



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 244
(Private)

**An Act respecting the Conseil de
développement touristique
Hull-Chelsea-La Pêche Inc.**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr Robert LeSage
Member for Hull**

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Bill 244

(Private)

An Act respecting the Conseil de développement touristique Hull-Chelsea-La Pêche Inc.

WHEREAS the Conseil de développement touristique Hull-Chelsea-La Pêche Inc. is a non-profit corporation which was incorporated on 18 June 1986 under the Canada Corporations Act (R.S.C., 1970, chapter C-32);

Whereas the Conseil has set itself the goal of promoting the development and operation of a tourist industry product which benefits the population of the Hull-La Pêche corridor;

Whereas, to achieve this, the Conseil, with the support of the private sector, initiated the setting up of a tourist train along the Hull-La Pêche corridor;

Whereas, to this end, the Conseil, composed of the municipalities of Hull, Chelsea and La Pêche, obtained on 13 August 1991 a subsidy from the Office de planification et de développement du Québec which allowed for the construction of railway infrastructures and accessory public buildings;

Whereas the Conseil has associated itself with 275-4541 Canada Inc., which carries on business under the corporate name of La Cie Ferroviaire à vapeur Choo-Choo;

Whereas the railway has been in operation since 27 June 1992;

Whereas the Conseil for the purpose of gaining the ownership or enjoyment of immovables which are necessary for the operation of a railway, has entered into several acts, including emphyteutic leases of 25 years with the city of Hull and the municipality of La Pêche and

a renewable lease for periods of five years until the year 2017 with the municipality of Chelsea;

Whereas, in addition, the city of Hull has put certain immovables acquired from Canadian Pacific Limited at the disposal of the Conseil;

Whereas the Hull-Wakefield tourist train project is a driving force in the tourism development strategy of the Outaouais Region because, among other things, of the train's proximity to the national capital;

Whereas the Conseil de développement touristique Hull-Chelsea-La Pêche Inc. and 275-4541 Canada Inc., in preparation for the establishment of this service, have made various financial commitments totalling more than five million dollars;

Whereas the provisions of the Railway Act (R.S.Q., chapter C-14) do not provide for the case of purchasers without corporate powers becoming owners of a railway;

Whereas, to enable the Conseil de développement touristique Hull-Chelsea-La Pêche Inc. and 275-4541 Canada Inc. to honour commitments vital for the survival of the tourist train, it is urgent that the status of tourist railway company be granted to these two corporations;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Minister hereby grants to the Conseil de développement touristique Hull-Chelsea-La Pêche Company and to 275-4541 Canada Inc., as well as to any other company operating a tourist railway on the Hull-Wakefield line jointly with them or with either of them, the status of tourist railway company. All the aforementioned companies, with the exception of the first, henceforth shall be called "the operator".

For the purposes of this Act, the Conseil de développement touristique Hull-Chelsea-La Pêche Inc. becomes the Outaouais tourist railway company and the operator, namely 275-4541 Canada Inc., becomes the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield railway company.

2. The Outaouais tourist railway company and the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield railway company are authorized to maintain and operate a tourist railway on the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield line and on any other route which is an extension of the Hull-Wakefield line.

3. The Railway Act (R.S.Q., chapter C-14) applies to the Outaouais tourist railway company and to the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield railway company, except for paragraph 10 of section 6 and sections 7, 17 to 59, 123 to 137, 143 to 159 and 163 to 175.

4. No officer or employee of the operator or person concerned or interested in any contract with the operator may be appointed a director or hold the office of director, nor shall any director of the operator enter into, or be directly or indirectly, for his own use and benefit, interested in any contract with the operator and relating to the purchase of land necessary for the railway, or be or become a partner of any person who enters into any contract with the operator, for the duration of that contract.

5. The Outaouais tourist railway company and the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield railway company are subject to the Act to ensure safety in guided land transport (1988, chapter 57).

6. The Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield railway company shall lose its status as a tourist railway company if it ceases its operations for more than twelve consecutive months.

7. At the expiry of the time referred to in section 6, or earlier if the maintenance and operation of the train requires it, the Outaouais tourist railway company may see to the replacement of the operator with a new one, and the latter is subject to the provisions of this Act.

8. All juridical acts prior to the creation of the two railway companies are validated as soon as the status of railway company is obtained from the National Assembly.

9. This Act comes into force on (*insert here the date of assent to this Act*).