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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 19

## **An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning regional affairs**

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### **Introduction**

**Introduced by  
Mr Yvon Picotte  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and  
Minister for Regional Affairs**

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

*This bill introduces, in the Act respecting the Ministère du Conseil exécutif, a division on regional affairs. It provides that the Minister responsible for the administration of the new division will elaborate, propose to the Government and implement a regional development policy. It also determines the functions and duties of the Minister.*

*In addition, the bill repeals the Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec and enacts transitional provisions rendered necessary by the repeal.*

### ACTS REPEALED OR AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Executive Power Act (R.S.Q., chapter E-18)
- Public Service Act (R.S.Q., chapter F-3.1.1)
- Act respecting the Ministère du Conseil exécutif (R.S.Q., chapter M-30)
- Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec (R.S.Q., chapter O-3)
- Act respecting the Civil Service Superannuation Plan (R.S.Q., chapter R-12)
- Act respecting the Société du parc industriel et portuaire Québec-Sud (R.S.Q., chapter S-16.01)

## Bill 19

### **An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning regional affairs**

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

**1.** The Act respecting the Ministère du Conseil exécutif (R.S.Q., chapter M-30) is amended by inserting, after section 3.22, the following division:

#### **“DIVISION III**

#### **“REGIONAL AFFAIRS**

**“3.23** The Prime Minister or the Minister designated by the Government in accordance with section 9 of the Executive Power Act, hereinafter called “the Minister”, is responsible for the administration of this division.

**“3.24** The Minister shall elaborate and propose to the Government a policy on regional development, and shall implement it.

The object of the policy shall be to foster the improvement of the economic, social and cultural conditions of the various regions of Québec.

**“3.25** The Minister shall

(1) delimit the action of the Government in matters of regional development in relation to the orientations and priorities defined by the regions;

(2) improve the efficiency of governmental action in matters of regional development, in particular by fostering the harmonization of the policies and interventions of the Government in that field;

(3) advise the Government on any question relating to regional development;

(4) conduct research and studies on the socioeconomic evolution of the regions;

(5) perform any other duty entrusted to him by the Government.

**“3.26** The Minister shall also

(1) foster the participation of persons and bodies from various sectors of activity whose action may have an impact on the development of their region;

(2) promote greater responsibility on the part of such persons and bodies with respect to the definition and achievement of development objectives in their regions;

(3) foster concerted action, and the coordination of governmental action, at the regional level in matters of regional development;

(4) ensure that the actions taken in the regions in matters of regional development are complementary.

**“3.27** The Government shall recognize, for each region, a representative regional authority as the interlocutor in matters of regional development.

**“3.28** The Minister may, with the authorization of the Government, make an agreement with each recognized regional authority on the priorities and lines of development of the region concerned.

**“3.29** The Minister, in concert with each recognized regional authority, is responsible for the regional development fund of each region.

He shall also administer any sums entrusted to him for the carrying out of regional development plans, programs or projects.

#### “DIVISION IV

#### “ANNUAL REPORTS”.

**2.** Section 4 of the said Act is amended by replacing the words “Division II” in the fourth line by the words “Divisions II and III”.

**3.** Section 4.1 of the said Act is replaced by the following section:

**“4.1** Within six months following the end of each fiscal year, the Ministers responsible for the administration of Divisions II and III shall table a report of the activities of the department that are related to Canadian intergovernmental affairs or regional affairs, as the case may be, for that fiscal year in the National Assembly, if it is in session; if it is not sitting, they shall table it within 30 days after the opening of the next session or after resumption.”

**4.** Section 10 of the Executive Power Act (R.S.Q., chapter E-18) is amended by replacing the words “and the Associate Secretaries-General” in the first line of the first paragraph by the words “, the Associate Secretaries-General and the Deputy Secretaries”.

**5.** Section 55 of the Public Service Act (R.S.Q., chapter F-3.1.1) is amended by replacing the words “and Associate Secretary-General” in the first line of paragraph 1 by the words “, Associate Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary”.

**6.** The provisions of the Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec (R.S.Q., chapter O-3) are repealed on the date or dates fixed by the Government.

**7.** Schedule I to the Act respecting the Civil Service Superannuation Plan (R.S.Q., chapter R-12), amended by section 241 of chapter 75 of the statutes of 1988, by section 58 of chapter 42 of the statutes of 1990 and by section 49 of chapter 46 of the statutes of 1990, is again amended by striking out the words “the Office de planification et de développement du Québec” in paragraph 5.

**8.** Section 6 of the Act respecting the Société du parc industriel et portuaire Québec-Sud (R.S.Q., chapter S-16.01) is amended by replacing the words “entrusted with the application of the Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec (chapter O-3)” in the second and third lines by the words “responsible for the administration of Division III of the Act respecting the Ministère du Conseil exécutif (R.S.Q., chapter M-30)”.

**9.** The Government acquires the rights and assumes the obligations of the Office de planification et de développement du Québec with respect to the plans, programs, projects and undertakings of the Office it determines.

The Government, on the date of repeal of section 1 of the Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec, acquires all other rights and assumes all other obligations of the Office.

**10.** The Government may transfer to any person or body it designates, on the conditions it determines, all or part of the rights and obligations referred to in section 9.

**11.** The term of office of the president and general manager of the Office de planification et de développement du Québec ends on the date of repeal of section 1 of the Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec.

**12.** The employees of the Office de planification et de développement du Québec who are members of the public service shall become, to the extent and according to the modalities determined by the Government, employees of the Ministère du Conseil exécutif, of another department or of a government agency.

**13.** The movable property, records, documents and archives of the Office de planification et de développement du Québec shall become, to the extent and according to the modalities determined by the Government, movable property, records, documents and archives of the Ministère du Conseil exécutif.

**14.** The Attorney General, in the name of the Government, may, by a notice filed in the record and served on the parties involved, be substituted for the Office de planification et de développement du Québec in any proceedings to which the Office was a party, without continuance of suit.

The Attorney General, on the date of repeal of section 1 of the Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec, shall become, in the name of the Government, a party to any proceedings to which the Office was a party, without continuance of suit.

**15.** This Act comes into force on (*insert here the date of assent to this Act*), except section 7 which will come into force on the date of repeal of section 1 of the Act respecting the Office de planification et de développement du Québec.