



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 69

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Communications

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr Richard D. French
Minister of Communications**

**Québec Official Publisher
1988**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The main object of this bill is to re-define the functions and powers of the Minister of Communications and replace certain provisions relating to the organization of the department.

The bill provides that the Minister is responsible for communications in Québec and for seeing to it that cultural, social and economic progress is achieved in that field.

It confers on the Minister of Communications the power to establish communications policies that he will propose to the Government.

The bill confers certain functions on the Minister of Communications such as promoting the diffusion of information concerning services offered by the Government, departments and public bodies and the diffusion of information and documents of public interest produced or held by departments and public bodies, making communications services available to the departments and public bodies and participating in the development of the communications industry.

In addition, the bill confers on the Minister of Communications certain powers with respect to copyrights held by the Government, departments and public bodies, Québec emblems and standards applicable to the signature of the Government and the visual identification of departments and public bodies designated by the Government.

Finally, the bill provides that the Minister of Communications is responsible for the sale of the publications of the Québec Official Publisher and that certain of his functions are exercised under the name «Les Publications du Québec».

Bill 69

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Communications

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Sections 2, 3 and 5 and subparagraphs *c*, *d* and *g* of the first paragraph of section 4 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Communications (R.S.Q., chapter M-24) are repealed.

2. The said Act is amended by inserting, after section 8, the following section:

“8.1 The Deputy Minister may, in writing and to the extent he indicates, delegate the exercise of the functions conferred on him by this Act to a functionary or to the holder of a position.

He may, in the instrument of delegation, authorize the subdelegation of such functions as he indicates; where applicable, he shall identify the functionary or holder of a position to whom the subdelegation may be made.”

3. Section 11 of the said Act is replaced by the following section:

“11. No deed, document or writing binds the Minister or may be attributed to him unless it is signed by him, by the Deputy Minister, by a functionary of the department or by the holder of a position, and in these last two cases, only to the extent determined by the Government.

The Government, on such conditions as it may fix, may permit the signature of the Minister or the Deputy Minister to be affixed by means of an automatic device to such documents as it determines.

The Government may also permit a facsimile of the signature to be engraved, lithographed or printed on such documents as it determines. The facsimile must be authenticated by the countersignature of a person authorized by the Minister."

4. Section 12 of the said Act is replaced by the following section:

"12. Every document or copy of a document emanating from the department or forming part of its records, if signed or certified true by a person referred to in the first paragraph of section 11, is authentic."

5. Section 13 of the said Act is replaced by the following section:

"13. The Minister may, for the carrying out of his functions, enter, according to law, into an agreement consistent with the interests of Québec with a government other than that of Québec, any department of that government, an international organization or an agency of that government or organization."

6. Section 14 of the said Act is replaced by the following section:

"14. The Minister shall, for each fiscal year, table, within six months from the end of such year, a report of the activities of the Ministère des Communications in the National Assembly if the Assembly is in session or, if it is not sitting, within thirty days after the opening of the next session or resumption."

7. The said Act is amended by inserting, after section 14, the following chapter:

"CHAPTER II

"FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE MINISTER

"14.1 The Minister is responsible for communications in Québec and for seeing to it that cultural, social and economic progress is achieved in that field.

"14.2 The Minister shall devise policies in matters of communications and propose them to the Government, shall use appropriate means to implement them and shall coordinate their implementation.

He shall see to it that the laws and regulations respecting communications are complied with.

"14.3 The Minister shall, more particularly, within the scope of his functions and powers,

(1) facilitate relations between the State and the population, especially by promoting the diffusion of information concerning the services offered by the Government, departments and public bodies;

(2) promote the diffusion of information and documents of public interest produced and held by departments and public bodies;

(3) support the development of Québec expertise in the field of communications and foster its dissemination;

(4) promote the development of original and diversified productions in the field of communications;

(5) foster, in cooperation with the other interested departments and bodies, the development of communication enterprises in and outside Québec;

(6) promote the implementation of communications technology susceptible of fostering cultural, social and economic progress;

(7) participate in the development of communication systems in all regions of Québec;

(8) coordinate the activities of the Government and departments and of public bodies designated by the Government, particularly in matters of telecommunications, data processing, advertising and exhibitions;

(9) offer to the departments, public bodies and other bodies designated by the Government communication services in related fields such as telecommunications and data processing, the printing, publication, distribution and marketing of documents produced by or for the departments and public bodies as well as media booking and audiovisual services;

(10) see to the management of copyrights held by the Government, the departments and the public bodies designated by the Government in respect of documents and see to it that the standards established jointly with the Minister of Cultural Affairs for the acquisition, use and management of copyrights are complied with;

(11) submit to the Government proposals as regards the emblems of Québec and propose standards applicable to the signature of the Government and to the visual identification of departments and the public bodies designated by the Government, see to it that the standards are complied with, and coordinate their implementation;

(12) conduct or commission research, studies, surveys and inventories in matters of communications;

(13) advise the Government and, on request, departments and public bodies, with respect to the type of communications services or equipment required for their activities;

(14) perform the other duties conferred on him by the Government.

The functions and powers assumed by the Minister under subparagraphs 3 and 5 of the first paragraph shall be exercised within the scope of the Canadian intergovernmental affairs policy and the international affairs policy.

“14.4 The functions assigned to the Minister under subparagraph 9 of the first paragraph of section 14.3 in respect of the printing, publication, distribution and marketing of documents and the functions assigned to him under section 17.1 shall be exercised under the name of “Les Publications du Québec”.”

8. The division “Chapter II” of the said Act and the heading under that chapter are replaced by the following:

“CHAPTER III

“QUÉBEC OFFICIAL PUBLISHER”.

9. Section 16 of the said Act is amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs.

10. The said Act is amended by inserting, after section 17, the following section:

“17.1 The Minister is entrusted with the sale of the publications referred to in section 16.”

11. Section 18 of the said Act is amended by striking out subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph and the second paragraph.

12. The division “Chapter III” of the said Act and the heading under that chapter are replaced by the following:

“CHAPTER IV

“SPECIAL FUNDS”.

13. Section 19.1 of the said Act, replaced by section 2 of chapter 31 of the statutes of 1988, is amended by replacing the expression “Government publications fund” in the first and second lines by the words “Les Publications du Québec fund”.

14. Sections 1 to 20 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Communications, including the sections added by this Act, become sections 1 to 31, respectively.

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