

CREATION AND EXPANSION OF THE PROVINCIAL PARKS NETWORK

The Quebec Green Party supports the expansion and addition of national parks in several regions of Quebec. This would include the inauguration of the first provincial park on the island of Montreal on the territory of the L’Anse à l’Orme forest. The PVQ is campaigning to protect more territories in Quebec, particularly in the marine environment. Many marine species in Quebec are threatened and action is urgently needed to keep them viable.

CLIMATE CHANGE, FOSSIL ENERGY AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

REACHING CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050

The Paris agreement is clear; the countries of the world will have to reach carbon neutrality by the year 2050 in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degre. To achieve this objective at the local level, we propose a rapid transition of Québec infrastructures. The sectors of transport, waste management, agriculture and real estate will be particularly affected. We recognize that the energy transition must be fair and can not be done to the detriment of low-income people and rural communities.

CARBON PRICE INCREASE & IMPLEMENTATION OF A FOSSIL FUEL SUPPLY SYSTEM
In 2017, Québec consumed nearly 10 billion litres of gasoline, surpassing all previous years. Two-thirds of the vehicles sold were SUVs or light trucks. The status quo is not sustainable. It is time to take concrete action to combat climate change and emissions from the transportation sector.

The opinion of the experts is clear: to reduce greenhouse gases and fight climate change, we must take concrete action by reducing the consumption of gasoline and fossil fuels. The Green Party of Quebec therefore proposes to increase the price of carbon to $200 per tonne in 2019, with an increase of $25 per year thereafter. However, the increase in the carbon price must take into account the economic realities of individuals, families and regions. This is why we support ways of thinking that will allow for more equitable management of the price of carbon.

We propose to offer a carbon price exemption to every resident of Quebec. The number of litres of gasoline exempted will be based on residents’ proximity to public transit and their ability to reduce emissions. Children will also be eligible for an exemption. This will allow families living in the regions, for example, to receive a large number of litres of exemption while a person who lives in a large city near public transit will receive a much more limited exemption. In addition, this change will be combined with a broad extension of the public transit system, which will now be free, frequent, rapid and comfortable.

Gas tax-exempt litres of gas will be allotted on a monthly basis and each resident will have a carbon card. By presenting the carbon card to gasoline retailers, the price of carbon will be deducted from the bill directly at the pump. Each litre of gasoline purchased that exceeds the exemption will be subject to the carbon price of approximately $0.46 per liter. The money from the carbon price will be injected into the Québec Green Fund and will be used to finance public transit. We plan to exempt 40% of gas purchases in the first year and gradually reduce exemptions thereafter. This will allow the Quebec government to generate $2.7 billion in revenue for public transit in the first year alone.

ELIMINATING FOSSIL FUELS FOR HEATING BUILDINGS

In Quebec, a large number of buildings are heated with heating oil and natural gas. These fossil fuels are easily replaceable with electric heating and geothermal energy. Since Quebec has a surplus of electricity, and new wind projects seek to further increase our production capacity, replacing fuels for heating buildings should be a priority. The Green Party of Quebec supports major subsidies that will allow us to completely eliminate fossil fuel consumption for residential, industrial and commercial heating by 2025.

ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON ANY NEW OIL INFRASTRUCTURE

The proliferation of oil infrastructure is incompatible with the fight against climate change. That is why the Green Party of Quebec opposes any oil pipeline, oil port or any other similar developments such as drilling, extraction or exploitation. The construction of new infrastructure of this type will tie the Quebec economy to a declining industry for decades to come.
ABOLISHING ALL PUBLIC SUBSIDIES AND INVESTMENTS IN THE OIL INDUSTRY

Quebec spends about $300 million a year on subsidies to the oil industry. According to the Green Party of Quebec and the entire environmental movement, these subsidies must be abolished immediately. These subsidies prevent Quebec from moving towards a real energy shift and would be better invested in energy transition and support for green initiatives.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Major cities in Quebec are currently flooded with polluted air. A recent study estimates that 7,700 people die prematurely each year in Canada and that smog costs the economy more than $36 billion. At the local level, the Lung Association estimates that 1,540 of these deaths occur in the greater Montreal area each year.

To remedy the situation, the Green Party of Quebec proposes the following measures:

- A complete ban on the burning of firewood in urban areas
- The conversion of heating systems from oil and natural gas to electricity
- Measures that limit the number of vehicles that have access to the city
- No-car zones in the 30 largest cities in Quebec
- The establishment of more vegetation, including vines, trees, green roofs, etc.

CLIMATE TESTING FOR ANY NEW GOVERNMENT PROJECT

Each industrial project comes with GHG emissions. At present, the government does not take into account the emissions associated with major projects in Quebec. Information about these emissions is essential for any decision-making regarding a project’s merits. A Green Party government will therefore introduce a Climate Test for any new government project in Quebec.

MEASURING AND REDUCING EMISSIONS BY GOVERNMENT AND PARA-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to measure the carbon footprint of the government and its agencies (departments, agencies, Crown corporations, governmental and para-governmental agencies), and implement a carbon neutral target for the year 2035.
RESIDUAL MATERIAL MANAGEMENT - A STRATEGY BASED ON BIOMETHANIZATION

COMPULSORY COLLECTION OF ORGANIC MATERIALS (COMPOSTING) - PROHIBITING ORGANIC WASTE IN LANDFILLS

Organic waste represents a huge energy potential in Quebec. A Green government will make the collection of organic materials mandatory for all residents. This waste will be exploited through bio-methanization infrastructures built locally and which remain public property. Part of it will also be used for local urban garden agriculture projects and for the national greenhouse project.

The biogas generated by organic waste is interchangeable with natural gas and can be used to replace fossil fuels in heavy road transportation and even in appropriately equipped cars.

The introduction of bio-methanization technologies will make it possible to capture methane emissions (a greenhouse gas four times more powerful than CO2) while reducing our consumption of fossil fuels. Quebec has everything to gain by investing in the recovery of organic materials.

INVESTING MASSIVELY IN BIOGASIFICATION OF WASTEWATER

In Quebec, almost all wastewater treatment centres burn fossil fuels to incinerate wastewater residue. This way of doing things is simply obsolete. New, privately developed technologies are already in place in many cities allowing treatment centres to generate renewable energy and fertilizer that can be used for agriculture. The Green Party of Quebec supports a massive wastewater recycling program across Quebec.

CAPTURING AND REUSING EMISSIONS FROM EXISTING LANDFILLS

Existing landfills contain large amounts of organic material that emits methane, a greenhouse gas four times more powerful than CO2. In Lachute, emissions are captured and upgraded. The Quebec Green Party supports the spread of this technology to all existing landfills in Quebec where the gas capturing potential is high.

INVESTING MASSIVELY IN LOCAL RECYCLING AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Quebec is going through a major crisis in the field of recycling, provoked by China’s refusal to accept our paper and cardboard. The main contributing factor to this crisis is the lack of local capacity to deal with waste. This lack of infrastructure means that we are in no way able to exploit our own recycling. To remedy the situation, the Green Party of Quebec supports major public investments in recycling infrastructure to promote the circular economy, provide local jobs and contribute to a responsible environmental policy. Our goal will be to completely eliminate the export and burying of recyclable materials for the benefit of local industry.
REDUCING CONSUMPTION OF GOODS WITH ECOTAX

Although Quebec already imposes an eco-tax on certain products such as electronics, the amounts are not sufficient to encourage the purchase of more sustainable products or adequately fund their complete recycling after use. For these reasons, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to spread the number of products subject to environmental taxes and to increase the tax amount.

ELIMINATING PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE

One of the big problems with our current consumption system is the quality and durability of the products we use. Several companies, especially those producing electronic products, design their goods by purposely limiting their life expectancy or by preventing any repair. This practice forces consumers to replace their goods more frequently, increases the amount of waste produced and contributes to pollution in a variety of ways.

To fight against this practice, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to:

- Eliminate small throw-away household appliances by gradually extending the warranty on almost all of these products to ten years by focusing on both their design and the availability of spare parts. This essentially means designing modular objects composed of easily removable and exchangeable subassemblies.

- Adopt minimal resistance criteria covering, among other things, robustness, repairability and scalability for each product category as soon as they are designed.

- Value repair rather than exchange.

- Encourage the voluntary labeling of products (in terms of shelf life) as a competitive advantage for businesses.

- Create financial incentives by reducing the GST and QST on clothing, electrical and electronic equipment repairs by 50% to put an end to a system in which repairing a product costs more than the purchase a new model at a low price.

- Change existing regulations to include prohibition of planned obsolescence.

In the specific case of mobile devices, we propose to:

- Allow the reversibility of operating system updates.

- Extend the warranty period from 2 to 4 years for mobile phones, and improve consumer information about its existence and content.

- Impose penalties when phone manufacturers make batteries irremovable in order to eventually eliminate this practice.

EXPANDING BOTTLE AND CAN DEPOSITS

The system of deposit and return is controversial; many think it should simply be abolished. At the Green Party of Quebec we believe that not only must this system be maintained, but
it must be expanded. It is important to note that bottle and can deposits represent a significant source of income for many low-income and homeless people: to eliminate this income source would be a serious mistake.

We want to incorporate more products into the deposit system. A Green government will first increase the current amount to 20 cents, in an effort to make recycling more efficient and incomes more attractive. We also want to introduce a deposit on wine and spirits bottles as quickly as possible. For example, a deposit of 25 cents on the bottles sold by the SAQ could be refunded via the loyalty card when returning the bottles to the deposit points. We also want to modernize existing sorting centres to make the process more efficient, and fund research to find new opportunities and ways to maximize glass recycling.

REGULATION, FINES AND APPLICATION OF LAWS

ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to set up a new police unit dedicated to environmental investigations. This police unit will include environmental experts, specialized detectives and conventional police who collaborate on investigations. This new police force will be governed by a new Environmental Policing Act that would provide them with the necessary legal levers to obtain the tools, funding and powers that will be needed for their work.

INCREASING FINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENSES

Fines for offenses related to the Environment Quality Act are currently very low. People who do not respect the law are rarely held accountable for their actions, and those who are, are not punished severely. That is why the Green Party of Quebec proposes to considerably increase the fines for environmental offenses in the territory of Quebec.

CHANGING THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

The GPQ seeks to enhance the Access to Information Act in order to increase transparency concerning projects and situations that impact the environment. This involves the disclosure of information on the discharge of contaminants, which is currently excluded on the grounds that it may involve «trade secrets». The public should have access to all information on contaminants released into the environment by polluting industries.

INCLUDING THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

At present, the state of Quebec’s environmental law requires that citizens who are affected by toxic emissions or other contaminants prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that they have been subjected to negative effects of the pollution in question before the courts intervene to protect them. To remedy the situation, the Green Party of Quebec seeks to include the precautionary principle in the law on the quality of the environment. This amendment will allow the courts to intervene as soon as health or the environment is threatened by a contaminant. Companies will
have the duty to demonstrate that their practices are safe, beyond any reasonable doubt.

**CONTAMINATED SOIL MANAGEMENT**

**SOIL TRACEABILITY PROGRAM**

To ensure that soil decontamination companies follow the decontamination process rather than dump toxic soils into the wild, the Quebec Green Party supports the Quebec government’s pilot program which uses GPS data to trace the soil from the contaminated site right to the decontamination company. This is a step in the right direction, and the program should be enhanced and implemented throughout the Quebec decontamination industry to ensure its integrity. The Ministry of the Environment should also take inventory of soils and contaminated sites throughout Quebec and share the information with the public.

**MANAGEMENT OF CONTAMINATED SITES**

Across Quebec, thousands of contaminated sites lie abandoned. These sites emit toxins into groundwater and into the air, and spread in the environment to the detriment of ecosystems. Some pollutants remain in the environment for hundreds or even thousands of years.

Currently, site owners are reluctant to invest the money needed for decontamination, and the provincial government rarely funds decontamination efforts regardless of the circumstances or magnitude of the threat to the environment. These circumstances mean that toxic legacies are left in place for future generations to clean up, which represents a source of intergenerational inequity that must be addressed as quickly as possible. Some studies estimate the share of ecological debt related to contaminated soils in Quebec at above $3 billion. Funding for the management of contaminated soils should be shared by the owners of the sites, the companies involved (if they still exist) and the state as a last resort. However, disputes over cost sharing should not slow down decontamination efforts, which may proceed even if an agreement is not reached between the parties concerned before the work begins.

**PLASTIC CONTROL POLICY AND SINGLE-USE OBJECTS**

**BANNING SINGLE USE CUPS - THE UNIVERSAL MUG**

Every year we consume billions of cups of single-use coffee cups. Reusable cups are widespread, but not many consumers use them and the disadvantages and systemic issues limit their use by the majority.

To counter this trend and to address the systemic disadvantages, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to ban single-use cups and replace them with a reusable universal cup. The universal cups will be exchangeable on a deposit system regardless of where consumers get their coffee. Cafes and restaurants will be responsible for cleaning the cups and distributing them to customers. Disposable
cups will be banned. This is the best way to bring about a quick and effective change of habits to reduce our consumption of paper and plastic while reducing the recovery costs of Quebec municipalities.

**BANNING STRAWS, BAGS AND SINGLE USE UTENSILS**

The Green Party of Quebec supports the ban on straws, plastic bags, as well as disposable utensils. In order to allow consumers and businesses to adapt, a significant tax will be applied to the plastic items in question in the first two years following the adoption of the law. Following the transition period, straws, utensils and single-use bags will be prohibited.

**BANNING THE USE OF SINGLE USE CONTAINERS FOR RESTAURANT DISHES CONSUMED ON SITE**

A government of the Green Party of Quebec will ban the practice of offering disposable plates for meals that are consumed on site. This would eliminate thousands of tonnes of plastic and waste from our landfills, streams and oceans.

**COMBATING OVERPACKING**

To fight against plastic consumption effectively, the problem of overpacking, which represents one of the biggest sources of plastic pollution, must also be tackled. It is important to act against this type of plastic, which is not only useless, but is frequently found in the oceans and in our drinking water, posing a direct threat to the health of Quebeckers.

To fight effectively against this type of plastic consumption, the PVQ proposes to:

- Establish regulations on packaging, to limit it to the maximum, while respecting the principles of health and hygiene.
- Encourage the development of and the transition to «bulk stores».
- Replace plastic with paper as much as possible.
- Completely abolish plastic bags throughout the province.

**HYDRO-QUÉBEC**

**A MORATORIUM ON NEW ELECTRIC DAMS**

Quebec has developed its hydroelectric potential on a large scale. The majority of the exploitable waterways are already in operation, the Crown corporation produces a surplus of energy, and the next potential dam sites will be less fiscally and environmentally friendly than those already in place. For these reasons, the Green Party of Quebec supports a moratorium on new electric dams.

**ALLOWING THE PURCHASE OF SMALL SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

At present, the legal framework does not allow Hydro Quebec to purchase electricity generated by passive houses or small-scale production by residential or commercial buildings. The Green Party of Quebec would mandate Hydro-Québec to buy renewable energy,
produced on a small scale, at low prices for producers, following the example of Ontario, which pays $0.42 per kWh to small producers.

**MODIFYING ELECTRICITY RATES TO MAKE THEM MORE ECOLOGICAL AND EQUITABLE**

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to offer a basic amount of free electricity to every citizen and to bill only for consumption beyond this amount. This policy will have the effect of discouraging over-consumption while easing the tax burden on residential consumers. Companies that are large consumers will have to pay much higher fees than they currently enjoy.

**BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**STANDARDS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTIONS**

The PVQ wants to require that all new construction follow the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and, if possible, the principles of passive buildings. In particular, buildings would be oriented to maximize energy efficiency, take advantage of solar energy, be well insulated and use geothermal energy wherever possible.

**UPGRADING EXISTING BUILDINGS**

The Green Party of Quebec supports a broad energy efficiency program that will offer significant subsidies to help homeowners to better insulate buildings, replace fossil fuel-based heating with electricity and set up renewable energy projects.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

The Quebec Green Party supports subsidies and interest-free loan programs to spread solar, geothermal and home wind energy technologies as widely as possible in an effort to reduce our ecological footprint and promote sustainable development.

**MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF WATER**

**DRINKING WATER PROTECTION**

We must oppose any economic development project that involves risks to drinking water throughout Quebec. This includes industrial projects, oil drilling as well as residential developments. Each project must be risk-assessed regarding drinking water and groundwater.

**ESTABLISHING A PLAN FOR RAINWATER MANAGEMENT**

Rainwater reuse is a good way to reduce our ecological footprint and energy consumption related to water purification. Sound rainwater management plays a vital role in the fight against floods. Groundwater is a natural reservoir of rainwater, but with traditional urban development, rainwater is directed to sewers rather than groundwater. The Quebec Green Party supports the implementation of a national stormwater management policy that will take into account the realities of climate change.

**LAKES AND RIVERS**

The Quebec Green Party is committed to protecting our lakes and rivers, which are impor-
tant for biodiversity, the health of Quebeckers, tourism, and so on.

The PVQ proposes to:

- Prohibit pesticides and herbicides that are often a threat to lakes, especially with the proliferation of blue-green algae.
- Strengthen agricultural inspections.
- Fight against plastic waste.
- More adequately finance the reforestation of lakes and rivers.
- Apply the recommendations of organizations and associations acting for the protection of various water bodies (especially watersheds).

RIVER BANK MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC RETREAT

The reality of climate change is that the water level of the St. Lawrence and the ocean will continue to rise over the next several years. This phenomenon has great implications for the management of riverbanks and maritime communities. The construction of retaining walls on river banks leaves little room for biodiversity. The protection of biodiversity and habitats necessitates the removal of structures located near the banks. The Green Party of Quebec is committed, if elected, to manage the banks with diligence, respecting biodiversity and taking into account the reality of climate change.

A Green government will also commit to launching a program of strategic retreats in the Gaspésie, Haut-Saint-Laurent and Côte-Nord regions. This measure will target the retreat of existing infrastructures, but also ecosystems.

BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTION OF THREATENED SPECIES

ESTABLISHING PROTECTED MARINE AND LAND AREAS

The PVQ proposes to set aside at least 10% of the Gulf and St. Lawrence Estuary as protected marine areas and at least 17% of Quebec land as protected areas in accordance with international objectives under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

PROTECTING AT LEAST 50% OF THE TERRITORY NORTH OF THE 49TH PARALLEL

This should include a minimum of 20% strictly protected areas. The territory selected for protection should be protected indefinitely and without the possibility of modification to allow mining or industrial projects. These decisions must be made in collaboration with the Inuit and First Nations.

ADOPTING CONCRETE MEASURES TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES

Endangered species such as the St. Lawrence Beluga and the Copper Redhorse deserve the establishment of a marine protected area and acoustic refuges in an effort to fight for their survival.

PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURES

The Quebec Green Party pledges to contribute a minimum of 1% of Quebec's infrastructure budgets to natural infrastructure such as woodland protection, wetlands, urban greening measures and natural bridges for wildlife.
PROTECTING BEES

The protection of bees is vital for our future. They are the main pollinators of the plants that surround us, and play a vital role in many ecosystems. Bees make an essential contribution to our quality of life. The economic contribution of bees is also major; pollination by bees represents more than 153 billion dollars for the world economy. However, for several years, the number of bees has been declining and it is important to act quickly.

To do this, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to:

• Impose a complete ban on pesticides.
• Establish a monitoring program of bee numbers.
• Establish lists of threatened species.
• Ramp up the fight against harmful and exotic species.

THE MINING INDUSTRY

STRicter standards

The Green Party of Quebec supports much more stringent environmental standards for the mining industry, which is currently under-regulated. This state of under-regulation allows large mining companies to damage the territory without being held responsible for their actions. The effects of mines are also harmful to the quality of life and sometimes the health of local communities that have few legal levers against multinationals.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND LOCAL AUTONOMY

Any new mining project should be subject to a public consultation held by the BAPE based on an in-depth, independent and credible environmental study. Currently, the Department of the Environment has discretionary powers to exempt a large number of BAPE mining projects and public consultations.
We also support the right of indigenous and local communities to say no to projects that they feel are not in their interests. The Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge is currently being sued for $96 million by Canada Carbon Mining for the simple reason that they oppose a mining project on their territory. This situation is intolerable as it undermines democracy and citizens’ rights. The Green Party of Quebec believes that the Mining Act should be amended to grant veto rights to municipalities and First Nations for any new economic, mining or industrial development project.

**AN OBLIGATION TO FINANCE THE REHABILITATION OF USED SITES**

Mining companies in Quebec are rarely held responsible for site remediation costs following the cessation of mining operations. The Green Party of Quebec supports the establishment of rehabilitation funds unique to each mine. The Québec government should ensure that the funds associated with each mine are sufficient, at all times, to rehabilitate the entire site in the event of a cessation of operations.

**ABOLISHING PUBLIC SUBSIDIES FOR PRIVATE PROJECTS**

Through its Investment Québec branch, the Québec government has transferred millions of dollars to non-renewable resource extraction and exploration projects. The Green Party of Quebec is of the opinion that these subsidies are not necessary for mining development and are nothing more than generous gifts of taxpayers’ money to private industry.
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CONSTITUTIONAL DEMANDS

The federalist position of the Quebec Green Party does not mean that it endorses all of Canada’s positions. On the contrary, there is still a lot of work to be done to improve this country. First, the Canadian Constitution does not guarantee the right to a healthy environment.

Second, it does not allow the provinces to formally express themselves on interprovincial projects. Legally speaking, the provinces currently do not have the right to intervene on intra-provincial pipeline issues, nor are they allowed to rule on projects close to their borders, such as the tanker port project at Belledune, NB, and the Chalk River (ONT) nuclear dump. This problem is not specific to Quebec; the position of the federal government in the Alberta-British Columbia dispute over the Kinder Morgan pipeline demonstrates the lack of provincial autonomy in both Quebec and British Columbia.

Any constitutional reform must also be accomplished with a view to reconciliation with indigenous peoples and formally recognize indigenous nations, their governments and their right to self-determination. This reform should include the right to a healthy environment. In addition, all provinces need to be able to veto projects, like pipelines, that pass through First Nations territories. The decentralization of power is one of the priorities of the Green Party of Quebec.

REFORM OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

ELECTORAL REFORM

The Green Party of Quebec supports a reform of the voting system so that the National Assembly is more representative of the popular vote. In this sense, we propose a mixed compensatory regional electoral system.

In this new voting system, voters would be invited to vote in two steps; first for a member of their constituency and secondly for the political party of their choice. Of the 125 MPs in the National Assembly, 75 would be constituency MNAs (elected under FPTP) and 50 would be MNAs for regional compensation.

The 50 compensation seats would be spread across 8 electoral regions. The seats in each electoral region would be distributed proportionally according to the votes cast for the political parties (second vote) using the Sainte-Laguë method. In the event that a party obtains more than 2% of the vote nationally without succeeding in electing a regional or constituency MNA, the number of seats in the National Assembly would be increased so that these parties could be represented in chambers.

FIXED ELECTION DATES

With regard to fixed date elections, the QGP supports this principle and considers that the law should be strengthened, so as to close the loopholes allowing the government party to ask the lieutenant-governor for the dissolution of the National Assembly at any time.
REPRESENTATION OF ABORIGINAL NATIONS

In a perspective of reconciliation with the Aboriginal nations, the National Assembly of Quebec will have to offer at least one seat in chambers for each of the 11 nations of Quebec, as well as for those who live off reserves. This change should be the subject of consultation with First Nations and should be implemented with the consent of First Nations and with respect to our nation-to-nation relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

POWER TO MUNICIPALITIES

On December 22, 2012, the municipality of Gaspé made history by adopting a by-law that prohibited the drilling of oil within a radius of 10 kilometers around an artesian well. Despite the fact that the Marois government had promised to give municipalities more power, it broke that promise, and the courts have just struck down the Gaspé city by-law. The Quebec Green Party supports the request of the city of Gaspé, which requires a bill allowing municipalities to have the last word on projects affecting their territory.

The GPQ believes in strong local communities that have control over their development and have the right to say NO to economic development projects that are not in their interests. The decentralization of power will enable municipalities to ensure their own development, while respecting their environment and interests in accordance with their values.

Municipalities today are in a weak position in the face of the major economic powers that seek to exploit their resources, and they need powerful legal tools to protect their populations. The best economic, social or community development projects are those that are able to receive support from the local population and thereby gain social acceptability. Let’s stop imposing projects on communities that do not want them.

THE NATIONHOOD ISSUE

The Green Party of Quebec is a progressive federalist party that differs from classical Canadian federalism. The recognition of the Quebec nation is one of the priorities for the Party. On the other hand, we consider that our eco-socialist program is entirely achievable within Canada and we are committed to working with the other progressive forces in the country for the environment and the common good of Quebecers.

Although we recognize Quebec’s right to self-determination and the legitimacy of secession resulting from a legitimate democratic process, we believe that Quebec has everything to gain by remaining within the Canadian federation. The majority of environmental, education and health issues are already under provincial jurisdiction.
STIMULATE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

MEASURES TO STIMULATE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

In Quebec, we have seen a significant decline in voter turnout and a profound lack of interest in Quebec democracy. The status quo can no longer continue; the Quebec government therefore has a duty to take action to reverse the trend. Here are some of our proposals.

INTRODUCE ADVANCED POLLING ON THE INTERNET

The obligation to physically go to the polling station can be a major obstacle to democratic participation. At a time when almost everything is done over the Internet, the Chief Electoral Officer of Quebec should set up a pilot program that would allow advance voting on the Internet. This would reduce the risk of fraud or computer glitches. Citizens, however, would not have to vote on the Internet and, in the event of a technical problem, they would always have the opportunity to go to the polling station on election day.

REDUCE THE VOTING AGE TO 16

Environmental, social and political issues are affecting today’s young people more than ever. The policies adopted by the government strongly influence their lives. Still, they tend not to vote on election day. To counter this phenomenon, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to lower the minimum voting age to 16. Young people could vote before leaving high school, which would increase their interest in politics and encourage greater voter turnout in the present and the future.

ALLOW REGISTRATION UNTIL THE DAY OF THE VOTE

Currently in Quebec, people who wish to vote must ensure that they are registered on the voters list approximately two weeks before polling day. This practice disadvantages people who have recently moved and young people, who are less likely to exercise their democratic rights. In federal elections, electors can register to vote up to and on polling day. We propose to apply this practice in provincial elections.

REFERENDUMS AND ELECTIONS BY PETITION

Several jurisdictions (as in the United States, Switzerland and other countries where semi-direct democracy is exercised) allow referenda of popular initiatives to be held following the receipt of a petition with a minimum number of signatures. We propose the implementation of this model in Quebec for referendum questions, with the exception of those dealing with constitutional issues, which should have the support of the majority in the National Assembly. We are also proposing to allow citizens to call for new elections for MNAs following the filing of a large number of signatures from constituents living in that riding.

COUNTING BLANK VOTES

Currently in Quebec, election results are reported based on «valid votes». In other words, the state does not differentiate between rejected ballots and blank ballots. Voters should have the right to vote for «none of these can-
democracy and these numbers should be reflected in the official voting results.

**INCREASE ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION THROUGH ECONOMIC INCENTIVES**

One of the most effective tools for increasing voter turnout is to reward those who do their civic duty. To do this, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to grant a tax credit to each person who exercises their right to vote in a provincial election. The money disbursed for these credits could be easily recovered through an increase in government efficiency due to higher voter turnout.

**DISCLOSE MNA SPENDING**

For the sake of transparency, all spending by MNAs and their staff should be published on a web portal so that voters and journalists can be informed of how public money is spent by our representatives.

**A MONTHLY CITIZENS FORUM IN EVERY RIDING**

In our opinion, provincial MNAs should be as accessible as municipal councilors. That is, all MNAs should hold a citizens forum every month to answer questions from the public. If elected, the candidates of the Green Party of Quebec commit to holding such meetings in their constituency every month.

**PROPOSING BILLS THROUGH CITIZENS INITIATIVES**

Debates in the National Assembly are often very uninteresting, and large political parties have difficulty finding relevant topics for debate. At present, only MNAs can introduce bills and initiate debates on legislation. In order to make the National Assembly more dynamic and more open, we propose to allow citizens to introduce bills after having obtained a sufficient number of signatures. This could force major political parties to position themselves on bills that come from the people rather than from their own political party.

**SEND PARTY PROGRAMS TO ELECTORS**

In elections, the ability of political parties to participate in the electoral process and promote their programs depends on their financial means. To counter this inequality, we propose to mandate the Director General of Elections to include partisan information on the personal background and program of each candidate. This information could be sent to households with the announcement of the election and the list of candidates. France already operates with such a system and the DGEQ recommended the implementation of this policy in its most recent annual report.

**SIMULATED VOTING IN ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Across Quebec, there are high schools that hold mock elections at provincial and federal election times. These mock elections are important pedagogical tools that allow students to analyze issues, electoral platforms, candidates and parties before having to make a political choice. In addition to understanding the functioning of the electoral system, these students would be inclined to vote and would
have developed a critical analysis of electoral programs. We therefore propose to implement mock elections for each elementary and secondary school in Quebec during federal, provincial and municipal elections.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION COURSE

In Quebec, many thousands of students finish high school every year with very little knowledge of how our democratic system works. We therefore propose to implement a civic participation course per week from the first to the fifth year of secondary school.

SUPPORT OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA

In Quebec, local newspapers are struggling. The national media has imposed significant cuts that leave citizens with less and less high quality information. This reality, caused by a decline in advertising revenues in the digital age, must be addressed by the State. The Green Party of Quebec supports the establishment of a media fund that will be used to subsidize local and national media that offer quality information to citizens.

RESTRICTION ON POLLING SURVEYS DURING THE ELECTORAL PERIOD

Public opinion polls at election time have an important impact on voter choice and the treatment of parties by the media. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to ban polls during election periods to allow voters to make informed decisions based on information that is not distorted by opinion polls.

PARITY AMONG ELECTED OFFICIALS

INCREASE THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Even in 2018, Quebec’s politics remains dominated by men. As proof, over 70% of MPs in the National Assembly are men. To correct this unacceptable situation, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to introduce quotas for the representation of women in a proportional voting system. Parties would be required to present a minimum of 35% female candidates in the next general election and 50% for the following election. Quotas would remain in place for 16 years, four general elections, and their relevance would be re-evaluated at that time. Parties that do not reach quotas will see a significant reduction in their operational funding by the Director General of Elections under the public financing of political parties.

ALLOW MATERNITY LEAVE FOR MNAs

At present, there is no legal way for provincial or municipal elected officials to take maternity leave. Although elected officials may be absent when voting is held, there is no way for them to mandate a substitute or to perform their duties as representatives without being physically present at the Municipal Council or the National Assembly. We therefore propose...
to allow these MNAs to appoint a worthy replacement so they can go on maternity leave.

**SANCTION POLITICAL PARTIES THAT DO NOT RESPECT GENDER PARITY**

We propose to impose a financial penalty on provincial political parties that do not present a gender balanced team during elections. The sum of the penalty would be withdrawn from the public financing of the political parties that do not respect the established quotas.

**PROVIDE A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE FOR FEMALE CANDIDATES SEEKING OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME**

In order to encourage female candidates for election, we propose to offer a subsidy that will help women take unpaid leave from their employer to get into politics for the first time.

**STIMULATE**

**SECULARITY OF THE STATE – SECULARITY OF INSTITUTIONS – INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM**

The Green Party of Quebec supports the secularism of our public institutions such as schools, the National Assembly, as well as in all municipal and provincial government institutions.

However, we support individual freedom of religion and we are strongly opposed to any bill that attacks individual freedoms, including the freedom to display one’s faith with religious symbols or clothing. It is not up to the State to impose a dress code that goes against the Canadian Constitution.

We are of the opinion that the wearing of a religious symbol should not prevent an individual from practicing the profession of judge, crown prosecutor, prison warden, police officer, teacher, doctor, engineer, nurse or any other profession.

The Green Party seeks the removal of the cross in the National Assembly as soon as possible.

**LEGAL SYSTEM**

**A RAPID, ACCESSIBLE AND EQUITABLE LEGAL SYSTEM**

An accessible, just and impartial legal system is vital to any free and democratic society. In Quebec, the legal system is slow. Many criminals have not been held accountable for their crimes because of the Jordan ruling and because of a critical lack of judges, court rooms, resources and legal staff. A Green government will invest the necessary resources to remedy the situation.

Many citizens have a hard time asserting their rights because the system proves to be too expensive. The costs of access to justice should be determined by the income of the persons concerned rather than by fixed fees imposed under the current system.

Visible minorities, people of different linguistic backgrounds, and other minority groups, are often disadvantaged by the justice system. The Green Party of Quebec is committed to fighting systemic injustices, which occur far too frequently.
A Green government will provide and fund advocacy and public legal education services for people with disabilities, including their parents, guardians or caregivers. Community disability advocates will be hired and trained to provide advocacy services and, when such lawyers are not available, Legal Aid Quebec will be mandated to provide legal aid certificates to lawyers in order to advocate for persons with disabilities. Funds will be provided to educate judges and law enforcement personnel about the rights and availability of resources for persons with disabilities. Legal Aid Québec will be responsible for providing public legal education in institutions, schools, rehabilitation centers and the community in general.

The justice system in Quebec has many challenges to overcome in upcoming years. Reforms are needed to support a system that ensures smooth operations of our society. At the moment, the system is extremely expensive and can not overcome the challenges he faces. On average, a civil lawsuit costs between $25,000 and $80,000 to taxpayers. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada affirms that the system currently in place is unsustainable. Not only the system current is expensive, but it is inefficient, slow and inaccessible. That's why the PVQ wants to reform the judicial system in Quebec for modernize it and make it effective.
The Green Party of Quebec proposes to:

• Establish an independent body to assess the remuneration of lawyers. The last crisis was extremely expensive for our state and paralyzed institutions.

• Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. In an optics of reconciliation, it is important to enshrine the rights of these peoples in the legal regime of Quebec.

• Increase funding for justice to promote better access to justice for Quebec citizens.

• Reform the way in which sexual assault matters are treated. Complaints would be handled by specialized units that would also ensure the training of the rest of the police forces.

• Allow better legal support to the victims. Using the organizations of legal aid, tje DMP wants to offer free consultations to better knowledge of the law, particularly regarding sexual assault matters.

• Eliminate police activity campaigns that are too aggressive and that have a disproportionate effect on vulnerable people.

• Ensure the representativeness of society in the appointment of juries. Failure to respect this constraint is currently causing many injustices and inequalities.

• Accelerate the computerization of the justice. A catch-up is necessary to reduce the heaviness of the system, facilitate access and improve its efficiency.

• Abolish minimum sentences. They are systematically challenged and slow down more the system that is already overwhelmed.

• The DMP considers it irresponsible to maintain cordial relations with a country which violates human rights.

• Improve the legibility of laws. Justice should to be accessible to all and understanding the system should not be reserved for the elite.

• Improve the clarity of contracts. In the optics of protecting consumers, contracts should be more understandable and without hidden clauses.

• Promote the work of organizations that facilitate access to right and justice. The ADAJ Project is a good example of pooling resources for the common good. Community justice centers should also open across Quebec.

• Support LANEQ’s requests in renegotiating their conditions of job. Paid equity with prosecutors of the crown is desirable, just like the status that allows the recommendation of one-third to fix the salary.

• Support the Students Right to Help initiatives who wants to enable students to the right to give consultations and legal opinions. It would allow to promote accessibility and understanding of justice while providing additional experience for law students.
RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE

The Green Party of Quebec supports the right to demonstrate, to strike and to express oneself freely without being subjected to State violence perpetrated by the police. During the 2012-2013 student movement, thousands of young Quebecers were illegally arrested, detained and sometimes brutalized by law enforcement officials who applied unconstitutional laws specifically adopted to put an end to this unprecedented social movement. The Green Party of Quebec opposes any regulation or law that undermines our democracy, our freedom to assemble peacefully and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
SOCIAL JUSTICE
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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS

Aboriginal cultures and languages are part of our Quebec and Canadian identity, as are the values of environmental protection. A nation-to-nation relationship implies a consensus, beyond consultation. This relationship must be based on equality between two nations. We need to recognize that the Canadian and Quebec governments have abused and degraded aboriginal people for a very long time and that we have a duty to do things differently.

For far too long, we have treated the First Nations of Quebec with a flagrant lack of respect. We forcefully imposed our views, our ways of doing things and our economic development projects. At the same time, we took steps to decimate their language, culture and religion. European colonialism has had devastating effects on First Nations, who have been the target of cultural genocide and genocidal strategies by governments.

Let us not forget that First Nations were the first occupants of Quebec. All this belonged to them when we arrived. For too long, our government has sought to dominate First Nations without giving them what belongs to them. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to do the following:

FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

This Commission made 94 recommendations to improve relations with First Nations in the country. The Green Party of Quebec supports all of them and intends to integrate all of them, which will apply to provincial jurisdiction, in our first mandate.

Between 2015 and 2018, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with Aboriginal Peoples shed light on the residential school controversy, the abuse of Aboriginal people by government, and how to move forward in order to recognize what happened in the past and to correct injustices.

TERRITORIAL AND SOCIAL AUTONOMY

The Green Party of Quebec supports the self-determination of Aboriginal peoples. In terms of land management, First Nations should have the power to block development (or exploitation) projects on their ancestral lands. On the social front, Aboriginal people should have more control over social services, including reducing the number of Aboriginal children being sent to non-Aboriginal foster families. In this sense, the agreement signed with the Attikamek Nation is an example to follow.

FORMAL RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENT

The Quebec Green Party supports the formal recognition of Aboriginal governments in the Canadian Constitution so that they can receive the same recognition as the provincial governments and the federal government.

