



rebuilding
our

QUÉBEC

The Parti Québécois Road Map
SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

Rebuilding our Québec

Road Map

I am pleased to present to all Québécois this summary of the Parti Québécois Road Map for rebuilding Québec. This Road Map is intended to be simple and straightforward, so that every elector can make an informed choice on Election Day, March 26, 2007.

For a team that aspires to lead Québec, the challenges are many. This Road Map is not meant to address all of the problems that riddle the Québec political landscape, but it does represent a commitment to an approach that will provide solutions that respond to the needs of Québécois: Working together, we will develop the areas where we will focus our activities and our efforts. These will become the Major Priorities for the next Parti Québécois government.

Québécois want their elected representatives to demonstrate clarity and courage. Within only months of taking power, the Charest government lost the public's confidence. Broken promises, a lack of courage, and bad decisions have been the hallmark of this government. Never before has a Québec government disappointed the people to such an extent.

It is essential to restore the confidence of Québécois in their elected officials. That is why our political team pledges to provide Québécois with a yearly follow-up addressing the fulfilment of the commitments that are contained in this Road Map throughout the mandate of the Parti Québécois government.

Of course, our primary objective is to achieve national sovereignty for Québec. We want to reiterate this necessity here. We are profoundly convinced that this great objective, which transcends all others, will enable Québec to achieve more substantial progress more quickly. We intend to demonstrate this during the electoral campaign.

Our sovereignty project includes preparing for the formation of a country. We have identified seven Major Priorities: education, the environment, economic development, health, regional development, social solidarity, and sound public administration.

Québec has achieved remarkable things over the course of its history. As Québécois, we are proud of our origins, our language, and our culture, and we know how to take charge of our destiny, as the successes of the past 40 years so eloquently testifies.

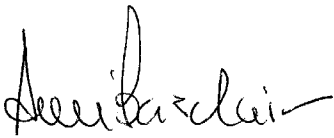
The time has now come to move ahead. Québécois are more open to the world, and more confident, than at any time in our history. Now we must become better educated, increase our economic and social riches, and strive for a more just society and a greener Québec.

Other countries have succeeded in these areas, and many of them do not have the fabulous resources that we have. We need to give ourselves the means to achieve our ambitions.

The real power of our social, economic, and cultural development lies in the talent of Québec families, and nowhere else.

Assuming our responsibilities: A project that all Québécois can feel passionate about!

Thank you, and enjoy your reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'André Boisclair', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

André Boisclair
Leader of the Parti Québécois

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Road Map

The main objective of the Parti Québécois Road Map is to give Québec electors a tool that will help them to make a free and informed choice about our proposals on Election Day, March 26, 2007.

We want to restore the confidence of Québécois, and guarantee that they will not be fooled about the choices that they have made after the election, as was the case with Jean Charest's Liberals in 2003.

Specific commitments will stem from the seven Major Priorities that make up this Road Map, and will serve to complete this document during the electoral campaign. All of the commitments related to this Road Map will be fulfilled within a five-year mandate, unless otherwise specified.

The amounts that are allocated to the various commitments are over and above system costs. They represent "new money" for Québec's development.

Achieving national sovereignty for Québec

The basis of our political commitment

Québec is a nation that possesses the means to achieve its ambitions, and a Parti Québécois government is committed to consulting the people of Québec on the question of sovereignty as soon as possible during its first mandate.

In order for our sense of nationhood and identity to become fully developed, we propose that Québécois make Québec a country.

