

EXTRACTS FROM OUR PROGRAM



# QUÉBEC SOLIDAIRE AND SOVEREIGNTY

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Québec Solidaire is a progressive party whose aim is to build a society based on social justice, greater democracy, gender equality, respect for our natural environment, and the establishment of egalitarian and peaceful relationships with nations throughout the world, including, first and foremost, First Nations peoples with whom we share this territory. Our social project is rooted in participatory democracy and sovereignty for the people of Quebec.

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An important anglophone minority has long been an active and important participant in the moulding of Quebec's history and is still engaged in improving our communities. Québec Solidaire is proud to propose a national project that can achieve our common goals of becoming a more egalitarian, democratic, environmentally-responsible and prosperous nation.

## For proportional representation

In our democratic system, the people hold ultimate political authority. In order for the people to express their political will, each vote must count and our elected officials must represent the reality of Quebec society in all its diversity, whether that be political, social, cultural, ethnic or geographic. This is especially true with respect to sovereignty because such an important decision requires that political expression be at its fullest and clearest. That is why

Québec Solidaire defends the principle of proportional representation of elected officials at the National Assembly. Proportional representation ensures that each political party is attributed a number of seats in the National Assembly that is proportional to the number of votes that were cast in its favour.

## For an independent Quebec

Certain changes proposed by Québec Solidaire can and should be made within the current constitutional



Election of a  
**Québec Solidaire Government**

Convening of a  
**Constituent Assembly**

Extensive public debate to  
**Draft a constitution**

Vote on the constitution and  
**Independence**

framework. However, our social project can only be achieved in its entirety if Quebec has full political, economic, and cultural authority over its territory. This is what will make it possible to realize the profound democratic aspirations of the Quebec nation.

Canadian federalism cannot be reformed in substance. It is impossible for Quebec to gain all the powers to which it aspires, especially those powers that are necessary to implement the deep-seated policy changes proposed by Québec Solidaire, while retaining its status as a province of Canada.

Independence is first and foremost a means by which Quebec citizens can gain the authority over our political

institutions necessary to realize our shared aspiration of becoming the most inclusive and participatory democracy in the world.

Achieving independence is not limited to gaining political or cultural sovereignty. It requires full control over all economic policy, including budgets, taxation and customs, as well as commercial and monetary policy. A sovereign Quebec would have the powers required to implement an egalitarian, feminist, ecologically sound social project grounded in solidarity. Our society could then more effectively resist economic domination and the plundering of our natural resources.

## The Quebec Nation

Becoming a country does not mean forsaking all interaction with others or adopting inward-looking attitudes. Québec Solidaire proposes that an independent Quebec develop relationships with other countries worldwide on a basis of equality and mutual respect.

Quebec nationality must be essentially defined by the act of living within this nation and participating actively in its community life. The Quebec nation already recognizes itself as being ethnically and culturally diverse, with the French language operating as a common tongue and a necessary factor of integration. The Quebec nation is fundamentally defined by francophone history, but it has been slowly transformed by the successive integration of elements from other communities. The Quebec nation is thus open to outside contributions since its identity does not rest upon ethnic origin, but upon voluntary adherence to Quebec's political and social institutions.

## The Constituent Assembly

As a means of realizing independence, Québec Solidaire proposes that a Constituent Assembly be created and tasked with drafting the principles

upon which Quebec's political status should be based. Furthermore, it will also define Quebec's institutions and their powers, responsibilities, and resources. The Constituent Assembly will be representative of the population of Quebec, which is to say that its members will reflect the diversity of Quebec society with regards to gender, age, ethnic background, and socio-economic status.

The propositions formulated by the Constituent Assembly, including those regarding Quebec's political status, will be submitted for approval to the population via a referendum, which will mark the end of the process.

## First Nations

The Quebec Nation cannot refuse sovereignty to other nations while it claims it for itself. The First Nations' right to self-determination can be exercised in many different ways. Self-government is one; independence is another, though none of the First Nations of Quebec currently nurture such a project. Egalitarian relations with First Nations still require that the preconceived idea of Quebec's territorial integrity be replaced by an entirely different notion, that of the necessary cohabitation on the same territory of sovereign nations that can freely determine their own futures.