RETURN TO TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE

The Quebec Green Party recognizes that the federal Indian Act of 1876 (still in force) is a fundamentally racist law designed to take
away the autonomy of First Nations in the spirit of colonialism and to deprive First Nations of autonomy and constitutes an affront to their fundamental rights.

In particular, this law prevents them from retaining their traditional governance model. The Green Party of Quebec argues that the Indian Act remains racist and colonialist to this day and should be overturned to allow First Nations to return to a traditional mode of governance.

**PRESERVATION OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

A Green Party of Quebec government will put in place resources to restore endangered languages and will help young Aboriginals to learn their languages by setting up free classes as we propose for French and English.

In Quebec, some Aboriginal languages are endangered. Young people often do not have access to classes in their language and have few opportunities to learn it. This linguistic loss brings with it a loss of culture and identity. We recognize that successive governments have taken strategic actions to prevent Aboriginal people from speaking their language and practicing their culture. Although no gesture can repair the past, it is our duty to do everything we can to preserve Aboriginal languages.

At present, the Huron language has no speakers in Quebec, Abenaki has only half a dozen and Micmac only 750. Algonquin and Mohawk are used by about 4700 and 2500 people respectively. The situation is more urgent than ever.

**ABORIGINAL RIGHTS OUTSIDE RESERVES**

The Green Party of Quebec is of the opinion that the Indian Act violates the rights of First Nations living off reserve. Reconciliation requires a change of approach by the federal government as stipulated in the 2012 Tsilhqot’in and 2016 Daniels Supreme Court judgments.

**FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS REGARDING THE LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS**

The Quebec Green Party supports the right of First Nations to regulate, sell, tax, export or prohibit the use of cannabis in their communities.

**WOMEN’S RIGHTS**

The Green Party of Quebec is a feminist party. We note that equality is unfortunately still very far from being achieved in Quebec. For example, women are often paid less than men, are more likely to be victims of violence and to experience systemic oppression of the state, capitalism, masculinist culture and patriarchy. In the National Assembly, women represent only 27.2% of MNAs. Although the challenges are numerous, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to take the following actions now:

**PROHIBIT STREET HARASSMENT**

In Quebec, a large number of women are victims of sexual street harassment. These gestures are rarely punished; the severity may not be enough to lead to criminal convictions, but it should still be illegal. For this reason, the Green Party of Quebec proposes the establishment of a provincial law (outside the Criminal Code) that will impose fines on
those found guilty of launching vulgar and unsolicited sexual comments in public places at people they do not know. The implementation of this law would work similarly to the sanction for jaywalking. This measure would be both symbolic, in order to clearly register street harassment as being outside the social norm, and practical, in cases where the police directly witness street harassment and are able to intervene.

**COMBATING SEXUAL AGGRESSIONS AND RAPE CULTURE**

A government of the Green Party of Quebec will fight for the implementation of a multidisciplinary strategy to prevent sexual assault. We propose to:

- Address issues of consensual sex and mutual respect in sex education classes in the primary and secondary curriculum. At college, university and technical schools, consent workshops will be mandatory.

- Set up an advertising campaign informing the public about aggression or sexual harassment in the workplace combined with an updated work code to strengthen the rights of harassed or assaulted people in the workplace.

- Combat rape culture by taking steps to inform the public about consent, which includes sexual assault and the physical and emotional consequences that victims can suffer.

- Strengthen the control of individuals over their own body by teaching them from primary school on that their body belongs to them, that they have the final say and the power to refuse sexual contact, and that they do not have to submit to anyone (including members of their family).

**SUPPORTING THE SURVIVORS OF AGGRESSIONS AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SUPPRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

We propose to:

- Establish specialized intensive sexual violence training for all Quebec police officers and Crown prosecutors to facilitate the whistleblowing and investigation process, in order to better serve victims with respect and to develop policing and legal skills in Quebec.

- Adapt the Labour Code to provide paid leave for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence. Under this policy, leaves of absence may be prescribed to victims by CLSCs, social workers, doctors or support centres for victims of sexual and domestic violence. These leaves of absence will be paid for by the Department of Social Services so as not to place a financial burden on the victims. These paid leaves are intended to allow victims to take the necessary time to recover, to file a complaint and/or to flee a violent domestic partner without compromising their financial situation.

- Offer free psychotherapy services to anyone in need and especially to victims of sexual violence.

- Provide funding for anti-violence programs, shelters for victims of domestic violence and women’s centres.
FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The GPQ proposes to:

Fight in solidarity for the rights of women from visible minorities. The Quebec Green Party proposes to combat racism by promoting intersectional feminism and ensuring adequate representation of women of visible minorities through affirmative action programs. Over the past decades, Quebec women have made tremendous progress. On the other hand, intersectional factors mean that, to date, equity is still far from being reached for Aboriginal and visible minority women.

Fight for the growth in the number of women in traditionally male workplaces and adapt the Labour Code to prohibit the harassment and unequal treatment of these women. The Green Party of Quebec supports a less gendered division of trades. To achieve this, we are proposing the construction of a new CEGEP focused on the sciences (particularly physics and engineering), two predominantly male fields, which will be required to respect gender parity among students.

Fight against the hypersexualization of girls by prohibiting their sexualization in advertising campaigns in Quebec. The Green Party of Quebec also supports the requirement to clearly indicate that a photo has been modified when it is published by a Quebec company, and the establishment of a minimum body mass index to qualify as a paid model or as the personal image of a company. We want to organize ethics courses for advertising programs, to better understand the effects of gender ads on society and introduce a provincial law to allow women to have the same rights as men with regards to their dress code. The GPQ also wishes to fund a non-profit organization that will analyze the sexism and hypersexualization generated by advertisements.

Achieve equal pay by following the example of the model adopted in Iceland, where companies are required to prove that they pay women as much as men, based on their skills, responsibilities and added value to the company. Intersectional realities should also be considered, as equality is still far from being achieved for, among others, visible minorities and indigenous women. At the moment, Quebec companies are not required to prove the equality of their pay structure.

Achieve parity among our elected representatives by introducing a proportional voting system, with quotas for women candidates that will be established gradually over a period of two general elections.

Introduce parental leave for elected officials and increase funding for mentorship programs.

RIGHTS FOR LGBTQIA2 + PEOPLE

The Quebec Green Party is of the opinion that the Quebec government must intensify its fight against bullying, homophobia and transphobia. This fight begins in school, but must continue everywhere in our society. Our fellow citizens of gender and sexual minorities have the same rights as others and intolerance to their person must be fiercely combated. The diversity of gender and sexuality in Quebec and the openness of our society are a source of pride and must be celebrated.
RIGHTS FOR TRANS PEOPLE

We also believe that provincially produced documents and IDs for citizens should offer a voluntary gender designation or a «gender neutral» option for those who do not identify with the male or female gender. We also support gender-neutral bathrooms in all public facilities.

The Green Party of Quebec is also committed to allocating funds so that the Government of Quebec can cover all the costs incurred by the transition of trans people: psychological care and consultations, operations, medical care, treatment of ID documents, hormonal therapy, etc.

YOUTH AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

We propose to increase support for members of this community, through the creation of LGBTQIA2+ youth centers throughout Quebec, especially in the regions, where the lack of resources and the isolation of young LGBTQIA2+ are the most obvious. We also support funding for measures that are more responsive to LGBTQIA2+ color and Aboriginal people whose needs are urgent. We are also proposing a reform of sex education classes, which, in addition to being introduced at the secondary level, should better reflect the reality of gender and sexual minorities. We support the establishment of support groups for students of gender diversity in all schools as well as gender-neutral bathrooms.

PROHIBITION OF REORIENTATION THERAPIES

Homosexuality and gender transition are not diseases. These therapies are nothing less than homophobic and transphobic practices that must be denounced and condemned. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to ban them as quickly as possible, especially to protect minors.

ADOPTION AND PARENTALITY

With regard to adoption and parenthood, we consider that same-sex couples must have the same rights as heterosexual couples. There can be no compromise on equality between citizens and we believe that same-sex parents are just as capable as heterosexual parents.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTQIA2+ PEOPLE

Unfortunately, homophobia, transphobia and intolerance sometimes give rise to shocking acts of violence. As a progressive society, it is our duty to fight against all forms of violence. This involves actively fighting against homophobia in all spheres of our society and putting structures in place to prevent and denounce violence against members of sexual diversity in Quebec.

PRESENTATION OF A FORMAL APOLOGY

In recent years, the federal government has made a formal apology to the LGBTQIA2+ community. The city of Montreal and its police department have also apologized, among other things, for acts of police brutality and violent police raids against community members and their institutions. A Quebec Green Party government will formally apologize to the LGBTQIA2+ community and will take concrete action to continue the fight for equality.
COMBATING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

Although Quebec society is an open-minded society that generally welcomes minorities, the fact remains that there are racist people in Quebec who sometimes hold positions of authority over others. Faced with this reality, it is essential that our society take action to fight against daily and systemic racism, so that all Quebecers can participate fully in our society, enjoy the same opportunities as the majority and live together without discrimination.

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to:

• Establish a standing Racism Council, made up of individuals from visible minorities, who will be mandated to conduct field research, advise the government on legislation, make the information available to the public and participate in the development of policies to combat racism.

• Militate for the right to work by establishing incentive policies and minimum thresholds in the hiring process within all public and para-public institutions.

• Educate the population on the realities of racism by including a course in the primary and secondary school curriculum that will focus on racism against natives and blacks, Islamophobia, sexism, and homophobia (among others), combined with education about notions of privilege, colonialism and systemic, environmental and economic discrimination.

• Fight for justice by rigorously enforcing the hate crimes sections of the Criminal Code while disseminating information to the public to reassure communities and deter potential criminals.

• End racial profiling with a focus on robust discipline and compensation for victims.

• Launch a national awareness campaign to fight against all forms of racism.

• Increase the representation of people from visible minorities in the media, the public service and in funded cultural events by imposing minimum representation thresholds.

IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND SECULARISM

INTERCULTURALISM AND LIVING TOGETHER

The Green Party of Quebec believes that Quebec’s diversity is one of our greatest riches and should be celebrated. For this reason, we encourage the diversity of cultural events, the sharing of traditions and a greater exchange between the various communities that make up Québec society.

REFUGEES

We also believe that Quebec and Canada should accept more refugees in order to offer a lifeline to those fleeing from conflict zones, who are displaced by the climate crisis, discrimination or repressive political situations all over the world.
This solidarity should be expressed with words, but also with concrete actions. It is our duty (and our international obligation) to treat all asylum seekers with respect, dignity and humanity and to do our utmost to help them.

The summer of 2017 was marked by the arrival of hundreds of asylum seekers from the United States. We are of the opinion that the instability south of the border caused by the election of a problematic president forces Quebec to show great solidarity with those fleeing the United States.

**IMMIGRATION**

The Green Party of Quebec is in favor of increasing the annual immigration threshold by 20% to about 60,000 a year, in order to stimulate the economy, reunite families and allow immigrants to contribute more to the Quebec economy and society.

We support a faster and more equitable recognition of credentials obtained abroad to enable better economic and social integration of new immigrants. This could be facilitated by the introduction of conversion of credentials and training financed by the State. A mentoring scheme, allowing foreign workers to work under the supervision of Quebec workers for several years, might also be a solution. However, immigration should not be seen as a simple economic lever to fill the need for business manpower; immigration should also aim at family reunification and should not be selective solely on the basis of financial means. The Quebec government should take action to encourage immigrants to settle in all regions. We encourage gestures of an incentive nature by creating favourable conditions. For example, acceptance of immigrants could be conditional on employment in the region during their first years here.

**INSTITUTIONAL SECULARITY – INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM**

The Green Party of Quebec supports the secularism of our public institutions such as schools, the National Assembly, municipal institutions and those under the provincial government.

However, we support individual freedom of religion and we are strongly opposed to any bill that attacks individual freedoms, including the freedom to display one’s faith with religious symbols or clothing. It is not up to the State to impose a dress code that goes against the Canadian Constitution.

We are of the opinion that the wearing of a religious symbol should not prevent an individual from practicing the profession of judge, crown prosecutor, prison warden, police officer, teacher, doctor, engineer, nurse or any other profession.

The Green Party wants the removal of the cross in the National Assembly as soon as possible.

**LABOUR STANDARDS**

For the Green Party of Quebec, it is imperative to ensure good working conditions in Quebec. Work-family balance, training, the promotion of certain jobs to attract workers and improving the organization of work are all part of the party’s values. Quebec is lagging behind in the defense of workers’ rights and an update is needed to ensure adequate working conditions.
WORKERS’ RIGHTS

For several years, the many strikes we have seen in various sectors testify to the need to defend the rights of workers. For the Green Party of Quebec, it is absurd that workers have to resort to the use of exceptional measures to enforce their rights. Precarious conditions cause stress for workers and allow employers to lower the bar and offer fewer and fewer benefits. For all these reasons, the Green Party of Quebec proposes a series of measures to enforce various workers’ rights:

• Strengthen penalties for the employer’s duty to provide a harassment free workplace. This measure must be combined with better training in «respect at work».

• Implement family leave in case of domestic violence.

• Introduce early retirement for workers in physically demanding jobs.

• Improve the accessibility of annuity plans for people with disabilities.

• Ensure the right to disconnect. Modern society facilitates interconnectivity between people. However, it is important to guarantee workers the right not to be solicited by their employers outside working hours.

• Offer 4 weeks of paid vacation.

• Give workers the right to choose part-time work without penalty. (Part time includes vulnerable, minimum wage jobs).

• Provide more protection to vulnerable employees. These are the people most at risk of employer abuse.

• In addition to sick leave, launch an awareness campaign on mental health leave, which is increasingly needed.

• The system of paid sick leave should not simply include physical health problems, but also psychological ones, including some leave for grieving the loss of a loved one, relationship breakdown, the death of a pet, etc.

THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

The difference in salary between the kitchen and the waitering staff is disproportionate; waiters make an average wage of $ 26 an hour, while experienced and trained cooks earn only an average wage of $16 an hour, according to a 2017 wage survey carried out by the Restaurant Association of Quebec. It is important to act quickly to recognize the work of cooks and other employees, as well as to help restaurant owners to address the labour shortage.

We propose that the Government of Quebec hold a Commission of Inquiry into the respect for labour standards, wages and tips in the restaurant industry in Quebec in order to establish a true portrait of the current context and take any action necessary to remedy the situation. We propose, in accordance with the recommendations of this commission, to introduce a system of tip-sharing, regulated by the law, that will establish a committee that includes a waiter and cook representatives and who will ensure the equitable sharing of tips between employees.

The GPQ believes that a stricter application of labour standards in the restaurant industry is necessary. Many abuses have been reported and the rights of workers must be defended.
HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

The Quebec Green Party wants to strengthen standards to support workers in the area of health and safety.

We propose to:

• Ensure recognition of mental illness to provide adequate care. This would allow employees to get time off for recovery if they have mental illnesses.

• Strengthen anti-scab laws and facilitate access to unionization. Too many employees suffer from bad working conditions because of the difficulty of unionizing.

• Increase the number of inspections done by the CSST to ensure that laws and standards are respected, particularly where most employees hire minimum wage employees and where unions are often absent.

HOLIDAYS

The GPQ wishes to promote the flourishing of all citizens by ensuring that everyone has enough free time to devote to other activities. The reduction in working hours would enable Quebeckers to devote more hours to family activities, leisure activities and to fully exercise their duties as citizens.

The Green Party of Quebec wishes to:

• Introduce 4 weeks of holiday leave for all workers.

• Add 2 holidays, during which families could gather. These two days would be International Women’s Rights Day (March 8) and a Family Day (February 3) (as is the case in the rest of Canada).

• Introduce 10 days of flexible leave to help parents to take care of different family needs.

TAX HAVENS AND TAX EQUALITY

Financial pressure on middle-class workers is growing. If millions of Quebecers do pay their fair share, millions of dollars in revenue are allowed to escape because of tax havens. The Green Party of Quebec believes that more resources should be invested in the fight against tax havens. The money raised will enable the Quebec government to have the means to carry out major projects without putting additional pressure on taxpayers. The Green Party of Quebec wishes to:

• Tighten the rules governing taxation in the country. Many strategies exist to allow legal tax evasion. The GPQ wants to end these loopholes

• Review tax credits and their use. Several studies have shown that some tax credits are used only by the rich even though the credit is not intended for them.

• Capping the salary of business executives. For the Green Party of Quebec, it is indecent that business executives have salaries that are sometimes 300 times that of the average salary within their company.

FOREIGN AND SEASONAL WORKERS

Foreign workers represent an essential workforce to many Quebec entrepreneurs who have difficulty recruiting workers in Que-
bec. However, the vulnerability of these workers, who are too often abused and who do not dare or simply cannot report the abuse, must be taken into consideration. The Green Party wants to ensure the safety and respect of these workers by doing the following:

- Multiply work condition inspections for these employees.
- Ensure compliance with labour standards, by increasing the severity of sentences to offenders.
- Prohibit the payment of fees to hiring agents. Too often, workers find themselves owing money to their employer even before their contract begins.
- Update labour standards for seasonal workers to ensure better working and housing conditions.

**UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

Some employers are taking advantage of the increased vulnerability of undocumented immigrants to not respect the various standards that apply to their work. That is why the GPQ proposes to put in place a system such that undocumented immigrants would not be punished if they filed a complaint against their employer.

Combined with the other proposals of the Green Party of Quebec, all of these measures will contribute to better protect immigrants in the province.

**DISCRIMINATION**

Discrimination in hiring is one of the biggest barriers to accessing employment in many communities. Minorities are denied positions and promotions simply because of their difference. We want to move forward with a Commission on Systemic Racism in Quebec as it is high time to fight discrimination in employment. Intersectional realities must also be taken into account to ensure fair representation: religious, racial, LGBTQ+, Aboriginal, sexism, etc.

**UNPAID WORK**

In Canada, more than 300,000 people work for free in various businesses. These workers are not only present in NPOs and community organizations, but in all sectors. This practice is outdated and it is unacceptable that some of the most successful companies often replace an employee with an unpaid intern. The communication, education, health and social services sectors are the most affected, and it is worth noting that these sectors are predominantly female. For the majority of trainees, it is difficult to reconcile work, studies and internship. The Green Party of Quebec wants to implement a series of measures to better supervise the work of trainees.

**We propose to:**

- Recognize trainee status and include a definition of this status in the Labour Standards Act. Employers will no longer be able to use this term to avoid paying an employee.
- Improve the protection of trainees who are often not entitled to the same protection, particularly as regards accidents in the workplace.
- Introduce tougher penalties for employers who use trainees to do the work
of an employee. This practice is illegal, but trainees fear the consequences of denouncing it.

• Differentiate between observation placements and internships in which the participant replaces an employee. It is unacceptable not to compensate a trainee who performs the normal duties of an employee.