A culture and an identity for the country

A Parti Québécois government will:

- make our national culture a priority in the definition, development, and promotion of the identity of Québécois, at home and abroad
- transform schools into places where culture, art, and literature are encouraged, and where attendance at performing arts events is promoted, notably by amending the *Act respecting the Ministère de l'Éducation*
- promote Québec creativity, in particular by increasing the budgets allocated to support the arts and culture
- promote the French language more vigorously within Québec
- promote reading among young people in Québec's primary and secondary schools
- promote and ensure respect within Québec for the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, notably through the passage of a bill implementing the convention
- support the international marketing of Québec cultural products in concrete ways
- convene Estates-General on the national policy respecting the culture of a sovereign Québec

Decentralize the sovereign Québec State

A Parti Québécois government will:

- propose a pact with the regions of Québec concerning a decentralized sovereign Québec state, before the public consultation on the question of sovereignty

A legislative and administrative framework

A Parti Québécois government will:

- adopt a legislative framework for the country, including an initial Québec constitution and fundamental laws designed to ensure the continuity of political and legal institutions
- provide for stipulations pertaining to citizenship, and ensure that federal transfers continue to be paid out to Québec citizens
- adopt a policy statement that presents the major themes of the foreign policy of a sovereign Québec's

Consultation on the question of country

A Parti Québécois government will:

- institute the *Forum du pays* (forum on the country), with sections addressing the 17 regions of Québec
- submit the question that the people will be consulted on for adoption by the Québec National Assembly
- ensure that the public consultation will be observed by international representatives, in order to guarantee the openness, legality, and legitimacy of the process
- amend the *Referendum Act* in order to protect Québec democracy by preventing a repetition of the irregularities that were committed by the No forces in 1995

The birth of a country

A Parti Québécois government will:

- with a victory by the Yes forces as a result of the public consultation on the project of forming a country, ask the National Assembly to adopt a motion recognizing the result of the consultation process
- proceed with an orderly transition toward legal and political sovereignty
- ask the National Assembly to adopt a *Proclamation of Québec Independence*, following a period of negotiation with the Canadian government that will last up to one year
- prepare for the recognition of a sovereign Québec internationally

The Seven Major Priorities

Scholastic success for everyone

For the educational sector, the Major Priority involves creating the best high schools anywhere.

Education from early childhood

A Parti Québécois government will:

- create 20,000 additional spaces in Centres de la petite enfance (CPE) (daycare centres) between now and 2010, at a cost of \$7 per day
- maintain the \$7 per day rate for daycare

Better high schools

A Parti Québécois government will:

- invest \$450M into scholastic success
- make schools accessible between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., in order to provide more help with homework, more sports, and more extracurricular activities
- reduce by the size of classes in disadvantaged communities for the late stages of primary school and the early stages of high school by at least 10%
- hire 1,500 specialists to help children who have learning difficulties
- establish a national scholastic success fund
- ensure that all students and their parents can count on the advice and guidance of a tutor, beginning in the first year of secondary school
- Promote the battle against taxing, intimidation, harassment, and violence at school
- focus on improving training for vocational diplomas by adapting to regional realities
- invest an additional \$750M into the maintenance and improvement of primary and secondary schools

Enhanced support for teachers

A Parti Québécois government will:

- hire 250 pedagogical advisors in order to assist teachers, and encourage mentoring for young teachers
- ensure that teachers have more time for training and professional development

Schools focused on the citizen

A Parti Québécois government will:

- ensure that all students in Québec have access to a history teaching program that takes into account all of the major events of our national history
- facilitate the promotion of Québec culture, the Québec identity, and Québec values in schools (e.g.: equality between men and women, the French language, secularization of the state, and protection of the environment)
- put an end to illegal religious schools, and ensure that the Ministère de l'Éducation program applies to all students in Québec
- revitalize the francization programs for children of immigrants and for their parents
- ensure that private schools focus on helping students who have learning problems to earn a diploma

Harnessing brainpower

A Parti Québécois government will:

- invest \$400M into the financing of Québec CÉGEPs and universities
- maintain the freeze on tuition fees
- strengthen support to post-secondary institutions in the regions, especially in terms of research and development
- implement measures to encourage more students to pursue and complete doctoral studies
- implement a new policy to promote occupational training in the workplace
- support and encourage the development of college-level technological transfer centres, especially in Québec's regions

The environment: from words to action

Our first environmental Major Priority will be to create a true green revolution in the transportation sector.

