

Edition

2007



BUYING BOOKS FROM

**ACCREDITED BOOKSTORES**

*shows responsibility*



Québec 



Since 1981, *the Act respecting the development of Québec firms in the book industry* has required institutional buyers such as libraries, schools, colleges, government departments, and municipal corporations to purchase books from accredited bookstores in their administrative regions.

## ? Why was the Act adopted

### The Act was adopted to

- make books more affordable and widely available by
  - keeping prices stable or limiting increases (affordability) and
  - implementing a network of bookstores in all regions of Québec (wide availability); and
- develop a thriving and competitive book industry.

## • How can these objectives be achieved and maintained?

These objectives can be achieved and maintained in **two ways**: by acknowledging the basic role that bookstores play in the development of reading and the consolidation of the publishing industry and by seeking to make all stakeholders in the industry, from publishers to buyers, partners in this development.

**In your capacity as an institutional purchaser, you are a partner and are subject to the Act.**



## What are the **advantages** of buying books from accredited bookstores?

Accredited bookstores

- are found throughout Québec;
- offer ready access to a wide range of Québec and foreign books;
- are the only outlets that offer new books as soon as they are published; and
- offer throughout Québec
  - high quality, personalized service,
  - prompt fulfilment of special orders,
  - sound advice on book purchases,
  - space reserved for the consultation of books, and
  - free delivery service.



## What are institutional **buyers**?

Institutional buyers are agencies of the Québec government or its mandataries as well as any organization listed in the schedule of the Act:

- **Government departments, agencies, or mandataries**
- **Municipal corporations, regional county municipalities, urban communities, and organizations under their jurisdiction**
- **School boards and organizations under their jurisdiction**
- **Cegeps**
- **Establishments subject to the *Act respecting private education***
- **Public libraries and regional public library service centers (CRSBPs)**
- **Establishments covered by the *Act respecting health services and social services* or the *Act respecting health services and social services for Cree Native persons***



## ! What obligations in the Act apply to institutional buyers?

The *Regulation respecting the acquisition of books by certain persons from accredited bookstores* spells out the obligations that apply to you. Essentially, you have three obligations under the Regulation:

- To buy books from at least three *accredited bookstores in your region* (sections 5 to 13)
  - To buy books *at list price* (sections 14 to 20)<sup>1</sup>
  - To send a report<sup>2</sup> within three months of each fiscal year to Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine or the government department to which you report detailing
    - subsidies received or allocated for the acquisition of books,
    - the number of books purchased, and
    - the names of suppliers and the breakdown of acquisitions among these suppliers.
- 1. No institution may evade this obligation through concealed benefits (e.g., books given by bookstores, discounts, etc.) or purchases made on behalf of the institution by individuals, school staff, school councils, parents' committees, etc.**

**2. To download the form, go to [www.mcccf.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=154](http://www.mcccf.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=154)**

## Which books are covered by the Act?

The Act covers all books purchased by the institution, except school manuals, which are defined as all printed documents designed to achieve the objectives of preschool, elementary, and secondary curricula, including ancillary material, exercise books, and the usual dictionaries used for these levels of instruction and included on Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport lists, which are available at [www3.mels.gouv.qc.ca/bamd/menu.asp](http://www3.mels.gouv.qc.ca/bamd/menu.asp).



## ✓ The bookstore also has obligations

To be accredited, the bookseller must satisfy certain requirements pertaining to inventory and the quality of service offered. These requirements are stipulated in the *Regulation respecting the accreditation of bookstores*. The bookseller must, among other things

- have 6,000 titles in inventory (2,000 Québec titles and 4,000 foreign titles) and minimum quantities for each category of book;
- receive new publications from at least 25 accredited publishers and keep them on the shelves for at least four months;
- operate a readily accessible commercial establishment;
- keep his/her bookstore open year-round;
- have at his/her disposal up-to-date, complete bibliographic equipment;
- fill all book orders within a reasonable lapse of time;
- promptly inform customers of any delay in filling their orders; and
- broaden and enhance, as need be, his/her services, the number of qualified employees, and the range of inventory.



## A **collective** responsibility

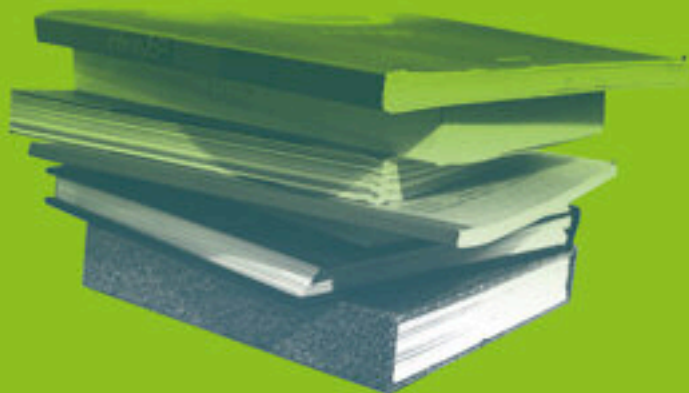


By ensuring access to all books, both new publications and basic works, the bookstore guarantees the diversity of books and their renewal. Without bookstores there are no publishers; without publishers, there are no authors; and without authors, there is no national or international literature. The Québec government wishes to guarantee that all Quebecers, regardless of where they reside, have free, ready access to books and reading and to this end has sought to establish a network of professional bookstores throughout Québec. It is incumbent upon each one of us to ensure that the network is maintained.

The Act respecting the development of Québec firms in the book industry and the attendant regulations are available on the Publications du Québec website at

@ [www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca)

They are also sold by bookstores that are partners of Les Publications du Québec.



A list of accredited booksellers is also available on the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine website at

([www.mcccf.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=2181](http://www.mcccf.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=2181))

**Culture,  
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Condition féminine**

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