• Introduce the remuneration of internships, with the exception of internships in NPOs or in community organizations that would be remunerated by State grants. Students in the field of psychology, for example, have a 1600 hour internship to complete during which they perform 80% of the tasks of a psychologist, thus contributing to the decongestion of the public system, yet are not entitled to any compensation.

• Establish a bursary system for students in education during their internship period. Students in this field must not only work for free, but also pay to access credits for their internship.

• Prohibit unpaid internships when they are mandatory in the student’s professional training.

LABOUR SHORTAGE

With the aging of the population and the improvement in the economic situation, a labour shortage is already being felt in Quebec. Many industries have difficulty recruiting workers because of the excessively low unemployment rate combined with a segment of the population that is reaching retirement age. Only half of the one million jobs to be filled in the next 10 years will be covered by new Quebec workers. That is why Quebec needs to focus on other strategies to overcome the need for manpower.

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to:

• Focus on worker training. Make sure we teach transferable skills that are adapted to technological change. Training must be easily accessible and of high quality to guarantee the employability of the workers.

• Revitalize sectors in crisis. Some employment sectors suffer from a labour shortage because of the working conditions that prevail. The health and social services sectors are just one of many examples. By ensuring that working conditions improve, we encourage a renewal of workers.

• Promote the training of workers with disabilities to facilitate access to employment.

• Facilitate the transition to work at home when employment conditions permit it.

• Recognize more foreign qualifications to fill more positions.

NATURAL CAREGIVERS

In Quebec, 300,000 people, mostly women aged 45 to 65, provide the majority of care for seniors. Lack of support for these people often causes burnout, psychological or economic distress. The Green Party of Quebec is pushing for greater recognition of care provided by caregivers.
PROTECTING OUR JOBS AND OUR ECONOMY

In these times of protectionism, isolationism and rising import duties, it is essential for Québec to adapt. Quebec companies should be prioritized to ensure that they maintain quality jobs in Quebec.

The Green Party proposes to:

• Establish minimum Quebec purchasing policies for all public contracts.
• Prohibit outsourcing outside Quebec to the extent possible.
• Adjust the taxation system to ensure tax equality for all companies. Web giants must also pay sales taxes.
• Harmonize subsidies to maintain head offices and jobs in Quebec.
• Put in place a development strategy for employment, in particular, for the many sectors in short supply of labour.
• Ensure the second and third transformation of natural resources and recycling in Quebec.
• Compensate workers who will be affected by the technological changes.

SERVICE TO SENIORS

For far too long, we have left the care of our elders in the hands of the private sector. From one service to another, seniors find themselves filling the pockets of corporations simply to receive basic services such as access to medication, long-term residential care and dental care. All are left to the private sector, which works very well for the wealthy, but often leaves low-income seniors penniless.

Here are 5 concrete actions that we can take to take better care of our elders:

• Improve the CHSLD network and improve the quality of life to the standards of the best private residences.
• Provide a guaranteed minimum income of $20,000 a year that will immediately allow us to lift all of our seniors out of poverty.
• Implement a public universal dental care system, free for all.
• Create Pharma-Québec, which will introduce free prescription drugs.
• Improve mobility by giving free access to adapted public transport.

In addition, the Green Party of Quebec supports the development of social economy services that provide home support for seniors who are autonomous and semi-autonomous. This saves on hospital costs while creating jobs in the service sector (home helpers, collective kitchens and meals on wheels, personal care, etc.).

In retirement homes, the GPQ wishes to extend the system of integration of seniors, adapting it to individual needs, so that they maintain a sense of autonomy and accomplishment.
The Green Party proposes to:

- Standardization of eligibility criteria in the program of S.A.P.A.
- Equitable distribution of the basket of services throughout Quebec.
- Standardization and improvement of stakeholder training.
- Free parking for visitors in CHSLDs to break isolation.
- Addition of volunteer accompaniment to PEFSAD.
- Increase in the death benefit offered to the estate up to $5,000.
- Setting waiting times to obtain financial assistance from the Home Adaptation Program according to the health status of seniors.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES (ECC)

The ECC cuts over the past few years have harmed these institutions. It is time to take action to protect these vital establishments in Quebec. The Green Party of Quebec supports the idea of a massive reinvestment in the public daycare network.

Previous governments, through various measures, have substantially increased financial assistance to private daycare, while cutting aid to the ECCs. These measures have resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of children who find themselves in the private network. Indeed, the number of children in these institutions has increased by 1042% in the last 10 years. Private daycares, however, do not offer the same level of service. In fact, it is easy to see this difference in child services by the number of complaints made to private daycares (70% of complaints), as well as the results of research on services provided to children. These budget measures are attacking a flagship institution of Quebec society that has even inspired the rest of Canada to follow us. In addition to providing equal opportunities, ECCs have given thousands of women access to the labour market, thereby stimulating the economy. According to the most recent estimates, ECCs have allowed 70,000 women to gain access to employment, adding $5 billion to the GDP.

Modulating child care rates according to parents’ incomes is not the best way to finance ECCs. Nor is it for the sake of fairness that the government has implemented this measure. This measure was put in place because of the obsession with the zero deficit, combined with a phobia to raise tax rates. By focusing on the ECC tariff, the real issue has not been addressed. We should focus on the collective responsibility to fund ECCs.

Taking into consideration these different points, the Green Party of Quebec proposes:

- An increase in wages. This measure would make it possible to upgrade jobs in the ECC network, which suffers from a lack of manpower. It could also attract more students to the field, where the lack of graduates is a reflection of the worker shortage.
• Improving working conditions. ECC workers are passionate and provide quality education to children across Quebec. That is why respect for seniority, the work week, the decision-making role of workers, access to leave, phased retirement and leave-splitting are all important elements. Renewal of the collective agreement is therefore a priority.

• Improvement in services to children. Accessibility to child care is a priority for the Green Party. However, this element must be combined with high quality service. An increase in allocated budgets would improve access to services for children with special needs.

• A return to universal rates. The Green Party seeks the return of the single daily rate of $7 and wishes to stop the privatization of the daycare network in Quebec. This measure represents the first step towards gradually introducing free childcare services.

• Withdrawing subsidies and tax credits that benefit the private sector. Parents have a basic right to choose whether their child(ren) should attend a private or public institution. However, the measures taken by the government should not unfairly disadvantage the public sector for the benefit of the private sector. That is why the Green Party is proposing the abolition of subsidies for private daycares.

• Conversion of tax credits to parents. The Green Party of Quebec believes that the progressive tax system in Quebec is the best way to ensure adequate funding for public institutions. Too often, the tax credits allocated to parents for daycare expenses are used to pay for private daycares. This contributes to the deterioration of the public sector and accelerates the transfer to the private sector. The Green Party is convinced that these tax credits are only a form of indirect subsidy for the private day care industry and should be abolished.

• Ensure that negotiations are carried out smoothly. Most employers’ associations in Quebec negotiate in good faith and get along with the workers. However, some associations refuse national agreements and stubbornly downgrade the conditions of workers. The government should therefore play an active role in the negotiations and should ensure that cases advance, using sanctions if necessary.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The GPQ regards housing as a fundamental right to which everyone must have access. This right must be respected without discrimination, regardless of income, social status, ethnic origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental condition of citizens.

• The GPQ believes that state intervention in certain areas is necessary to uphold the rights of citizens. The free market exposes residents to the pressures of speculation, and it is the most vulnerable who often pay the price. The State must therefore be present to ensure access to housing for citizens who are most at risk.

• Based on various FRAPRU recommendations, the GPQ proposes to:
• Strengthen the means of the Commission for Human Rights and Youth Rights of Quebec to fight against discrimination.

• Establish a national housing policy to regulate the harmful practices of the private housing industry.

• Ensure the construction of 50,000 social housing units in Quebec to make up for the shortage and ensure that these housing units meet the needs of the most vulnerable tenants.

• Assist in the construction and renovation of housing on Aboriginal reserves.

• Increase the budgets allocated for housing renovation to adapt them to people with disabilities.

• Ensure that people with a mental health problem are considered in housing policies.

• Support the construction of affordable housing.

• Ensure the right to housing without paying more than 20% of one’s salary for housing.

ECO-FRIENDLY HOUSING

To facilitate the reduction of energy needs for Quebeckers, the Green Party of Quebec is committed to taking a series of measures to promote eco-responsible housing in Quebec. The GPQ proposes to subsidize the construction of dwellings that reduce their ecological impact. These financial incentives would be granted if the housing has: a high-performance insulation envelope, a cost-effective heating and ventilation system, appliances and energy saving lighting, local materials (where available), renewable or recyclable materials, etc.

RENOVATION OF EXISTING HOMES

Although the construction of new housing must be regulated, it is imperative to act to increase the energy efficiency of existing housing. A large grant program for green renovations must be established.

GENTRIFICATION

It is important to ensure the economic development of neighborhoods and ensure that they are constantly evolving. However, it is important to ensure that this evolution does not occur to the detriment of the local population. Thus, the rapid development of neighborhoods must be regulated so that low-income people and families can stay in the area. It is unacceptable to see residents having to leave neighborhoods because of the rising cost of living.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS

The Green Party of Quebec is committed to actively fighting homelessness, but we also offer upstream solutions for concrete and more effective actions that will have a better impact in the long term. We believe that government investments should be allocated to all people at risk of homelessness, both in the city and in the regions, regardless of age and gender, and with particular consideration for marginalized First Nations, LGBTQ+ people, visible minorities, etc.)
It is time for the provincial government to honor its homelessness commitments, including putting an end to the many austerity measures that are only making matters worse.

The Green Party of Quebec proposes:

• The introduction of a guaranteed minimum income.

• The construction of 50,000 social housing units per year with increased accessible for people who are homeless.

• Putting in place measures to ensure the preservation of rooming houses and to develop new ones.

• Combating gentrification to avoid affecting access to resources and community ties.

• Hiring more social workers to lighten the system and make more resources available.

• Emphasizing reintegration at work rather than a punitive system.

• Reforming police training to end social profiling and facilitate a social intervention approach.

• Putting anti-discrimination policies in place in the health system.

• Developing and investing in local resources for issues related to homelessness: addiction, mental health problems, violence, but also adapted to marginalized people: Aboriginal friendship centers, women's homes, youth centers, LGBTQ + centers, etc.

INTERNET ACCESS

The Green Party of Quebec seeks to guarantee all Quebecers access to the Internet, particularly in outlying regions, which are often disadvantaged on this front. Internet access today is a fundamental communication tool, as well as a source of information that no one should be deprived of. Internet access is also a prerequisite for multiple services; it must be guaranteed in order to combat the social discrimination that results from being deprived of it.

The GPQ also wishes to guarantee all Quebecers access to the cellular network, which is often neglected in the regions, creating inequalities between urban and rural areas.

PUBLIC SECURITY

The best way to fight crime is to ensure that our society is educated, prosperous, fair and healthy. It starts with a strategy focused on prevention.

TRAINING OF POLICE OFFICERS, SPECIAL CONSTABLES AND PUBLIC TRANSIT INSPECTORS

Although the current training of police officers is rigorous, the range of social issues they are forced to confront, such as homelessness, sexual assault, protests or interventions among marginalized groups, strongly suggests that it could be improved with more specific training. While the policing profession to a large extent already includes social intervention work, the current training courses are technically based on interven-
tions and do not provide enough training for societal and social issues.

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to enhance officer training at several levels. First of all, we recommend the inclusion of social science courses at CEGEP, such as courses in psychology, delinquency intervention and sociology, to prepare police officers for intervention in the field and for the social issues that influence them. Police forces should be aware of society’s dynamics and the impact that their profession may have on them. We then recommend setting up internships and training sessions within social groups, so that interventions can be practiced in the field. Finally, we recommend the progressive disarmament of patrol cars, similar to the practices in the United Kingdom, Norway or New Zealand. In conjunction with disarmament, we recommend enhancing training in conflict resolution, avoiding the use of weapons and encouraging the multitude of other existing practices that favour group strategies to control arrested individuals.

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to increase the level of training of new police officers, special constables and public transit agents while offering upgrading for current employees in order to better serve the community. The social issues facing the police must be addressed in an informed way.

FOR A TRULY INDEPENDENT BUREAU OF INQUIRY INTO POLICE WORK

The Quebec government legislated in 2013 to create the Independent Investigation Bureau (EIB), in charge of investigating serious injuries or deaths during a police intervention. The EIB has been severely criticized for hiring a large number of retired police officers, rather than independent citizens for this work. There have also been major transparency issues, including the fact that investigation reports are not made public. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to correct these shortcomings in order to restore public confidence in the police forces of Quebec.

BODY CAMERAS ON POLICE OFFICERS

In several North American jurisdictions, police officers are equipped with body cameras that capture images of their interventions. Quebec has already experimented with pilot projects and the Quebec Green Party is of the opinion that these cameras should be worn by all police officers in the province. We also want these cameras to be activated at all times rather than at the pleasure of the peacekeepers. The content of these cameras should be accessible to the concerned public upon request.

PROMOTING AN APPROACH OF DE-ESCALATION AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

For several years, and especially since 2012, we have witnessed the militarization of our police forces, a very worrying phenomenon which we firmly oppose. The GPQ is opposed to any form of militarization of law enforcement and we encourage de-escalation approaches to violence in order to restore calm and not generate panic or worsen any conflict. We also propose the prohibition of the use of provocative agents, the wearing of civilian clothes and intimidation during demonstrations. The Green Party of Quebec also supports the ban on plastic bullets used by the police, which have resulted in death
once out of 37 times. Finally, we want the riot police to prioritize a peaceful resolution of demonstrations to the extent possible.

Quebec communities will be provided with resources to create mental health intervention teams that will act as first responders in crisis situations involving people with disabilities or mental health issues, with protocols discouraging armed police action, if possible, in a crisis situation, unless imminent harm is likely. Enforcement will be subordinated to Mental Health Crisis Response Teams when deciding how best to manage mental health crises. The training of all first-responders in the field of disability, mental health and de-escalation will become mandatory in Quebec.

**TREAT THE PROBLEMS OF ADDICTION AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM THROUGH DECRIMINALIZED APPROACHES**

The GPQ supports the decriminalization of all drugs to better address substance abuse issues and to better deliver the necessary health services. The opioid crisis is upon us, in our families, and we can not afford to continue to apply policies based on a criminal approach that do not work. We must follow an empirical (and/or political in the absence of established scientific data) and humane approach. The GPQ encourages access to clinics that allow users to consume safely and access a context that encourages detoxification. In addition, the decriminalization of drugs will redirect funds that are now unnecessarily invested in the justice system towards social programs aimed at raising awareness and helping users.

**PRISONS, CONDITIONS OF DETENTION AND REHABILITATION**

Although the Green Party of Quebec recognizes that there will always be people who will have to live behind bars, we are of the opinion that Quebec should give priority, to the extent possible, to prevention, rehabilitation and social reintegration rather than incarceration. Here are some of the measures we propose for the Quebec prison system:

**PROMOTING REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

The Green Party of Quebec believes that prisons and the justice system should focus more on rehabilitation by injecting the necessary funds to do so. Rehabilitation is the best way to fight recidivism and crime. Inmates should have the option of pursuing secondary and post-secondary education while in detention. This training will have to take into account the reality of the prisoners and their particular needs. This involves more personal monitoring and access to additional and personalized help. The Green Party of Quebec also supports access to psychotherapy, social work and social rehabilitation services to support and improve the inmates' chances of contributing to society upon release.

**SPECIALIZED COURTS IN MENTAL HEALTH**

The Quebec City Municipal Court recently put into place a program to accompany people with mental health problems who are ac-
cused of minor crimes, while avoiding incarceration. This program, established in 2014, allows a multidisciplinary team, consisting of a psychiatrist, a social worker, a nurse, a criminologist and the prosecutor, to develop a personalized plan that aims for rehabilitation, social reintegration and access to employment. If the accused agrees to participate in the program and demonstrates a sincere determination, combined with visible progress in the goals set by the multidisciplinary team, the person can avoid prison. The Green Party of Quebec supports this comprehensive approach to justice and will work with stakeholders to implement it across Quebec.

**DETENTION CONDITIONS**

Rehabilitation requires human conditions and security detention as well as access to education programs, psychotherapy and other activities that promote the reintegration of detainees into society. At this moment, the austerity measures of the Couillard government have heavy impacts on inmates in Quebec. School formations are becoming less available, women were forced to integrate prisons for men, hygiene and sanitation problems persist within the buildings. These conditions are unacceptable and need to be improved. Inmates are human beings and should be treated as such.

**END THE PRACTICE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**

Studies show that people placed in solitary confinement quickly develop insomnia, confusion, hopelessness and/or hallucinations. This practice, described as «inherently risky and harmful» by the Correctional Investigator of Canada, is, according to the UN Special Rapporteur, comparable to torture. It recommends a maximum limit of 15 consecutive days. The Quebec Green Party will abolish the practice of long-term isolation and impose a maximum limit of 5 consecutive days for inmates at risk.
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## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

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Elementary and High School

For the Green Party of Quebec, education is one of our greatest riches in Quebec. It constitutes one of the best strategies for fighting poverty, developing the economy and building social solidarity. An educated people is the key to a vibrant society that is both open to the world and truly democratic.

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to enhance education by reducing the number of students per class, by providing teachers with better working conditions, by injecting the necessary financial resources to ensure the success of our young people and by abolishing student fees at every level from early childhood to doctoral studies.

FREE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

In addition, at the Green Party of Quebec, believing in education means offering free education from preschool to university. Free education includes school supplies for elementary and secondary students. This will enable school boards to centralize their purchasing power, reduce the cost of supplies and save parents time while ensuring that all students have the equipment they need to succeed.

FINANCING PRIVATE SCHOOLS

In Quebec, we currently have a two or three-tier school system. Public school classes are currently deprived of a very large number of students who attend elite selective programs and private schools. We believe that all students should have an equal chance to succeed and receive a high quality education. By dividing students in this way, the system tends to create social divisions, which appear at younger and younger ages and which ultimately harm the development of the community. We are of the opinion that primary schools should abandon selective programs or concentrations. Moreover, in our view, public funds invested in private schools would be better spent in the service of the community. We therefore propose to gradually eliminate public subsidies to private schools over a transitional period of ten years.

PRE-SCHOOL, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Young people are particularly sensitive to the environmental changes and challenges that lie ahead. However, they need to be informed and supported in order to become important players in reducing negative impacts due to the deterioration of their environment. In addition, every child in Quebec has the right to quality education and a stimulating and safe living environment that meets their needs.

ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY LIVING HABITS

The school environment for Quebec students needs to be redesigned so that they are more in contact with nature and thrive in a healthy physical environment. Significant investments must be made to provide Quebec schools with green schoolyards that also include food plants.

Too many school cafeterias in Quebec serve students with meals that are too fat, too sweet
and are basically unhealthy. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to eliminate junk food, sugary drinks and unhealthy and ultra-processed food from our schools and replace them with healthy meals that include vegetarian and vegan options. Thanks to a partnership with local producers, as well as with as many organic, and community organizations as possible, the Green Party of Quebec wants to provide, at a very low cost, lunches and snacks to students affected by food insecurity, and eventually to extend this practice to all primary and secondary students.