The green revolution in transportation

A Parti Québécois government will:

- adopt an Act respecting climatic change that includes specific targets
- promote the creation of a carbon market in Montréal (Montréal Climate Exchange)
- quickly launch a Commission on ending dependence on petroleum products
- set initial goals of reducing overall petroleum consumption by 10% within five years, and by 20% within 10 years, and adjust these goals based on the recommendations of the Commission
- abolish the Québec sales tax (QST) on the purchase of electric or hybrid vehicles and vehicles with equivalent or greater energy efficiency
- adopt vigorous measures to promote use of public transit, notably by introducing a refundable tax credit for transit passes
- adopt a global plan for investing in transportation infrastructures, and in the development and use of green transportation technologies
- promote the use of electric or hybrid vehicles and vehicles with equivalent or greater energy efficiency within the Québec government (including government corporations) and municipal administrations

Energy for sustainable development

A Parti Québécois government will:

- conditional upon opinions issued by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) and the support of local communities, promote the development of hydroelectric projects with a view to ensuring that Québec's new energy capabilities contribute to regional development
- increase the wind energy development target from 10% to 20% of total electricity production within 10 years

- with respect to wind energy development on private land, work in collaboration with the communities concerned to prepare a framework based on the recommendations from the BAPE (landscapes, aviary corridor, social acceptability, cumulative impact of equipment, etc.)
- guarantee that industries are given information concerning electricity prices in advance
- encourage research and development into the solar and geothermic sectors

Updating our regulations

A Parti Québécois government will:

- thoroughly review the *Environment Quality Act* in order to force companies to commit to a ongoing program of reducing the industrial waste that they discharge, taking into account the capacity of ecosystems to receive this pollution
- accelerate soil decontamination efforts, notably by re-launching the *Revi-Sols* program
- proceed with the decontamination of industrial debris in northern Québec
- amend the *Building Code* in order to include stricter energy efficiency standards
- increase waste burial costs in order to provide more funding for municipal recovery and recycling efforts
- enact a law to eliminate non-biodegradable plastic bags from the Québec environment

Air quality: A neglected priority

A Parti Québécois government will:

- ask the BAPE to convene generic public hearings on air quality
- adopt a policy in order to ensure that all citizens in all regions of Québec benefit from the best possible air quality, in the interests of public health and environmental protection (this policy will include the adoption of a new regulation respecting air pollution control and measures aimed at raising public awareness of this essential objective)

Protecting natural resources

A Parti Québécois government will:

- abolish Bill 23, which privatizes Mont-Orford
- respect the integrity of our national parks, promote their development and facilitate access by the largest possible number of citizens
- update the national water policy and apply it to the entire territory of Québec by maintaining public management of the water system and by introducing a usage fee for companies that use water for commercial or industrial purposes
- work in cooperation with local communities to extend the network of protected lands to comprise 12% of Québec's total territory within 10 years of the Parti Québécois taking power, compensating for the loss of forest biomass with an intensification policy respecting the management and development of public and private forests
- adopt a global strategy aimed at battling cyanobacteria (blue algae) and diatom algae in Québec's lakes and rivers
- ensure funding for national environmental groups, and for watershed committees in connection with rivers that receive priority designation
- adopt legislation aimed at eliminating abusive practices in order to ensure the full exercise of freedom of expression (anti-SLAPP measure)

Adjusting our economy in a sustainable manner

The Major Priority for the Parti Québécois with respect to the economy entails producing more and producing better within a context of sustainable development.

