

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

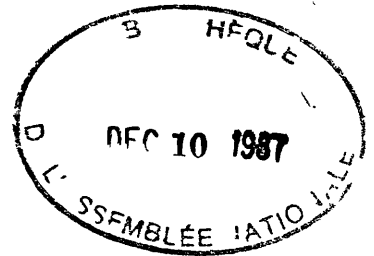
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 94

An Act respecting the Conseil de la famille

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr Robert Dutil
Minister responsible for Health and Social Services**



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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill establishes an advisory council called the “Conseil de la famille”, whose function will be to advise the Minister on any matter pertaining to the family.

The council will assume part of the duties of the Conseil des affaires sociales et de la famille. The name of the Conseil des Affaires sociales et de la famille and the title of its governing Act are amended accordingly.

Bill 94

An Act respecting the Conseil de la famille

WHEREAS the family is the first cultural and social environment in which every individual is born and whereas the welfare of society is based on the welfare of the family and of the individuals composing it;

Whereas the social contribution of the parents in assuming responsibility for the family and in caring for children merits the support and encouragement of society as a whole;

Whereas it is expedient to provide a forum for families, their representatives or groups or institutions that are concerned by matters pertaining to the family; and

Whereas it is expedient to set up an organization, on the basis of those principles, to advise the Minister on matters pertaining to the family;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

DIVISION I

ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION

- 1.** The “Conseil de la famille” is hereby established.
- 2.** The secretariat of the Conseil shall be located at the place determined by the Government. Notice of the location and of any change of location of the secretariat shall be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

3. The Conseil shall be composed of nine members chosen from among persons who have shown interest in family matters.

4. The members shall be appointed by the Government, on the recommendation of the Minister responsible for the administration of this Act.

The members shall be appointed after consultation with existing family associations or groupings and with the institutions concerned by matters pertaining to the family.

5. A person designated by the Minister shall take part in the meetings of the Conseil but shall not be entitled to vote.

6. The Government shall appoint a chairman and a vice-chairman from among the members of the Conseil.

7. The term of office of the chairman of the Conseil shall not exceed five years. The other members of the Conseil shall be appointed for three years, except for four of the first members who shall be appointed for two years.

At the expiry of their terms, the members shall remain in office until they are replaced or reappointed.

The terms of office of the members of the Conseil, including that of the chairman, may be renewed only once.

8. Any vacancy occurring during the term of office of a member of the Conseil shall be filled in accordance with the mode of appointment provided for in section 4.

9. The chairman, who shall devote his full time to his duties, shall direct the activities of the Conseil and coordinate its work; he shall act as liaison between the Conseil and the Minister.

The Government shall fix the remuneration, social benefits and other conditions of employment of the chairman.

10. If the chairman is unable to act, he shall be replaced by the vice-chairman.

11. The members of the Conseil other than the chairman shall not be remunerated except in such cases, on such conditions and to such extent as the Government may determine.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the members shall be entitled to the reimbursement of the expenses they incur in the performance of their duties, on the conditions and to the extent determined by the Government.

12. The Conseil shall meet at least eight times a year.

The Conseil may hold its meetings anywhere in Québec.

Five members, including the chairman, constitute a quorum of the Conseil.

13. The secretary and the other members of the staff of the Conseil shall be appointed and remunerated in accordance with the Public Service Act (R.S.Q., chapter F-3.1.1).

DIVISION II

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

14. The main function of the Conseil shall be to advise the Minister on any matter pertaining to the family..

15. The Conseil may, for the purposes of its functions,

(1) receive and hear the requests and suggestions of persons and groups on any matter pertaining to the family and report thereon to the Minister;

(2) refer to the Minister any family matter which, in its opinion, deserves the attention or action of the Government, and submit its recommendations to him;

(3) after consultation of the Minister, conduct or commission such studies and research as it considers useful or necessary for the purposes of its functions;

(4) provide information to the public on any matter pertaining to the family.

16. The Conseil shall give its opinion to the Minister on any matter or project pertaining to the family submitted to its consideration by the Minister.

The Conseil may communicate its findings and conclusions to the Minister and make such recommendations to him as it considers appropriate.

17. The Conseil may make its opinions public if so authorized by the Minister.

18. The Conseil may set up committees to examine special matters, and determine their powers.

Such committees may be composed, in whole or in part, of persons who are not members of the Conseil.

The members of a committee shall not be remunerated except in such cases, on such conditions and to such extent as the Government may determine. They shall be entitled, however, to the reimbursement of the expenses they incur in the performance of their duties, on the conditions and to the extent determined by the Government.

19. The Conseil may provide for its internal management.

DIVISION III

REPORT

20. The fiscal year of the Conseil ends on 31 March each year.

21. Not later than 30 September each year, the Conseil shall send a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year to the Minister.

22. The Minister shall table the report in the National Assembly within 30 days of receiving it if the Assembly is in session or, if it is not sitting, within 30 days of the opening of the next session or of resumption.

DIVISION IV

MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

23. The title of the Act respecting the Conseil des affaires sociales et de la famille (R.S.Q., chapter C-57) is replaced by the following title:

“An Act respecting the Conseil des affaires sociales”.

24. Section 1 of the said Act is amended by striking out, at the end, the words “et de la famille”.

25. Section 2 of the said Act is amended by striking out, in the fourth line, the words “and the family”.

26. Section 7 of the said Act is amended by striking out subparagraph 5 of the first paragraph.

27. In any regulation, order, order in council, proclamation, contract or other document, the words “Conseil des affaires sociales et de la famille” are replaced by the words “Conseil des affaires sociales”.

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

29. Not later than 1 November 1992 and every five years thereafter, the Conseil shall report to the Government on the implementation of this Act, the advisability of maintaining it in force and, as the case may be, of amending it.

The report shall be tabled in the National Assembly within the ensuing 15 days if it is in session or, if it is not sitting, it shall be deposited with the President of the National Assembly.

30. The Committee on the National Assembly shall, as soon as possible, designate a committee to examine the report respecting the implementation of this Act.

In the year following the tabling of the report in the National Assembly, the designated committee shall examine the advisability of maintaining or, as the case may be, of amending this Act, and hear representations of the persons and bodies concerned by the matter.

31. This Act comes into force on the date fixed by the Government.