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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 127

## Forestry Merit Act

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### Introduction

Introduced by  
Mr Albert Côté  
Minister for Forests



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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

*This bill replaces the Forestry Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-11). It provides for the creation of new awards for outstanding achievements in the fields of forest research and development, forest management and processing and marketing of forest products.*

*The Government will be empowered to award prizes through competitions or by selection from a list of nominees. Judges for forest producer competitions and members of selection committees responsible for submitting a list of nominees to the Government are to be appointed by the Minister on the basis of criteria established by regulation.*

*The Government will, through its regulatory power, determine regions where medals, diplomas and mentions may be awarded.*

*Finally, the bill includes, as regards persons who were awarded a mention or decoration under the Forestry Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-11), a transitional provision which ensures that their status as members of the Ordre du mérite forestier du Québec is preserved.*

### ACT REPLACED BY THIS BILL:

- Forestry Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-11).

# Bill 127

## Forestry Merit Act

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1.** The Ordre du mérite forestier du Québec is hereby instituted.
- 2.** The order shall be composed of persons who have been awarded a medal and a diploma or a mention of forestry merit.
- 3.** Medals, diplomas, titles, mentions and other awards of forestry merit shall be awarded through competitions or by nomination.
- 4.** Each year, the Minister responsible for the administration of this Act shall organize a forest producer competition for each region determined by regulation and for the whole of Québec.
- 5.** The Government may, with respect to the forest producer competition, award, in each region determined by regulation, a gold medal and a diploma of distinguished merit, a silver medal and a diploma of great merit, and a bronze medal and a diploma of merit to persons recognized as forest producers under section 121 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., chapter F-4.1) who have distinguished themselves most in forest management and development. Producers who meet the conditions determined by regulation may enter the competition.

The Government may award, for the whole of Québec, the title of “Grand Producteur forestier” to the producer who has distinguished himself most among the gold medallists of regional competitions.
- 6.** The Government may, after consulting the list of nominees submitted by a selection committee set up for that purpose, award,

in each region determined by regulation, a mention of distinguished merit to the person, partnership or association that has distinguished himself or itself in each of the following categories:

- (1) research and development in the forest sector;
- (2) forest management;
- (3) processing and marketing of forest products.

Where justified by the small number of nominations in any of the categories, only one mention shall be awarded for the whole of Québec.

The Government may, after consulting the list of nominees submitted by a selection committee set up for that purpose, award, for the whole of Québec, a mention of specially distinguished merit to the person, partnership or association that has distinguished himself or itself among those who have been awarded a medal under the first paragraph.

**7.** The Government may, after consulting the list of nominees submitted by a selection committee set up for that purpose, award, for the whole of Québec, a mention of exceptional merit and a prize known as the “Grand Prix du mérite forestier” to a person, partnership or association that has distinguished himself or itself by his or its exceptional contribution to the advancement of the forest sector.

**8.** The Government may grant any other award determined by regulation to competitors who take part in forest producer competitions or who are selected by committees pursuant to this Act.

**9.** The Minister shall appoint the judges of forest producer competitions and the members of selection committees according to criteria determined by regulation.

**10.** The Government may, by regulation,

- (1) determine regions for the purposes of sections 5 and 6;
- (2) determine the conditions to be met by a forest producer to enter a forest producer competition;
- (3) determine the criteria on the basis of which the judges of forest producer competitions and the members of selection committees are to be appointed by the Minister;

(4) determine the criteria on the basis of which competitors in forest producer competitions are to be judged;

(5) determine the criteria on the basis of which competitors are to be selected for the purposes of sections 6 and 7;

(6) describe the medals, diplomas, titles and mentions that may be awarded;

(7) determine and describe any other award that may be granted under section 8.

**11.** The Government shall designate the Minister responsible for the administration of this Act.

**12.** This Act replaces the Forestry Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-11).

**13.** The persons who have been awarded a mention and a decoration under the Forestry Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-11) become members of the Ordre du mérite forestier du Québec instituted under this Act.

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