The Québec Green Party wishes to support schools so that everyone develops a green plan that includes waste reduction, reduction of single-use plastics (bottles, utensils, plastic wrap), school composting, a clearer policy of reuse and recovery, and reduction of food waste. In Quebec, many schools are in a sorry state. Poor air quality, insufficient natural lighting, asbestos insulation and lack of maintenance are still common throughout Quebec. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to entrust building surveillance and air quality to independent firms. A Green government would not allow young people and teachers to work in dangerous buildings.

The Green Party of Quebec also supports the recommendation of a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity per day starting in primary school. This allows students to be physically fit and more willing to learn. Combined with a variety of activities related to diet and healthy lifestyle, we believe that students would be better equipped to enter adulthood.

DECENTRALIZING BUDGETS

In order to empower teachers and schools, it is important to consider decentralizing budgets so that each community can invest to meet the real needs of their community. This measure would be accompanied by an appreciation of the governing board in the community and possibly increased powers for it.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

At present, the main causes of climate change and various other environmental problems are not sufficiently addressed in the school curriculum. The Quebec Green Party supports the addition of environmental priorities to programs already in place to enable the new generation to become leaders in the fight against climate change. It is imperative to conduct a broad consultation with the school community in order to agree on the most effective way to unite our efforts and to integrate key elements into the school such as the questioning of consumption habits, more ecological alternatives, the circular economy, and waste reduction. This does not mean imposing a structure on the teachers, but rather choosing priorities together in every area and of beginning to take action quickly.

High school history courses are very important, and we believe that the history of First Nations is not sufficiently addressed. The courses neglect crucial aspects such as the existence of residential schools and the damage caused by colonization. We propose to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in order to better inform young Quebeckers about the historical wrongs of our governments towards First Nations. We are also of the opinion that genocides as well as the contributions of women and ethnic minorities are not sufficiently covered by the current history courses.
The Green Party of Quebec believes that it is essential to include a comprehensive sex education program from elementary to high school. This program should include, among other things, the notion of consent, respectful relationships, and the LGBTQIA2+ reality.

**ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL SECOND LANGUAGE EDUCATION**

Learning a second language is one more tool that our young people can acquire to open their horizons, pursue opportunities, and communicate with the world. The Green Party of Quebec supports the implementation of second language learning for all students in Quebec. As studies show that it is easier to learn languages at a young age, bilingual instruction will start from kindergarten and continue through to the end of high school. 25% of school time will be devoted to it.

**TEACHERS’ WORKING CONDITIONS**

The Green Party of Quebec is very aware of how heavy teachers’ workloads can be, and proposes to initiate a reflection and possibly a consultation on how teacher-aides might help lighten their load. A college-level training course in pedagogy might result, which would prepare these aides to work with teachers, who would remain responsible for the actual teaching. The creation of these permanent positions could lighten the impact of including students with difficulties in regular classrooms. These teachers’ assistants could also enable specialized education technicians and resource teachers to target their actions more precisely and to intervene more intensively with students with special needs. A reduction in the pupil-student ratio is also supported by the Quebec Green Party, with particular attention to the situation in secondary schools.

**REDUCING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER CLASS**

Currently, primary and secondary school teachers are managing classes with more and more students. Studies show that reducing the number of students per class is the best way to ensure academic success and give everyone an equal chance. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to reduce the number of students per class to a maximum of 20 students per teacher. This will contribute to the promotion of education, the success rate, and the improvement of teachers’ working conditions.

**HELPING NEW TEACHERS**

We also offer increased support for job entry. In this sense, the Green Party of Quebec proposes the creation of a national mentoring program. Experienced teachers could thus be trained to provide quality support to young teachers without increasing their workload. This mentoring program could be created in collaboration with universities that offer teacher training and which have already developed expertise in coaching new teachers.

**SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

Under the QGP’s governance, the school day would start at 9 am and end at 4 pm with an additional hour of extracurricular activity every day of the week (three hours of sports and two hours of sports or other activities) to promote young people’s success and keep their days filled with activities. We will also take away the power of school transportation companies to influence the school agenda.
WELCOMING FOREIGN STUDENTS (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY)

The Green Party of Quebec is in favor of welcoming foreign students into our school system, because doing so promotes living together and multiculturalism. On the other hand, we are of the opinion that these students should master the language of instruction before being incorporated into standard classes, so as not to impair other students’ learning.

LIMITING THE USE OF MULTI-LEVEL CLASSROOMS

In many schools, students of different ages and levels of learning are placed in the same classes, due to a lack of resources. The Green Party of Quebec opposes this practice because it is likely to affect the quality of education. A Green government would thus limit this practice.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Volunteering is one of the social actions that contributes most to local communities and the vitality of the regions. We believe that the school system currently does not sufficiently value volunteer work and community involvement. We propose to make voluntary involvement mandatory for obtaining a secondary, college and university diploma. Students would have the freedom to choose the organization or cause in which they wish to get involved. This would enable young people to play a more active role in community life while supporting the guidance-oriented approach and promoting the transmission of non-formal knowledge through intergenerational contact.

The Green Party of Quebec also seeks to promote greater collaboration between school, parents and community. Extra-curricular activities, which are important for the optimal overall development of young people, should be organized jointly by all community stake-holders (schools, municipalities, community organizations, etc.) in order to ensure a range of services responding to the needs of the community. These activities come with equipment and personnel costs and we believe that the Quebec government must ensure that they are adequately funded. Extra-curricular student life is important in the fight against drug and alcohol abuse and youth crime. It is very important to ensure that young people have opportunities for extra curricular activities so that they stay in shape, build social bonds and avoid falling into harmful substance use and crime.

In addition, we believe that encouraging greater involvement of parents in school, following the model of alternative schools for example, would foster better family networking in local neighbourhoods, boost the feeling of parental competence, and enhance appreciation for the work teachers do.

LEARNING CONTEXT

The Green Party of Quebec is in favour of a caring learning environment that promotes the well-being and development of each child. In order to allow teachers to focus on teaching rather than assessment, we suggest removing any formal assessment at the primary level and gradually integrating it into early secondary education. This measure would reduce students’ stress levels, inter-student comparisons and would relieve pressure on teachers. Québec teachers, trained to be
teaching professionals, are quite capable of ensuring appropriate follow-up on the progress of student learning and of reacting quickly in case of difficulty. This measure could also make it easier for teachers to abandon traditional and magisterial teaching aimed at memorization and to move towards socio-constructivist teaching, as advocated by the Québec Education Program.

We also believe that every student has a place in the public school system in Quebec. We support continuing education measures in place and prioritize training that will allow the teacher to respond even more effectively to the needs of students. Gifted students, newcomers, as well as students with disabilities who have difficulty learning or adapting must be supported by the Quebec school system. It is the government’s responsibility to ensure that human, material and financial resources are sufficient and available to meet the specific needs of the community. In cases where a special education class is the best option, the Green Party of Quebec believes that the possibility of partially or totally reintegrating each student into a regular classroom be systematically assessed each year by a multidisciplinary team.

The Quebec government has an obligation to provide safe and healthy learning environments. In this sense, it is important to continue the fight against bullying and violence as initiated a few years ago. However, it is important to continue our actions to foster a climate of solidarity, non-violent communication and caring. In this sense, the Green Party of Quebec is in favor of adding practices that allow children to refocus, such as meditation and yoga for example. It seems important to us to teach these practices to students in order to equip them for the future.

**ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AND HOME SCHOOLING**

Respect for rights is a priority for the Green Party of Quebec and in this sense it seems important to ensure that every family that makes the choice to educate their child at home receives appropriate support and assistance. Since the benefits of this form of schooling are numerous, it is important for the school system to support these families, accept a different form of assessment and help reintegrate the children into school if necessary. The Green Party of Quebec also supports communities that wish to see alternative pedagogical strategies emerge in existing schools or wish to create new schools. These strategies, which adopt a more global approach to child development, are still too often misunderstood and discriminated against.

**FREE SCHOOL, CEGEPS AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

**FREE SCHOOL**

The Quebec Green Party supports free education so that the entire population can pursue post-secondary studies, regardless of their financial means. Free education is an issue that has tremendous support among the people of Quebec. This policy would ensure that more Quebeckers can get training, which would allow Quebec to focus on the know-how of our population rather than on the extraction of our natural resources as an economic engine.
GOVERNANCE OF POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

At present, the boards of post-secondary institutions are largely managed by private sector representatives. This structure leaves little space for teachers, educational professionals and students, and means that the interests of the private sector and the economic elite often come before the interests of students and faculty. Education is not a commodity. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to put the boards of directors of post-secondary institutions into the hands of those who work there: teachers, educational professionals and students. This change would allow institutions to better serve their students and be safe from the influence of pressure groups and special interests.

SATELLITE CAMPUSES

Over the past several years, Quebec universities have grown accustomed to building satellite campuses. These campuses are often several hours away from the main campuses and increase travel time and unfair fees for students. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to put an end to this practice.

DISINVESTMENT IN FOSSIL ENERGY

In Quebec, all universities have financial investments in fossil fuel companies. We hold that the Quebec State, and all of its educational and cultural institutions, should follow the scientific data that show that fossil fuels pose an extremely serious threat to the planet and that universities should immediately divest from fossil energies.

INTIMATE PROFESSOR/STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

At present, sexual relations between students and those with authority over their academic journey are not prohibited. This has given rise to many abuses of power. We support the prohibition of teacher-student relations or with any other person in authority for the duration of the academic power relationship plus three months.

RIGHT TO STUDENT DEMOCRACY

In Quebec, there is a tradition of student democracy and of student strikes that have marked the history of the province. Despite this fact, the right to student democracy and the legitimacy of student strikes have not been enshrined in the laws of Quebec. This resulted in many violent clashes during the 2012 student strike, as strike votes were not recognized by the courts. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to recognize the legitimacy of student strikes and to include the right to strike in the laws of Quebec, in order to avoid conflicts during these rare political events.

ADULT EDUCATION

When we talk about education in Quebec, we tend to include only students from the regular school system, namely elementary, high school, CEGEP and university students. Yet nearly 300,000 adult students are in the Quebec education system without the same rights and opportunities for success as regular students. The education of these adults is, moreover, often perceived as second class because of a lack of rights, insufficient staffing, and inadequate educational and fi-
nancial resources. To respond to the specific nature of these barriers and the specific needs of adult students, the GPQ offers the following solutions:

**Financial accessibility for students:**

- Bursaries for adult students in both general and vocational secondary education without distinction of status (time full or part time). Thus, adult students will have the same chances for success as regular students.

- In-depth reform of financial assistance by no longer including support payments in income calculations. As a result, we guarantee that adult students will not have to choose between subsistence and education.

- For people returning to school, maintenance of all the rights granted to them by social assistance with respect to medical care, dental care, optometric care, medical transportation and stay expenses related to the particular needs entailed by their physical condition. This care should not depend on any status, but should be universal.

**Review the rules and guidelines set up by Emploi Québec:**

- Respect the choice of training for adults returning to school under Emploi Québec programs. An adult who makes the decision to return to school must have the same rights as a regular student in the choice of their training.

- Revise allowance scales upward so that mature students can support themselves and their families as they access educational opportunities.

- Standardize the rules for awarding benefits from one employment center to another. This involves benefits related to transport costs, child care, school materials supported in some local employment centers and not in others. As a result, any adult returning to school will have the same benefits without distinction and will have the same chances for success.

- Allow a period of accommodation for mature students between the end of their internship and the termination of their social benefits. Today, adult students who are on probation are obliged to find jobs before the end of their practical training or simply have their benefits cut off. This measure obliges a large number of adults to have precarious employment and to remain in unstable work situations.

**Amend Bill 32:**

- Support adult students in school boards (CEA and PSC) in their struggle to amend the Accreditation and Student Organization Funding Act to allow them to create their own accredited student association and to gain a political voice.

**Better redistribution of education budgets:**

- Redistributing government budgets more fairly and equitably would ensure real equity in the services available. To date, allocated resources are absorbed into an overall envelope, and information on their distribution is non-existent. By having a better idea of how the resources are allocated, we would have a better picture of the current situation. It also constitutes a flagrant lack of transparency by the government.
Framework Law on Adult Education:

- Asserting the principles, orientations, objectives and priorities of a global policy based on the right of access to education would help ensure that any adult who wants it has free access to basic training, either secondary V or its equivalent. In the long run, this Act would ensure that everyone has a basic diploma and that everyone has the right to education and to continuing education. In doing this we become part of a progressive perspective of lifelong learning and ensure equal opportunities for everyone to succeed.

SCHOOL DEMOCRACY AND SCHOOL BOARD REFORM

A Green government will delegate responsibility for buildings to municipalities. School boards will also take care of school materials. The taxation power of school boards will be abolished. Funding for school boards will come from the Ministry of Education, and municipalities will collect the taxes necessary to maintain the buildings.

SCHOOL ELECTION REFORM

In order to promote, stimulate and reinvigorate school democracy, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to reserve the right to vote and to run in school elections only to teachers who are employed by the school board and to parents of minors. At present, school elections are held every four years. All citizens have the right to vote, but the turnout is often below 5%.

STUDENT DEMOCRACY AT THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS

The Green Party of Quebec supports the establishment of school elections among students to elect a student council. These councils will have an advisory role with their schools and at the secondary level, sit on school boards with voting rights.

PROTECTION OF FRENCH

The protection of the French language, the official and common language of Quebec, is an important goal for Quebec society, but the protection of individual freedoms is also important. We believe that the current laws work well, but deserve to be reviewed for the benefit of the people. The protection of Quebec culture is very important, and the GPQ believes that the best way to promote the arts and culture of Quebec is to subsidize them.

PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS AND MINORITY LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The government's grants towards education should target the promotion of the minority groups’ cultures as well as the First Nations’ culture as they form an essential part of Que-
bec’s society. We should then try to collaborate with the federal government in order to obtain more funding for this type of project. The reconciliation with the First Nations goes through an appropriate funding of the indigenous culture and arts with the purposes to diffuse, teach and celebrate.

In Quebec, a great number of indigenous people live in reserves and go to schools under the leadership of the provincial government. Schools in Quebec do not offer an education that takes into account the reality and the culture of indigenous people. The solutions are already in place in a few indigenous schools in Quebec due to specialized programs that were made to adapt to their needs and their traditions. Those programs have an impact on the quality of the education offered to indigenous students, and we support them.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

The Green Party of Quebec has signed up for a transparent public funding for scientific research because it is fundamental to us. This branch of science has been neglected by the state these last few years, especially by the federal government. We consider that it is of the state’s responsibility to support scientists in their research, since they benefit the entire society as they shine a light on debates and public politics. The Green Party opposes the commodification of public research. We are also opposed to censorship while working for the freedom of speech of scientists. Finally, we propose the guarantee of at least five days of training per year in companies, in order to develop professional productivity and mobility. These training sessions could be offered by the companies themselves, local institutions, Emploi Quebec, etc. We propose to create an emergency plan for national literacy with the purpose of drastically decreasing in four years the rate of illiteracy.
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GLOBAL HEALTH

At the Green Party of Quebec, we believe that the Quebec health system should take into account all aspects of an individual’s health, since health involves much more than just visits to the doctor. We need a government that considers the other aspects our health, that is, not only our physical well-being, but also our dental, visual and mental health. Our environment, housing, food, socio-economic conditions, economic or natural environment are all related to our health. Taking all these elements into consideration and focusing on prevention, we can not only ensure the good health of Quebeckers, but also their long-term happiness.

PREVENTION

The Green Party of Quebec believes that when it comes to health, prevention is essential and should play a primary role. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Health is not limited to consultations with the doctor. It is also closely linked to socio-economic conditions, family context, the quality of the environment (water, land and air), social inequities, working conditions, education, agriculture, eating habits, and so on. Prevention-oriented policies would ultimately lead to significant savings and a healthier overall population. It is important to remember here that, despite the importance of prevention, the Green Party of Quebec is aware that this is not the ultimate solution but that it would reduce so-called infectious diseases and go a long way towards freeing up our health centers.

SPORTS

We propose to increase funding for sports activities across the province to combat sedentary lifestyles and related health issues, a huge problem in the Western countries. These physical activities will of course have to be combined with healthy eating habits as well as regulations on products containing high sugar levels.

To do this, the PVQ proposes to:

• Increase the frequency of physical activity in schools to a minimum of 60 minutes per day for elementary and secondary students.
• Fund the construction, repair and improvement of sports infrastructure across the province.
• Build more bike paths in the province
• Launch an awareness campaign and encourage initiatives to combat sedentarism in government institutions and public and private companies.

HEALTHY EATING

The Green Party of Quebec believes that it is time for the government to take concrete measures to encourage healthy eating habits among Quebeckers, and to do so we propose to:

• Organize a national campaign to reduce meat consumption, which has been linked to several health problems.
• Encourage the consumption of local foods throughout Quebec.
• Introduce healthy eating classes in elementary school. This would allow
students to be healthier, more active and better equipped to make healthy lifestyle choices.

- Ensure the diversification of meals during the week in schools by limiting, without entirely eliminating, the consumption of meat, by increasing the consumption of healthy food and by offering more vegetarian and local alternatives.

- Continue trans fat elimination programs and speed up the process.

- Prohibit the sale of sweetened beverages in provincial and municipal government institutions.

- Encourage universities and CÉGEPs to sell fewer sweetened products and promote healthier unsweetened options.

- Facilitate access to nutritionist services for the entire population.

- Introduce maximum salt, fat and sugar thresholds for meals served in the cafeterias of elementary and secondary schools, CEGEPs and universities.

**AGRICULTURE**

The food we eat is intimately linked to our health, so changes in agriculture play an important role in prevention.

**We propose to:**

- Encourage the consumption of local products, organic farming and local and urban agriculture.

- Support farmers and take economic measures to ensure that these organic and local foods are affordable for all Quebecers.

- Prohibit harmful pesticides and ban the use of other harmful pesticides by encouraging biological and natural alternatives.

- Offer labeling of products containing GMOs so that consumers can make informed choices about their diet.

- Create a national popular education program on medicinal plants.

- Offer access to public gardens of medicinal plants and education included in the school curriculum.

**PRESCRIPTIONS**

The Quebec Green Party recognizes that medication is important and necessary for many individuals, particularly in the treatment of mental health problems and a broad range of illnesses. Without calling into question the judgment of doctors, who do often recommend other practices, the Green Party would like to, as a matter of principle, encourage physicians and pharmacists to recommend physical activity and healthy eating rather than just prescribing drugs. This could help prevent several problems and reduce overuse of drugs. It could also help to combat health problems caused by the consumption of harmful products and the development of habits that are harmful for mental and physical health.
HOSPITALS, EMERGENCIES AND CLINICS

Many Quebecers are worried about the state of our health care system and we share these concerns. We propose to relieve emergencies by adding more walk-in clinics and recruiting more staff.