Becoming more productive

A Parti Québécois government will:

- abolish the capital tax (the tax that creates the greatest barriers to investment) for all firms other than those in the financial sector within two years of being elected
- increase tax incentives for new investments
- make Québec among the most attractive areas in North America in terms of investment, research, development, and innovation
- give special attention to manufacturing sectors that face competition from emerging economies in a context of currency fluctuations
- encourage firms to invest in reducing pollution emissions
- encourage government economic bodies such as the Société générale de financement (SGF) and Investissement Québec to provide better support for entrepreneurs and for the economic development of Québec, particularly in terms of the regional development priorities that are identified through the ACCORD program
- provide strong support for strategic research groups and for the development of results-validation mechanisms
- promote innovation

Responsible management of public finances

A Parti Québécois government will:

- reduce personal income tax by the equivalent of 50% of excess income during years of strong economic growth (more than 2.5% increase in real GDP)
- maintain the generations fund, and add the equivalent of 50% of excess income to the fund during years of strong economic growth (more than 2.5% increase in real GDP)
- as requested by the Auditor-General of Québec, adopt the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' accounting principles for the public sector, particularly with respect to the integration of the health and education systems into financial statements
- strengthen the *Balanced Budget Act* so that the spirit of the Act is respected

Access to health care, everywhere for everyone

In terms of health, our Major Priority is guaranteeing that every Québécois has access to surgery within a medically acceptable timeframe.

First, reduce waiting times

A Parti Québécois government will:

- guarantee that every Québécois has access to surgery within a medically acceptable timeframe
- review the approach to managing waiting lists
- establish service corridors between the regions, and reimburse expenses that patients incur as a result of traveling outside of their region
- ensure access to health care in the event of a pandemic

Home care

A Parti Québécois government will:

- invest \$450M into implementing its home-care policy
- ensure a substantial increase in financial and technical support for caregivers
- allocate new investments for adapting the homes of persons with a physical disability
- improve the quality of life of older persons who live in long-term care facilities (CHSLD)

Improve access to health care throughout Québec

A Parti Québécois government will:

- raise the number of Groupes de médecine familiale (family medicine groups) in Québec to 300
- increase the number of nurse practitioners
- sign agreements with physicians in order to improve case management for chronically ill patients and vulnerable persons (including those who have mental health problems)

Prevention is better than cure!

A Parti Québécois government will:

- ensure a substantial increase in the amount of money designated for the prevention of illnesses and accidents, with a focus on public-awareness campaigns aimed at stressing the importance of a healthy lifestyle
- update the national public health program
- work with each government department in order to establish concrete measures to prevent illnesses and accidents among departmental employees and the clientele that they serve (students, patients, etc.)
- implement a suicide-prevention policy

More efficient social services

A Parti Québécois government will:

- establish acceptable waiting periods with respect to access to social services by persons with an intellectual disability and individuals who are undergoing physical rehabilitation
- increase funding for youth centres
- offer support and accompaniment for young people who are forced to leave youth centres at the age of 18
- dedicate more resources to palliative care
- work in cooperation with the stakeholders involved in order to develop a policy to combat itinerancy

Improved occupational health and safety

A Parti Québécois government will:

- make the required amendments to the *Act respecting occupational health and safety*, and extend its application to cover all sectors of activity, as is the case in the priority sectors

Regions with the means to take charge of their destiny

In terms of regionalization, providing Québec's regions with the means to take charge of their destiny is our Major Priority.

Breathing life into the regions

A Parti Québécois government will:

- increase funding for the Fonds de développement des régions (FDR) and priority projects through new government contributions and by charging fees for the use of natural resources
- improve occupational training in the regions, notably by enabling school boards to provide new courses to smaller groups
- support local entrepreneurship
- provide concrete support for the development of areas of excellence and economic diversity
- support key sectors, including forestry, agriculture, fisheries, mines, and tourism
- focus special attention on resource-rich regions that are facing difficult employment situations
- revise municipal laws in order to enhance the authority and autonomy of major centres and agglomeration municipalities

Sound agricultural development

A Parti Québécois government will:

- abolish the capital tax that is charged to agricultural firms as soon as it assumes power
- promote the consolidation of the pork industry in Québec, in order to make it more competitive on the world market
- negotiate with the federal government in order to ensure that Québec receives its fair share of funding for its income security programs for farmers

- promote the retention and development of family farms
- continue to invest in support to farmers in order to protect the environment, and continue to fund agro-environmental programs
- support biological agriculture and the development of new products