The Green Party of Quebec would like to follow the example of Isabelle Têtu’s SABSA clinic in Quebec City. It is essential to offer not only more funding to this kind of initiative but to also give them more importance.

This walk-in clinic, led by nurse practitioners in primary care (IPSPL), offers quality care and preventive care by applying a philosophy that is both humanistic and pragmatic. The co-op project, born in 2011, gives these nurses the opportunity to apply their knowledge to their full potential as they can prescribe certain diagnostic tests and medications to provide health services at reduced cost to marginalized people, people with disabilities, and those who have certain diseases. In 2015, the SABSA clinic treated 1189 patients and offered 3256 consultations, that is, 271 per month. Fewer than 5% of these consultations required referral to an outside health professional.

SABSA’s operating costs to date have been reduced to $301,157, much less than if these patients had used the emergency or medical services in hospital consultations. Co-op employees not only have more say in the decision-making process but also share a wealth of experience in the health care system, a sense of social justice and a strong sense of mutual aid. There is a need for greater collaboration between members of the health system and specialists.

Finally, it is important to mention that, according to their website, 63.5% of visitors to the clinic previously did not have a family doctor. Care ranges from routine care, HCV / HIV treatment, mental health and chronic care monitoring, to pregnancy monitoring.

Greater access to co-ops such as SABSA would go a long way towards reducing long waiting times in emergency rooms and would reduce employee workloads.

COMBATING PRIVATIZATION

The Green Party of Quebec strongly opposes any privatization of our health system. The public health system must, on the contrary, be celebrated, strengthened and better funded.

We believe that all Quebeckers should have access to quality, fast and free services. Accessibility to health care should not depend on a person’s wealth. The development of a private parallel system only benefits the wealthiest to the detriment of the poor and the middle class. Equal opportunities and universal access to health care must be protected. Contrary to popular opinion, privatization would in fact not reduce costs; all the countries that finance their care privately actually show an increase in costs. Indeed, countries that fund their care publicly spend between 2 and 5% (3% in Quebec) of the total on administration. In private healthcare systems, those numbers rise to 10 to 15%.
DECENTRALIZATION, WITHOUT PRIVATIZATION

The Green Party of Quebec believes that the centralization of the health care system harms citizens. In fact, the concentration of care in large centers takes services away from the regions and is part of a trend towards neglecting the regions. In addition, the centralization of the health system has not resulted in the expected savings, as the bureaucratic entities created become too cumbersome to manage. Money has been saved by cutting directly into patient services, without actually reducing administration costs. The Green Party of Quebec believes that a transfer of skills to regional authorities would respond better to citizens' needs. A streamlined system closer to where people actually are will improve direct services to patients.

The Green Party of Quebec would like to improve access to home health care. Being able to stay at home means a substantial improvement in a patient's quality of life, and has the added benefit of speeding recovery.

The Green Party of Quebec also wants to ensure quality care for all patients. This inevitably entails offering a high quality diet in our health facilities. The GPQ would like to establish a policy stipulating that a minimum of half of the foods served would be organic and local. In addition to reducing the environmental impact, this measure would improve the health and well-being of patients.

ORGAN AND BLOOD DONATION

We propose to make organ donation automatic; citizens will fill out a declaration if they do not wish to donate their organs. This will allow for greater organ availability and eliminate situations in which people who wish to be donors have simply neglected to sign their card.

We also wish to facilitate organ donation or sponsorship systems in order to discourage Quebeckers from seeking cheaper and faster options, especially abroad, through unsafe and dubious operations.

The Green Party of Quebec will also put an end to homophobic discrimination in blood collection and donation services. There is no reason to justify the continuation of this discriminatory practice and it must be abolished.

We are also proposing to change the current blood testing procedure. The current system is incompatible with the workdays of most Quebeckers, so it must be adapted to make it more easily accessible and less disruptive.

AGENTS OF OUR OWN HEALTH DOCTORS, NURSES AND AUXILIARIES

In recent years Gaetan Barrette’s disastrous reforms have shed light on the critical situation in which the province’s nurses and attendants find themselves. The Green Party of Quebec thinks that it is time to recognize the problem and take action.
To do this we propose:

• To improve the working conditions of nurses and auxiliaries.

• Increase the wages for these professions. Reduce the length of work shifts. Hire more staff.

• Abolish mandatory overtime.

• Give more flexibility to nurses.

• Allow nurses who hold an LAC to prescribe medications and other necessary products.

• Encourage frontline nurse practitioners to manage or set up walk-in clinics and outreach clinics where they can provide general or specialized care depending on their training. This would drastically free up hospitals and clinics.

• Organize a broad campaign to publicize and promote the functions of nurses and auxiliaries to make these occupations attractive to the public and at the same time facilitate the hiring of new staff.

DOCTOR

The doctor issue has been in the news a lot in recent years. We believe it is time to take action to correct the mistakes of previous governments on this issue. We propose to impose an immediate freeze on specialists’ earnings, and gradually reduce them to line up better with the wages of other health care workers. The enormous pay gap between physicians and other employees is unjustifiable.

The GPQ also proposes that a proportion of physicians trained in Quebec’s universities be required to practice for their first two years in outlying regions where the needs are most acute. In the short term, we propose that medical students receive financial compensation (payment of part of their studies or financial support) in exchange for practicing for a few years in these outlying regions.

The Green Party also proposes to end the bonuses doctors receive when they take on new patients.

We also propose to make the health system more efficient by allowing psychologists and pharmacists to write certain prescriptions. This will help to alleviate the current overload in the healthcare network and shorten waiting times.

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

The GPQ proposes to introduce a system of paid holidays for family caregivers. Given our rising health problems and the aging of the population, it is important to take concrete action. We must recognize the value and importance of the work that caregivers contribute to society. If not, the state is merely conferring additional responsibility on women, who are largely the ones who assume this burden.

MIDWIVES

In Quebec, access to midwives is difficult. While a quarter of women of childbearing age want to give birth with a midwife’s help, the reality is that only 3% of women in Quebec actually do. Several obstacles stand in the way of better accessibility to midwives, and the GPQ wishes to remedy the situation. The Green Party of Quebec wishes to:
Improve access to midwifery. On average, 16 or 17 women graduate each year while the demand actually corresponds to a much higher number. Ensure the sustainability of Quebec’s model for the practice of midwifery. Promote home birth and birthing. Defend the free choice of place of birth.

PHARMA QUÉBEC, UNIVERSAL COVERAGE AND MEDICINES

Importing generic drugs is extremely expensive and represents a significant portion of the health budget.

We propose to create Pharma Quebec, which would be mandated to negotiate the prices of imported drugs and manufacture generic drugs at a lower cost, a system that is already in place in New Zealand. This would save millions of dollars for the province, and save many lives as well. Furthermore, Quebec already has the expertise and resources to embark upon such a venture. By producing its own generic drugs, Quebec will be able to negotiate import prices more easily by evaluating the cost of production throughout the province. We are also proposing to introduce a prescription drug coverage plan to reduce inequalities in access for Quebecers. The cost of Pharma Quebec’s creation would be offset by long-term profits from the production of low-cost drugs. These savings will ultimately help fund universal coverage for prescription drugs. Pharmaceutical companies also often have ties to oil companies.

We also propose to establish a better framework for so-called natural health products (NHPs). Many of these products, whose effects are unknown, are sold without prescription. The GPQ proposes to require companies that produce these drugs to prove the efficacy and reliability of their products, based on scientific testing. In the absence of evidence, the GPQ calls for the labeling of products to allow consumers to make informed decisions with regards to their use. This would be accompanied by the creation of a database in which the results of scientific tests would be accessible to the public. The GPQ feels that it is important to highlight the dangers associated with the use of NHPs, such as the use of Garcinia Cambogia for weight loss, which can lead to serious health problems, including cirrhosis of the liver.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND PHYSICIANS

To ensure the quality of health care in Quebec, it is important to review the relationship between physicians and the pharmaceutical industry. Although the code of ethics officially prohibits doctors from accepting gifts that could influence their decision-making, the pharmaceutical industry spends large sums of money to court the favour of doctors. Paid training sessions, travel, meals, and generous remuneration for promotional conferences to their peers are all part of the tactics to get doctors to prescribe certain drugs. These practices not only taint doctors’ reputations, but also have a direct impact on the service given to patients. While a direct link between gifts received and prescriptions has not been established in Quebec, a study in the United
Health

States showed that a single meal paid by a pharmaceutical company had an effect on what doctors actually prescribed.

The conflicts of interest between the experts who write treatment guidelines and the use of drugs and medical equipment are also cause for concern. Companies often finance the research for their own products. While funding alone is not a problem, there is growing evidence that pharmaceutical companies often influence research results to make their medications look safer and more effective. Pharmaceutical companies are also involved in funding the continuing education of physicians in Quebec.

The Green Party of Quebec would like to set up a register that would indicate which doctors have received gifts from pharmaceutical companies. A bill of this kind in Ontario is the first of its kind in Canada, and Quebec should follow suit. This measure is part of an attempt to change attitudes in this industry, where seeking to influence doctors is a common and accepted practice.

MENTAL HEALTH

The needs are growing in mental health. A sedentary lifestyle, long working hours, social inequities and many other factors are increasing mental health needs.

We propose several measures to drastically improve the current situation:

• Improving access to psychological care and providing faster follow-up. This would necessitate hiring more practitioners.

• Establishing a program to provide free mental health services.

• Reducing prescription medication for child behaviour problems, palliated by access to psychologist services and reduction of class sizes.

• Augmenting suicide prevention efforts through more training in schools and more effective measures to prevent bullying.

• Creating more accessible and better adapted assistance resources for First Nations, created in collaboration with them.

• Remunerating internships for students in psychology.

DENTAL AND EYE CARE

As part of the universal health coverage already in place, the Green Party believes it is time for the province to consider all aspects of the health of Quebeckers.

We believe that dental care is an essential element in our overall health. Many people in the province can currently not afford to pay for these frequently expensive services, and therefore neglect a major aspect of their health and well-being. For these reasons, we propose to introduce free dental care for all.

Good vision is also an essential part of our health. However, many Quebeckers are depriving themselves of this care because they find it unaffordable. That's why we propose to introduce free eye examinations for all.
• Providing psychosocial intervention training for police officers.

• Fostering increased awareness of mental illness in high school.

HEALTHCARE SURVIVORS

The Green Party of Quebec wants to reinvest in the treatment of people suffering from mental health problems. Many patients have had trying experiences in the healthcare system and it is high time to ensure that these people get the help they need. Access and quality of care should be at the heart of government concerns.

SEXUAL EDUCATION AND SEXUAL HEALTH

The GPQ proposes to simplify access to screening exams for STBBI, HIV, pap tests, etc. All screening tests must become accessible in the same place. The Green Party also supports the introduction of more advanced sex education courses to effectively prevent diseases, but also to combat homophobia and transphobia. These courses should also reflect the reality of LBGTQIA2+ people. We also propose to introduce free contraceptives (such as the pill) and emergency contraception.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

ALCOOL

First of all, we propose to continue current policies calling for moderation in the consumption of alcohol. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to ban the advertising of alcoholic products, to remove alcohol from public spaces and to curtail alcoholism by introducing warning labels about the harmful effects of consumption of alcoholic beverages. We also propose to permanently ban alcoholic beverages with high sugar content and to promote and increase financial aid to support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

A terrible opioid crisis is currently raging across the country and has already claimed several thousand lives. We must act quickly and take drastic measures to deal with this tragedy. Access and distribution of NARCAN™ (naloxone) nasal sprays will need to continue in pharmacies but we must also ensure that police officers are equipped with them as well.

DECriminalIZATION OF DRUGS

The GPQ proposes the decriminalization of all drugs by the federal government. Such a measure would:

• Redirect resources currently used for the fight against illicit drugs to the prevention and support of people with addictions.

• Remove the stigma that drives people to use these drugs alone, in private, in hidden and unsupervised places, which, in cases of overdose, leads more often to death.

SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES

Supervised injection sites should be adequately funded and new ones created in several regions outside of Montreal. We need to ensure that these centers receive adequate funding, in an effort to more effectively deal with the opioid crisis.
CANNABIS

Recreational cannabis will soon be legalized. We propose, however, to ban the advertising of cannabis products, except for products consisting solely of CBN. Stores dealing in cannabis should also, in our opinion, clearly indicate the effects that cannabis products may have, and should label each product with the ingredients it contains and their source. We also want a part of the tax revenue from the sale of cannabis to be redirected towards abuse prevention and research on the effects of these products. The Quebec Green Party would exempt medicinal cannabis from sales tax.

HEALTH AND FIRST NATIONS

The Quebec Green Party also proposes to create and fund clinics that are better suited to Aboriginal realities and practices (as in Saguenay at the Native Friendship Center).

We wish to propose measures to address the problem of racism suffered by First Nations members in the Quebec health system.

The problems of alcoholism, substance abuse, housing and health are very acute in many First Nations communities and the provincial government must act quickly. The GPQ proposes to focus on education, since only half of the adult Aboriginal population currently holds a high school diploma. Measures to reverse this trend, such as new housing construction or home improvement, should be encouraged. Adapted education services, as proposed in the Education section of the platform, should be implemented. The promotion of healthy lifestyles, the development of socio-health services adapted to Aboriginal environments, as well as the transmission of traditional knowledge to improve self-esteem are avenues to explore in order to improve current conditions, all of which must be developed in close collaboration with indigenous groups. We must follow their will and not impose our own plans. We believe that in the long term these measures will have a positive impact.

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

The Green Party of Quebec is campaigning for equal opportunities for all. This is why the GPQ supports all the claims of the group Disabled Persons for Access to Services (PHAS). In particular, we support the principle of universal accessibility, which must be applied throughout the network. Furthermore, mechanisms must be put in place to assess the needs and quality of services for people with disabilities. More generally, service improvement involves reinvestment in rehabilitation, housing, home support and families.

The Green Party of Quebec contends that the centralization of the health system is detrimental to the services provided to citizens. Indeed, the concentration of care in the major centres takes services away from the regions and is part of the trend towards devaluing the regions. In addition, the centralization of the health system has not produced the expected savings because the bureaucratic structures created become too cumbersome to manage.
In this way, the administration structures are cut in regions only to be set up in urban centres. Savings are in fact generated by cutting directly into patient services, without actually cutting administration costs. The Green Party of Quebec is convinced that a transfer of powers to the regional authorities would make it easier to respond to the needs of citizens. A leaner system, closer to the people, improves direct services to patients by being able to adapt according to actual needs.

Recent years have been marked by fiscal measures that have affected the most vulnerable people in Quebec, including people with disabilities. With this in mind, the GPQ believes that reinvestment in services to provide high quality treatment is necessary.

Based on the PHAS program, the GPQ highlights the group’s claims for the rights of persons with disabilities. Health and social services should be universal, free and uniform. Social services that directly affect people with disabilities should be supported to the same extent as other programs. The autonomy of people with disabilities must be respected in the programs. Information on these programs must be adequate and consistent. The principle of universal accessibility must be applied throughout the network. Furthermore, mechanisms must be set up to assess the needs and quality of services for people with disabilities. In this way, it should be easier to have their needs recognized and to better support them.

More specifically, the QGP wants to do more for the rehabilitation of people with disabilities. Records must be processed promptly with an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) to ensure optimal processing. Specialized services must also be quickly and easily accessible.

Home support needs to be enhanced in an effort to respect the person’s choice to stay at home. These services should be free, high quality and complete. The workers who are in charge of these services must receive continuous training and have their working conditions improved.

Families need more support from the state. Not only must services be fair and consistent, but the support must align better with actual needs. Families should receive more financial resources and be given more autonomy in managing them, in addition to gaining better access to services. Rapid access to a diagnostic service would also help children. Finally, mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that budgets are respected and programs are broadened and coordinated.

**RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES**

The measures for providing financial support, clinical assessments and treatment for people with disabilities in Quebec are currently dysfunctional. People with disabilities endure endless waiting lists for assessments or simply “grow older” without ever having received adequate therapies, especially occupational therapies or speech therapies. The standard advice to “go to the private sector” for assessments and treatments testifies to the de facto existence of privatization, that is, a two-tier system of care for people with disabilities in Quebec.

This will end with the Green Party of Quebec. The Quebec Green Party will establish a Que-
bec Charter of Rights for Adults and Children with Special Needs, providing realistic financial support and binding deadlines for assessments and therapies. People with disabilities will have access to a regulatory body that has the power to rule, in emergency cases, if strict deadlines for assessments or treatments are not respected or if material and financial aid for functional or educational devices are not available. If assessments or therapies are not provided within a reasonable time, the Government of Quebec will pay directly via the private sector or through occupational therapists.

The Quebec Green Party will ensure that first responders can better resolve these crisis situations involving people with disabilities. A Green government will provide legal aid, legal advice, advocacy and community education to people with disabilities, their parents, guardians and caregivers to ensure that these people’s rights and legal recourse are understood and respected. The Quebec Green Party will make occupational therapy and speech-language pathology available to the community by launching pilot projects across the province, where therapies will be offered at home by CPEs, CLSCs, as well as in institutions and schools. The Green Party of Quebec will ensure that all adults and children who have a prescription for occupational therapy and speech therapy (assessment and treatment) from a qualified health professional receive these treatments within strict and enforceable deadlines, regardless of the availability of resources (institutional and financial).

No more waiting lists or arbitrary «departures» for evaluations or treatments. The Quebec Health Care Act will be amended to remove the warning that the right to such therapies is conditional on the availability of financial resources. The right to prescribed therapies (assessment and treatment) is unconditional and will be included in a «Charter for the Rights of Persons with Special Needs in Quebec»

If a government educational or rehabilitative institution can not provide professional or speech therapy therapy or assessment by a psychologist within a strict time frame, the funds will be made available to a qualified psychologist or to a therapist determined by the person’s parents or guardian, according to the patient’s choice.

**MANDATORY BINDING DEADLINES FOR ASSESSMENTS, TREATMENTS AND AID:**

Establishment of a regulatory body with enforcement and investigative powers, overseeing the quality of treatment provided. Direct payments will be established to ensure that therapies are regulated and that payment funds are directly accessible to psychologists or therapists.

ABA & IBI therapies regulated in Quebec with the participation of autistic people. Practitioners and Teaching Assistants in Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) and Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) Therapy will now be subject to a regulatory framework in Quebec. People diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will occupy senior positions in this new regulatory body overseeing ABA and IAB therapists and teaching assistants.
COMPULSORY SCHOOL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Schools, CPEs and institutions providing care and education for adults and children with disabilities will provide resources for personal help, supervision and support (transportation, recreation, hygiene, food, shelter and adaptive devices including mobility, hearing and communication, appliances and prostheses) to persons with disabilities if prescribed by a qualified health professional.

The allocation of funds will be attached to the disabled person and not pooled or shared within an institution or school unless special permission is granted by the person’s parents, legal guardian or caregiver, to appeal the regulator’s decision.

MONTHLY DISABILITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT PRESCRIBED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER THAT REFLECTS THE ACTUAL COSTS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN:

Adults with disabilities and families (carers and guardians) who care for children or adults with disabilities will receive a monthly allowance that will cover the real costs of food, shelter, therapy, transportation, and other aids (adaptive devices).

These funds will be provided based on the recommendations of a qualified health care provider and will take into account the higher prices faced by Northern Quebec communities.
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ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The Green Party of Quebec is part of an eco-socialist vision, which involves protecting the environment while offering quality public services to the population. We are very concerned about social inequalities and the need to build a more just and equitable society.

MINIMUM WAGE - $ 15 / hr

The Quebec Green Party supports the rapid increase in the minimum wage to $ 15 / hr by the spring of 2019. This increase in the minimum wage will be combined with amendments to the Labour Code, which prohibits employers from reducing benefits (coffee breaks, health insurance, etc.) to counter the rise in the minimum wage. This minimum wage will also be indexed to inflation.

GUARANTEED MINIMUM INCOME - RIDDING QUEBEC OF POVERTY

The Green Party of Quebec is proposing to introduce a guaranteed minimum income of $1,200 a month in order to lift all Quebecers out of poverty. This amount will be increased for people with illnesses or physical or mental disabilities. This program will eventually replace that of social assistance. All residents will be eligible without condition. There will also be a $600 per month work exemption in order to allow people to work part-time without compromising their access to the program.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND REDUCING WORK HOURS

In Québec and around the world, new technologies are significantly reducing manpower needs in businesses and in the public service. For every working day, factories produce more and more, and the introduction of artificial intelligence is set to accelerate this phenomenon. The increase in productivity, thanks to technological advances, forces us to make an important social choice: do we prefer to take advantage of this increase in productivity to reduce working hours or to continue to increase our consumption of goods?

Studies show that a reduction in working hours increases individual productivity, which is an important benefit for companies. In addition, the level of stress, the number of sick days taken, and burnout are all factors that tend to decrease when work hours are reduced. The unemployment rate will also drop, and citizens will have more time to participate in community life, and take care of themselves and their families, while reducing the environmental footprint associated with the fifth day of work. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to gradually reduce the duration of the work week to 32 hours per week by the year 2022. To comply with this law, companies will be required to maintain weekly pay at the same level (or higher) that they pay to employees for 40 hours a week.

The Green Party of Quebec is committed to reducing the time spent on work and redirecting it towards the well-being and development of the population. The population of Quebec is aging so it is important that citizens have more time to take care of their loved ones, but also that they have time to invest in their community, their family and have time to enjoy life.
History of the work week in Quebec

- 1976: 45 hours
- April 1, 1980 - September 30, 1996: 44 hours
- October 1, 1997: 43 hours
- October 1, 1998: 42 hours
- October 1, 1999: 41 hours
- October 1, 2000 to present: 40 hours

RIGHT TO HOUSING AND SOCIAL HOUSING

The Green Party of Quebec supports the construction of 50,000 social housing units per year. We believe that all citizens have the right to have access to affordable, safe and healthy housing. We also support the updating of housing laws to give more rights to tenants and to ensure that housing is maintained by owners at all times.

We also speak out against «ghettoization», that is, we seek to ensure that these dwellings are not concentrated in the same places. It is also necessary to use the construction of these dwellings to fight effectively against homelessness by offering housing to the homeless.

EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

The Quebec Green Party proposes to facilitate integration and fight against employment discrimination by establishing quotas for employees in SMEs with immigrant backgrounds or from visible minorities for their businesses to qualify for subsidies. This measure would be applied in regions with a higher immigration rate (notably the Montréal metropolitan area). SMEs will have to demonstrate that they have either hired these people or have made efforts to recruit them. This will facilitate integration into the labor market. For regions with a low immigration rate, SMEs will not see this criterion applied in the form of grants but rather by giving bonuses. This would have the positive effect of encouraging more immigrants to settle in the regions, stimulating the local economy and curbing population decline.

ESTABLISHING A NEW INDICATOR OF WEALTH

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to use a new wealth indicator that would be created from the combination of a Green GDP, the Human Development Index (HDI), the Health Index Social Affairs (ISS) and the ecological footprint.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEER WORK

We propose that charitable organizations and cultural, environmental or social economy NPOs, legally constituted, be able to issue an official tax-deductible receipt for social engagement. This will encourage volunteerism in areas of growing need, recognize its value and its economic contribution to society.

CHANGING ELECTRICITY RATES TO MAKE THEM MORE SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE

At the present time, Quebec's large electricity consumers, such as the aluminum industry, pay very little for electricity (in fact, less than residential consumers). This situation must change. Hydro Quebec belongs to the citizens and not to the big companies. The Green Party
of Quebec proposes to offer a basic amount of free electricity to every citizen and to bill only for usage that exceeds this amount. This policy will have the effect of discouraging over-consumption while easing the tax burden on residential consumers. Companies that are big consumers will have to pay much higher fees than they currently enjoy.

THE LOTTERY

The PVQ will reduce the number of points of sale for virtual lotteries and lottery machines.

STRUGGLE FOR THE RENEGOTIATION OF TRADE AGREEMENTS

Trade agreements have advantages and disadvantages. Globalization has had many negative effects on the environment, in particular, the high level of GHG emissions related to the transport of goods over large distances. The Green Party of Quebec supports the renegotiation of many of these agreements to protect local businesses, the circular economy, local food and the environmental realities of our time. We also support measures promoting ethical trade; we consider that trade and political relations can not be treated separately. The government must respect its own principles when negotiating trade agreements.

FINES BASED ON INCOME

In several countries, particularly in Scandinavia, fines for various offenses are determined according to the income of those accused. This has the effect of restoring some fairness to the fines, which currently have a much harsher impact on low income earners than they do on the middle and upper classes. Under this system, fines would be calculated in terms of the number of days of private income. This policy seeks to correct one aspect of the current imbalance in the justice system, which tends to be greatly skewed in favor of the richest.

RAISING TAX REVENUE

A CARBON TAX ON HEAVY INDUSTRY

This tax will replace the current carbon exchange. Under a Green government, the carbon tax will start at $100 per tonne of CO2 and increase by $20 a year (indexed to inflation) until 2050, before being re-evaluated. The carbon tax will reach $720 (plus inflation) by 2050. This predictable and well-planned tax planning will allow industries to adapt in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The carbon tax will also be added to any imported goods to account for emissions generated in other countries that manufacture products used in Quebec. The revenue thus generated will go exclusively to the fight against climate change and the energy transition.

INCREASING THE CARBON PRICE & INSTALLING A FOSSIL FUEL RATIONING SYSTEM

In 2017, Québec consumed nearly 10 billion litres of gasoline, surpassing all previous years. Two-thirds of the vehicles sold were SUVs or light trucks. The status quo is not sustainable. It is time to take concrete action to combat climate change and emissions from the transportation sector. Expert opinion is clear: to reduce greenhouse gases and fight climate change, we must take concrete ac-
tion to reduce the consumption of gasoline and fossil fuels. It is for these reasons that the Green Party of Quebec proposes to increase the price of carbon to $200 per tonne in 2019, with an increase of $25 per year thereafter. However, the increase in the price of carbon must take into account the economic realities of individuals, families and regions. This is why we support a rationale that will allow for more equitable management of the price of carbon.

We propose to offer a carbon price exemption to every resident of Quebec. The number of litres of gasoline exempted will be based on residents’ proximity to public transit and their ability to reduce emissions. Children will also be eligible for an exemption. This will allow families living in the regions, for example, to receive a large exemption while those living in metropolitan areas near public transit will receive a much smaller one. In addition, this change will be paired with a major expansion of the public transportation network that will now be free, frequent, fast and comfortable.

Gas tax-exempt litres of gas will be issued on a monthly basis and each resident will have a carbon card. By presenting the carbon card to gasoline retailers, the price of carbon will be deducted from the bill directly at the pump. Each liter of gasoline purchased that exceeds the exemption will be subject to the carbon tax of approximately $0.46 per liter. This revenue will be injected into the Québec Green Fund and will be used to finance public transit. We plan to exempt 40% of gas purchases in the first year and gradually reduce exemptions thereafter. This will allow the Quebec government to generate $2.7 billion in revenue for public transit in the first year alone.

**Increase in Registration Costs**

The Quebec Green Party supports an increase in registration fees for all vehicles. This increase will be greater for larger vehicles, such as SUVs, and for residents of large urban centers that live near transit infrastructure. The rates will be variable, and will be calculated according to the size of the vehicle and the accessibility to the transportation network in the administrative region where the owner of the vehicle resides. We also support a significant increase in the tax on luxury vehicles (planes, boats and cars). Since 1998, Quebec has imposed additional registration fees of 1% of the excess value of $40,000 for automobiles. This rate is, however, rises only very gradually. The PVQ proposes to increase this rate to 5%.

**Towards an Extensive Eco-Renovation Program**

Quebec buildings need renovation. Quebec currently faces a major problem in terms of the energy inefficiency of our buildings, which has a major impact on our consumption of hydroelectricity, oil and natural gas. The Quebec Green Party is proposing a major program aimed at improving the energy efficiency of our buildings. Better insulation is the first priority, followed by the installation of geothermal, solar, and other energy infrastructure. This will enable us to create jobs, reduce our energy consumption and modernize Quebec’s infrastructure.

**Ecotax - Reducing Consumption and Improving Recycling**

The current situation regarding the management of residual materials in Quebec is pitiful. Companies are struggling to finance recycling
operations and the State needs to intervene to ensure the sound management of our waste. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to significantly increase existing eco-taxes and apply them to a larger number of products. The purpose of this tax is both to reduce the consumption of new products and to ensure the most complete and ecological recycling of products at the end of their life cycles.

FOR AN INDUSTRIAL RECYCLING STRATEGY

In Quebec, the vast majority of our residual materials are treated inadequately. Electronics, automobiles, phones, compact fluorescent bulbs and batteries are very good examples. Despite the fact that the Quebec government placed certain eco-fees on consumer goods in 2012, we believe that the time has come to broaden this program to cover all recyclable consumer goods. This will allow us to create jobs across the province in promising sectors and to export our knowledge and recycling technologies around the world.

REDUCTION OF SUBSIDIES TO MAJOR COMPANIES

In Quebec, large corporations benefit from large subsidies that go against free market principles and that allow the transfer of public funds to large, often multinational companies. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to reduce and eliminate these generous subsidies and reinvest the funds in energy transition.

ABOLISHING SUBSIDIES FOR OIL, GAS AND MINING COMPANIES

The Québec government has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in public funds in Quebec’s oil, gas and mining companies. The Green Party of Quebec strongly opposes these neoliberal subsidies, which go against energy transition and the responsible management of public funds.

INCREASE IN MINING FEES

In Quebec, billions of dollars in the form of various ores are transferred to the private sector while the State receives no significant royalties. The Green Party of Quebec believes that the mining companies that operate on the territory should pay 50% of their income to the Quebec government. The current rate is between 1% and 2%. Fifty percent of mining royalties would give the government the means to provide quality services to citizens, thereby contributing to the fight against poverty, infrastructure development and the energy transition.

INCREASING HYDRO ELECTRICITY EXPORTS

Québec is a major producer of hydroelectricity and currently has a huge capacity for generating electricity. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to drastically increase the energy efficiency of new buildings already built with targeted programs. These programs, combined with an expansion of geothermal energy and solar energy at home, will increase our surplus electricity, which can be sold to Ontario or the United States. The funds generated will be injected into energy efficiency programs.

INCREASING TAXES ON MAJOR COMPANY

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to triple the provincial taxes of large companies to 35%. This policy aims to balance the contri-
bution of large companies and bring them closer to the tax rate that citizens pay on their income. On the other hand, the PVQ will not only not raise taxes on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) but will encourage their development, as it will the development of innovative cooperatives that favour economic redistribution and community wealth sharing through economic incentives like lower tax rates, subsidies, etc.

OPTIMIZING EXPENDITURES ON THE ROAD NETWORK

The massive shift towards public transit will lead to a major reduction in the number of vehicles on Quebec’s roads. We must invest to optimize the quality of our roads and highways. We propose a major refurbishment of our roads to maximize their sustainability in order to reduce maintenance costs. To do this, a Green government will conduct extensive studies on the most effective ways to build sustainable roads for the province.

APPLYING THE QST TO ONLINE PURCHASES

At present, a large number of online purchases are not subject to the Quebec sales tax, as are goods purchased at local businesses. This policy therefore favours online shopping at the expense of local merchants. On the other hand, web giants, such as Netflix, can sell their products in Quebec without paying sales taxes. Sales taxes must be applied in a way that does not disadvantage local businesses. The Green Party of Quebec therefore supports the application of the QST to online purchases and the web giants.

TAX ON THE CAPITAL OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Quebec Green Party supports a tax of 1.5% per annum on the capital of financial institutions. This tax would generate more than $500 million a year and would be used to finance free education, from daycare to university.

INCREASING STATE REVENUES BY TAXING CANNABIS

The process of cannabis legalization has begun, but the provincial regulations currently in place are prohibitive for smaller producers. In fact, they will remain criminals in the eyes of the state, while large companies will dominate the legal market. On the other hand, the sales network proposed by the government simply will not have the capacity to satisfy the demand. The black market will continue to exist and the state will be deprived of significant tax revenues. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to allow more individuals and businesses to participate in the production and sale of cannabis on the legal market in order to allow the government to tax the product while benefiting from the decentralization of the industry.

ENDING TAX HAVENS

The use of tax havens by businesses and individuals represents losses of more than $700 million a year for the Quebec government. To remedy this problem, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to quadruple the budget of the Quebec government’s 2017 action plan against tax havens to reach an annual budget of $40 million. These investments in the fight against tax havens will be easily compensated, or exceeded by the amounts recovered from the wrongdoers who are presently abusing the system.
CULTURE

Culture is often perceived as an expense while it is, on the contrary, an important source of income. We want to make it an important pillar of our economy by giving it the place it deserves. Québec culture is rich, enjoys worldwide recognition, and is an important driver of domestic and international tourism. However, it must be developed and adequately funded to take advantage of the significant economic benefits that result.

The cultural sector is one of the few that can efficiently and quickly use the funds invested at a low administrative cost. Furthermore, these investments generally translate into a rise in the level of employment.

Every dollar invested in culture generates, on average, $ 2.70 in non-government revenue. It is therefore a sector with immense economic potential.

The Culture Satellite Account reported that, in 2010, «The spin-offs related to culture industries were $ 12.8 billion, contributing 4.1% to Quebec’s gross domestic product (GDP), putting it in first place nationwide. Cultural industries generated more than 175,000 jobs across the province, representing 4.5% of all jobs in Quebec.

For 2009-2010, the Government of Quebec’s culture-related expenditures were more than $ 1 billion, while they generated $ 10 billion in GDP.

With this in mind, we support the proposal of the coalition, Culture, the Heart of Quebec, in its aim to raise the budget for culture from 1.1% to 2%.

ADVERTISING TAX

To finance part of this increase in the budget for culture, we propose to introduce a tax on the advertising of large corporations and multinationals, a measure that will adequately finance the cultural sector while at the same time combating consumerism.

A SINGLE TAX RETURN

In order to reduce the bureaucratic burden on Quebeckers and the State, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to introduce a single tax return, administered by the Quebec government. This would save nearly $ 400 million for the State and even more for citizens.

MAJOR INVESTMENTS

FINANCING ENERGY TRANSITION

Energy transition will have beneficial effects for all of Québec, both today and in future generations. The construction of green infrastructure will, however, carry significant costs. We propose to invest in the future of the province and to finance the proposed investments by increasing the revenues of the state, and initially accepting budget deficits. These investments will eventually become profitable, since energy transition, once completed, will significantly reduce the operating costs of transportation, buildings and numerous economic sectors.

RIDDING QUEBEC OF POVERTY - GUARANTEED MINIMUM INCOME

The Quebec Green Party proposes to lift all Quebeckers out of poverty with the introduction
of a minimum guaranteed income of $14,000 per person per year (including children). Seniors, people with disabilities and those with illnesses will be eligible for a guaranteed minimum income of $20,000 per year.

In order to break social isolation and encourage integration into the labour market, the Quebec Green Party supports an $8,000 annual work exemption without reducing the guaranteed minimum income payment.

QUICK, FREE AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Quebec Green Party supports a major shift to public transit. We will offer free fares, combined with a major expansion of the service. Our plan includes the construction of a high-speed intercity train network, the expansion of subway lines, trams, buses and commuter trains.

We believe that this is the best way to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (of which the transportation sector is responsible for a very large part) and the overconsumption associated with private cars. These are promising investments that will create many quality jobs and enhance Quebec expertise, since skilled labour will be required to fill these sustainable jobs. The expansion of the public transit system will also help private sector employers to benefit from a mobile population and will help to reduce the congestion that is hurting our economy and productivity.

TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER AND ORGANIC WASTE

In Quebec, wastewater treatment is inefficient. Many of our treatment centres incinerate waste sludge with fossil fuels and release a significant amount of contaminants into our streams. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to revolutionize the treatment of our wastewater treatment plants so that they produce renewable energy and organic products from our waste.

MASSIVE INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

The neoliberal austerity of recent years has wreaked havoc on our public services and, with the aging of the population, we are now facing large expenditures in an effort to repair the damage. The Quebec Green Party is committed to adequately funding health and education services so that the entire population can benefit from quality public services.

DEVELOPING THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The current situation with regards to recycling in Quebec is pitiful; sorting centres are not equipped to transform cardboard, glass or the vast majority of other materials. To remedy the situation, the Green Party of Quebec proposes to invest heavily in the treatment of residual materials using the eco-tax. These measures will focus on recycling, reducing our consumption and on targeted investments in the circular economy.

SUPPORTING COOPERATIVES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Co-operatives and community organizations are the driving force behind the creation of vibrant, autonomous and supportive communities. The Green Party of Quebec believes that the Quebec government should do more to support cooperatives and communities.
NATIONAL PROJECTS

Although the Green Party of Quebec believes in free enterprise, the maintenance of the private sector and in the right of certain citizens to possess more financial resources than others, we believe that the economy should be better regulated and that the nationalization of certain industries would be beneficial for all Quebecers. Here are our plans for our first mandate in government:

NATIONALIZING FORESTRY ON PUBLIC LAND

For decades, the Quebec government has transferred public forests to private logging companies, without requiring significant royalties. The Green Party of Quebec proposes to nationalize the exploitation of our forestry resources.

NATIONALIZING ALL PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES

Public transit services are public services that should be managed in the public interest. Although the vast majority of these services are already in public hands, the privatization of Metropolitan Express Network (REM) is a blatant example of the effect of neoliberal policies on our public services. The Green Party of Quebec believes that it would be more beneficial to keep these infrastructures under public control in order to allow better planning according to public interest and to avoid profit-seeking from tariffs, a practice that discourages use of the service.