Ensuring the future of our forests

A Parti Québécois government will:

- complete the implementation of regional commissions on natural resources and the Québec territory, in order to guarantee integrated management and regional cooperation
- work in collaboration with regional commissions with a view to consolidating jobs
- implement an intensive silviculture program for public and private forests
- work with industry members to establish a forestry biodiversity conservation strategy
- negotiate with the federal government in order to secure a financial contribution for an aid program for older workers
- encourage research, development, and innovation with respect to secondary and tertiary processing, and promote economic diversity in the regions
- study the feasibility of redefining Québec's forest regime, with a focus on sustainability

Greater solidarity among Québécois

Our Major Priority in terms of sharing a better life together is helping young families to truly feel at home, and to have the time to enjoy being at home.

Family first

A Parti Québécois government will:

- create a program that will assist young families in becoming property owners
- work in partnership with unions and management to implement a program to encourage the reconciliation of work, family life, and study
- offer the same parental leave conditions to adoptive parents as those that are offered to biological parents

Women in Québec and community action

A Parti Québécois government will:

- continue to enforce the policy respecting the status of women
- maintain the government policy respecting the recognition of and support for community action
- implement a salary-financed retirement plan and improve working conditions in the community movement
- strengthen and formalize cooperation between government departments and community groups and organizations that are involved in the social economy, while respecting the autonomy of these organizations
- launch a 10-year public-awareness campaign aimed at ending violence against women

Avoiding another Norbourg

A Parti Québécois government will:

- adopt a protocol that stipulates that auditors must divulge instances of irregularities
- enforce stiffer penalties for those who commit fraudulent acts
- ensure that the Autorité des marchés financiers has the ability to properly carry out its mandate

More equitable treatment for those who receive social assistance

A Parti Québécois government will:

- index social assistance benefits in the case of recipients who are able to work
- encourage social assistance recipients, and especially young mothers, to return to school, and help them to make this transition

Provide better support for the families of victims

A Parti Québécois government will:

- set up a fund aimed at providing psychotherapeutic rehabilitation services to the families of victims of criminal acts

Prudent public administration

In terms of governance, our Major Priority is to ensure responsible and efficient management of public funds

A commitment to openness and integrity

A Parti Québécois government will:

- limit the number of ministries to 18, and optimize their operations
- proceed with a parliamentary reform in order to allow elected officials to carry out their role and to efficiently control public spending and the working of the government
- institute a parliamentary review of appointments to Senior Management and to the Boards of Directors of government financial and commercial corporations
- rethink how the government operates with a view to ensuring more efficient and innovative management
- create a unit within the Conseil du Trésor that will assess and control the costs of major projects, with a mandate to ensure that the costs and schedules pertaining to these projects are evaluated and adhered to

A unifying state

A Parti Québécois government will:

- immediately withdraw the sections of Section 4 of Bill 142 that interfere with freedom of association
- immediately initiate a process aimed at completely overhauling the negotiating framework for the public sector (this process will be conducted in collaboration with the unions, and will review the legal framework in order to allow for the true exercise of the right to negotiate, taking into account the public interest)
- as soon as a new negotiating framework is agreed upon, begin talks aimed at replacing the present agreement with a negotiated agreement when it expires

- promote the implementation of the partner-state, with a view to encouraging the public, private, community, and social economy sectors to work together for the common good
- limit the use of the gag order in parliamentary regulations
- mobilize the public and private sectors in order to raise awareness among Québécois with respect to the importance of ending racism, exclusion, and discrimination

The Parti Québécois Road Map

Budgetary impact

(cost in fifth year of the mandate)

(in \$M)

Scholastic success for everyone	1,100
The environment: from words to action	112
Adjusting our economy in a sustainable manner	700
Access to health care, everywhere for everyone	1,200
Regions with the means to take charge of their destiny	375
Greater solidarity among Québécois	60

GRAND TOTAL¹

3,547

¹ This amount represents an average annual increase of \$709M.



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