CREATION OF TÉLÉCOM-QUÉBEC

The Québec Green Party supports the establishment of a Crown corporation in order to offer a low-cost nationalized telecommunications option for the population and businesses of Quebec. This company will be mandated to offer Internet, telephone, cable and mobile telephone services to the entire population of Quebec, including in remote areas, at lower cost. In 2018, access to the Internet should be a universal right and not an expensive privilege. The status quo ensures that prices remain very high and that service is still not available in many communities.

NATIONAL GREENHOUSE PROJECT

The Quebec Green Party supports the establishment of a large network of small-scale agricultural greenhouses in neighborhoods throughout Quebec. This network, which will be owned by all citizens and managed by local community organizations, will be mandated to provide locally grown food to local people at very low prices. This nationalized local agricultural production network will be powered by hydropower. This major project, which will affect all of Québec’s regions, is one of the first steps in the effort to reduce the influence of capitalism on the food system.
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## AGRICULTURE

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LOCAL AGRICULTURE: NATIONAL GREENHOUSE PROJECT

Local food is an essential step in energy transition. In Quebec, we have significant hydroelectric resources and yet a very small-scale greenhouse system, centralized and managed by the private sector. As a result, a phenomenal amount of our fruits and vegetables are imported from South America and the United States.

The Green Party of Quebec proposes to tackle the problems of imported food by building a vast network of public urban and rural greenhouses powered by hydro-electricity. These greenhouses will be built by Hydro-Québec through a new subsidy program before being handed over to local communities in each neighborhood in Quebec.

Greenhouses will receive financial support and free electricity provided by the state. They will be managed in a democratic way by the users and members of the communities. The food produced will be distributed to residents at very low cost in order to avoid food waste.

Beyond providing locally grown food, creating jobs and creating vibrant local communities, this program aims to concretely reduce the role of capitalism in the Quebec food system while stimulating the culture of mutual aid, local solidarity and cooperation.

SUPPORTING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

The Quebec Green Party supports significant subsidies for the production and consumption of certified organic foods. These investments of $1 billion a year will concentrate on educational programs and provide hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance to help farmers make the transition to organic farming across Quebec.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR

In order to make up for the critical labour shortage in the agricultural sector, the Quebec Green Party is committed to:

- Establishing a special program in the agricultural sector in order to ensure consistent and efficient access to foreign agricultural workers with the aim of ensuring the productivity, growth and future success of the industry. Improving education and vocational training in agriculture throughout the education system, ensuring that skills training programs include on-farm training and meet other non-traditional training requirements in the work environment.

- Making agricultural training more available and accessible in urban areas.

- Establishing a single office for Agriculture and Agri-Food Labor Market Information Assessments with a properly trained workforce to ensure rapid and consistent processing of applications in the context of Labor Market Impact Assessments (LMIAAs).
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Green Party of Quebec seeks to:

• Improve income security programs.

• Recover an amount equal to the remaining $38 million from the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance Program (ASRA) to improve the productivity of the grain sector.

• Enhance agri-environmental support programs, including mechanisms for retaing investments by producers to adapt to environmental requirements.

• Put in place a system to limit the impact of the rapid increase in the minimum wage on the profitability of agricultural enterprises, particularly in the horticultural sector.

• Put in place a permanent program to compensate farmers who suffer damage during extreme weather events.

• Stop the disappearance of farms in Quebec by implementing a support policy for small farms.

• Strengthen the financial support program for young farmers.

BANNING THE USE OF PESTICIDES

The Green Party of Quebec supports the banning of all pesticides (and herbicides) on our territory by the year 2022. This ban will apply both to rural and urban centers. The scientific research is clear: pesticides are harmful to animal and human health and negatively affect biodiversity. Alternatives exist: Permaculture, mechanical weed control and bioremediation all offer effective alternatives to pesticides. The agriculture industry is fully capable of adapting, and a Green government will be there to help with the transition.

MORATORIUM ON DEZONAGE

The Green Party of Quebec supports a moratorium on the rezoning of agricultural land in both rural and urban areas. The valorization of these lands constitutes an essential pillar of the transition to local food and sustainable energy. We cannot afford to sacrifice agricultural land for real estate projects and private interests.
PRODUCTS AND BYPRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Scientific advice is clear; reducing the consumption of meat and animal products is an effective way to reduce our GHGs and to fight against climate change. For this reason, the Green Party of Quebec supports the establishment of a target to reduce animal products 50% by 2030, combined with a series of innovative measures to help citizens make this change. China adopted a similar target in 2016 while considering the environmental impacts of meat production. A Green Government will support Quebec farmers and breeders in this important transition. More information available in our animal rights and health sections.

LIVESTOCK

Citizens would certainly choose to ensure better living conditions for farm animals if they were informed of the ill-treatment inflicted on them. Currently, the Welfare and Safety Act of animals does not protect livestock. They are subject to the industry regulations or «commonly used practices”. For this reason, the Green Party believes that a set of regulations which aim to alleviate suffering and to stop the mistreatment of livestock must be implemented.
The Green Party of Quebec aims to:

• Inform the population about the practices commonly used in industry in order to raise awareness.

• Impose strict supervision of rules concerning industry practices.

• Prohibit mutilation of farmed animals such as the amputation of the tail, the castration and sharpening of the beak.

• Prohibit chick milling.

• Prohibit any form of slaughter that does not anticipate desensitization and promote practices of immediate effects.

• Give access to information and transparency within slaughterhouses, industrial farms and carriers mandatory. This access to information should not only be given to government authorities, but also to the media and citizens that are interested.

• Impose stricter standards on animal transportation that reduces travel time, increases space vital space in trucks and limits transport during extreme temperatures.

• The use of electric needles should be prohibited and power of coercive inspectors, increased.

• Increase the number of inspectors.

• Promote local farms and slaughterhouses on a small scale.

• Encourage the population to reduce its consumption of meat and by-products of animal origin.

• Encourage livestock farming practices that give freedom to animals.
ANIMAL RIGHTS
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## ANIMAL RIGHTS

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The Green Party of Quebec wishes to stress the fact that animals are not material objects. They are, on the contrary, sentient beings that have biological imperatives, as indicated by the Civil Code of Quebec. As a progressive party, we wish to take animal rights to a higher level, one that would ensure their well-being.

REDUCING MEAT CONSUMPTION

The Green Party of Quebec believes that society must transition towards a broad reduction in meat consumption.

To this end, the party program includes measures to:

- Mandate public institutions, such as schools and hospitals, to provide vegetarian and vegan meal options to encourage healthier food choices that are less damaging to the environment.

- Add healthy cooking classes to the elementary and secondary school curriculum in Quebec. These courses will include training in vegetarian and vegan cooking, as well as the ecological impact of eating meat and animal products.

- Use financial incentives in agriculture to increase subsidies for plant-based food production. This will include the implementation of a vast nationalized greenhouse program that will allow all Quebecers to enjoy the fruits and vegetables produced with our green electricity.

- Subsidize products and programs that help citizens reduce their consumption of meat and animal by-products. This will include lower prices for plant-based foods and free cooking classes accessible to all.

- Over a 10-year period, transfer subsidies from the meat industry to programs that value the use of plant-based food products.

- Encourage people, through advertising campaigns, to reduce their consumption of meat and animal products.

APPLICATION AND COMPLIANCE

A Green government will set up an Animal Conditions Ministry in order to guarantee the implementation, the elaboration, the empowerment and the respect of laws related to animal welfare. This ministry will also work with the SPA, the SPCA and the inspectors to efficiently apply provincial laws. The Green Party would also empower the SPA and SPCA.

Moreover the green Party will raise the budget dedicated to the employment of inspectors. We believe that the Quebeçois’ state should put back a budget as well as powers to those organizations that already work on ground. This would permit more efficiency.

A Green government would establish a special tax on animal accessories in order to finance a part of the application of the law and the creation of this new ministry.

To ensure the application of the law and thus ensure the protection of animals and strict compliance with our legislation the Green Party of Quebec proposes to:
• Inform people of their rights and obligations to pets under Section 5 of the Animal Welfare and Safety Act.

• Grant more power to SPAs and SPCAs and increase budgets to hire more inspectors. Rather than create a costly new State body, we believe that the Quebec government should fund and grant powers to these organizations, which would work with the Ministries of Justice, Public Safety, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as well as Forestry, Wildlife and Parks in carrying out their duties.

• Significantly increase fines for non-compliance offenses. The GPQ believes that the penalties in the Criminal Code for cruelty to animals are not high enough. We believe it is immoral that the offenses prescribed for animal cruelty are found in the «prohibited acts on property» section of the Code. A Green government would pressure the federal government to make the necessary changes to the Criminal Code.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Many people consider their pets to be family members. Yet Quebec has the reputation of being the worst province in Canada when it comes to the treatment of pets. For this reason, the Quebec Green Party seeks greater protective measures for pets.

We also consider that the sentences established by the Criminal Code about cruelty to animals are not stricter enough. We believe that is immoral that those infractions are categorized as “acts against goods” in the criminal Code.

DOMESTIC PETS

The PVQ wishes to take out the animals from a “capitalist consumption” system. It is abnormal and unacceptable that our pets are sold as furnitures. So it is necessary to promote the adoption of animals from the shelters and ethical breeders in order to avoid their commodification. It is also important to face surpopulation problem which leads to the euthanasia of numerous dogs and cats every year.

We would like to prohibit the sales of animals in surpopulation (dogs, cats and rodents) in pet shops and to stop the breeding of those animals. However, we encourage that pet shops to establish an adoption system of animals from shelters.

Only small breeding would be allowed, such as small familial breeding or non-profit breeding, which provide a small number of animals.

DOMESTIC OR EXOTIC PETS

About exotic pets sales, we want to create a sale permit and/or a breed permit in Quebec (none will be authorized to endangered species, etc...) in order to regulate their sales. We also want to pay attention on to who and how they are sold. The sellers should fully inform the future adopter about their responsibilities towards their exotic pets. We’ll work with the federal government in order to instaure an identification and traceability system for those animals.

We also propose that a special permit is required to own an “exotic” pet. Indeed those animals have special and complex needs they require particular cares. So they can’t be adopted thoughtlessly.
GENERAL MEASURES:

The Green Party program includes measures to:

• Raise awareness of the importance of taking into account the biological requirements of pets.

• Encourage owners to sterilize their pets in order to combat abandonment and the overpopulation of shelters. We also wish to increase the visibility of pet sterilization clinics for low-income people.

• Invalidate clauses prohibiting animals in residential leases.

• Better regulate pet therapy and other animal-related professions.

• Make animal identification and vaccination mandatory to ensure the traceability and health of these animals. We also seek to increase the visibility of associations that pay these fees for people who cannot afford them.

• Secure adequate funding for organizations that deal with animals.

• Prohibit breeding of pets and exotic animals for profit (by individuals, puppy mills, etc.) and prohibit the sale of animals in pet shops. However, we encourage the adoption of animals from shelters as well as responsible adoption by ethical shelters and breeders.

• Prohibit the long term chaining up of dogs.

• Combat discrimination of animal species (speciesism) while taking into account their different needs within ecosystems.

• Resist the adoption of Bill 128 and the banning of certain breeds by proposing solutions that protect the population: activities of bite prevention for young people in schools as well as training courses focused on canine communication and dog training.

• Act against the overpopulation of stray cats while reducing the euthanasia rate by encouraging the practice of CRSM (capture, sterilize, release, maintain).

• Prohibit all medical procedures that change the physical characteristics of the animals (de-clawing, cutting ears or tail, etc.) except for medical reasons or sterilization.

PROHIBITION OF BREEDS

The Green Party of Quebec denounces laws dedicated to forbid certain breeds of dog in Quebec. We consider those regulations illogical, discriminative and unapplicable. They demonstrate a lack of knowledge from the political class in matters of animal rights and the ill-treatment that they are victim of. This prohibition leads to wrong direction. As showed with the montrealer exemple, the prohibition doesn't work. In Ontario, following the adoption of a similar law, the number of people hospitalized because of a dog bite has increased; in USA around twenty states have abandoned those kind of regulations because they are useless, expensive and inapplicable.

Without taking into account breed crossing, Dog breeds are hardly identifiable, even for the experts, which makes the application of the law harder. This situation leads to a lot of legal pursuits and contestations which assuredly have important costs for Quebec.
Moreover this law isn’t supported by the scientific community; the Order of the veterinarians of Quebec and the Canadian Association of the veterinarians have already pronounced their opposition to this regulation.

We believe that aggressive behaviours of pets are generally, or mainly, caused by their owners. All dogs require an effort of socialization and daily activity or they can develop antisocial or aggressive behaviours. So it is the responsibility of the owner to be informed and to make sure that all of their dog needs are satisfied.

According to us, it is imperative that the government make sensitive the owners so they can be prepared to take care of their dogs, no matter their breeds.

But, the bigger risk that needs to be highlighted with such a regulation, is that thousands of dogs which are in the shelters won’t be able to be adopted, and so will be euthanized. And this is the biggest tragedy of this regulation.

The resources disponible for the prohibition of certain breeds, would definitely be more useful somewhere else: make training classes obligated, create a permit to own a dog or give access to a sterilization service cheaper. Those permanent solutions, which permit to fight against dangerous dogs and reduce dog ill-treatment, have already proved their efficiency in Calgary.

It’s time for Quebec to give responsibilities to dog owners. The blame shouldn’t be on the animal, no matter its breed, but on its owner.

WILD ANIMALS

HUNTING AND FISHING

The Quebec Green Party opposes certain forms of hunting. The party program includes the following measures:

- Prohibit any import of hunting trophies of exotic animals.
- Allow hunting and fishing for recreational or sporting purposes only when the purpose is to consume hunted or caught animals.
- Prohibit the trapping of wild animals for commercial and recreational purposes.

PROTECTING THE HABITAT OF WILD ANIMALS

- Encourage the establishment of green areas in urban centers and their surroundings.
- Create more provincial parks to protect more territory.
- Encourage greater respect for the natural environment of wild animals.
- Regulate ecotourism practices to minimize the impact on animals and their natural environment.
- Build more animal bridges, tunnels and fences to allow animals to cross roads and highways safely.
THREATENED OR VULNERABLE SPECIES

• Raise awareness of the importance of protecting endangered or threatened species.

(Other proposals on the protection of animal habitat and threatened or vulnerable species can be found in the environment section of the Quebec Green Party program.)

LIVESTOCK ANIMALS

The public would certainly choose to ensure better living conditions for farm animals if they were informed of the abuse these animals suffer. Currently, the Animal Welfare and Safety Act does not protect livestock. Their treatment is subject to industry regulation or «practices commonly used» by the industry. For this reason, the Green Party is of the opinion that a set of regulations, or «reform», aimed at alleviating suffering and ending the mistreatment of farmed animals must be implemented. We therefore seek to implement this stricter reform to protect them by prohibiting:

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

• The mutilation of farm animals such as tail amputation, live castration and beak trimming.

• Grinding up chicks.

• Any form of slaughter that does not provide for prior desensitization. Practices with immediate effects must be used.

• The use of electric prods.

• In addition, the GPQ seeks to impose stricter standards on animal transportation in order to reduce travel times, increase the living space for animals in trucks and limit transportation during extreme temperatures.

• To put in place a regulation guaranteeing basic protection and more, a Green government would do the following:

  • Launch a campaign to inform the public about the practices commonly used in the industry in order to raise awareness of the treatment of farm animals.

  • Publicly consult with farmers and ranchers about the needs of the community to allow such a transition.

  • Give access to information and make transparency mandatory in slaughterhouses, industrial farms and transporters. This information should be accessible not only to government authorities, but also to the media and interested citizens.

  • Increase the number of inspectors.

  • Promote small and local farms and slaughterhouses.

  • Encourage people to reduce their consumption of meat and by-products of animal origin.

  • Impose a moratorium on the construction of new slaughterhouses.

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    • Increase the number of inspectors.

    • Promote small and local farms and slaughterhouses.

    • Encourage people to reduce their consumption of meat and by-products of animal origin.

    • Impose a moratorium on the construction of new slaughterhouses.
ANIMALS RAISED OR TRAPPED FOR THEIR FUR

The Green Party opposes any form of fur use. We consider that fur is an unnecessary “luxury” product. In addition, the fur industry is responsible for the death and suffering of millions of foxes, coyotes, rabbits and mink, among others, that are trapped in their natural habitats or raised on fur farms.

For these reasons, the Green Party wishes to:

- Abolish the sale of fur clothing.
- Prohibit the breeding of animals for their fur.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION FOR COSMETICS OR HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

The Green Party considers that experiments on animals for the development of cosmetics are cruel and unnecessary. Animal testing is not included in the Animal Welfare and Safety Act. We recommend alternative methods to test new products. More and more cosmetic brands now indicate that testing was done “without cruelty”; we encourage and support these companies.

The Green Party program aims to:

- Encourage the gradual elimination of animal use in industry and the development of new methods that do not involve animals.
- Mandate MAPAQ officials to carry out extensive inspections not only while the laboratories are empty or unused, but also while the tests are being conducted on the animals. They will be required to produce detailed public reports to ensure transparency and report on the status of animals before, during and after testing.

ANIMAL DISSECTION IN SCHOOLS

The Green Party of Quebec opposes any form of animal experimentation in pre-university educational institutions. We consider this to be an obsolete teaching method and we believe that students should never be forced to perform experiments on animals.

- Progressively prohibit importing, marketing and selling cosmetics and household products tested on animals, as Israel and India have done.
- Make access to information and transparency mandatory in laboratories.
We propose to replace these practices with other teaching methods. Given the state-of-the-art technology we have today, there is no reason not to use humane teaching methods, through the use of synthetic models, videos, and so on.

ANIMALS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

The Green Party opposes any form of animal captivity for the purpose of entertaining. We consider that the captivity of wild and exotic animals is cruel and immoral. The industry should not force wild animals to perform for the entertainment of human beings. The use of animals for entertainment, whether in zoos, circuses, exhibitions or rodeos should be reduced and possibly prohibited.

For these reasons, the Green Party program aims to:

- End all breeding programs in zoos and aquariums.
- Establish mandatory standards of care in all zoos and aquariums for all animals present at this time.
- Prohibit the importation of exotic and wild animals.
- Organize the conversion of zoos and aquariums into sanctuaries and refuges to rehabilitate captive animals and allow them to live the rest of their lives in a more natural environment adapted to their biological needs.
- Prohibit any promotional or commercial event that includes an exploitive component causing physical and psychological suffering to an animal.
- Support, through innovative financial support programs, event organizers such as rodeos and «chase and capture» activities in a transition to cost-effective entertainment activities that do not contribute to animal suffering.

WORK ANIMALS

The Green Party opposes the use of horses in urban areas and advocates a complete ban on the horse-drawn carriage industry. We propose the substitution of these tourist attractions by other vehicles, such as electric carriages.
THANKS

We wish to sincerely thank our members, candidates, supporters and employees who so generously gave their time and energy in order to complete this New Green Plan for Quebec.

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Nothing would have been possible without you.

Together towards a GREEN future!