

THIRD SESSION
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC

Bill 194

An Act to recognize the right of
the people of Québec to self-determination

First reading
Second reading
Third reading

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The overall object of this act is to recognize in law that the people of Québec alone has the right to decide its political future.

The preamble sets out the principles which are the constitutional basis of the right of the people of Québec to self-determination.

Chapter I indicates, generally, the persons who collectively compose the “québécois” people, while section 3 states that the legislative authority of the Québec Government derives from the exercise of democratic procedures within our elective parliamentary system.

In Chapter II, sections 4 and 5 determine the political rights of the people of Québec and sections 6 and 7 establish the prerogatives of the Assemblée nationale and of the Government of Québec.

In Chapter III, finally, section 8 precludes any restrictive interpretation of the act, and section 9 prescribes the insertion of this act in the constitution of Québec.

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WHEREAS the people of Québec is the possessor as a distinct people of certain individual characteristics, and of a historical continuity rooted in the territory of Québec, over which it exercises its right of possession through its Government and the Legislature;

Whereas the Legislature is empowered to pass legislation to amend the constitution of Québec;

Whereas the Members of the Assemblée nationale du Québec are elected by universal suffrage by the people of Québec;

Whereas the legitimacy of the Assemblée nationale du Québec rests on the people of Québec, and the Assemblée nationale constitutes the sole legislative body the people of Québec can regard as its own;

Therefore, Her Majesty, with the advice and consent of the Assemblée nationale du Québec, enacts as follows:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The people of Québec is composed of the following persons:

- (a) the persons born in Québec who are domiciled in Québec;
- (b) the Canadian citizens who are domiciled in Québec.

2. Birth and domicile in Québec are established in accordance with the Civil Code.

3. The legislative authority of the Government of Québec draws its legitimacy from the possession of its territory and from

the will of its inhabitants; that will is expressed in elections by universal suffrage held by secret ballot or by an equivalent procedure insuring the freedom of vote.

CHAPTER II

POLITICAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE PEOPLE OF QUÉBEC

4. The people of Québec is, in fact as well as of right, entitled to the rights universally recognized by virtue of the principle of the equality of the rights of peoples and of their right to self-determination.

5. The people of Québec possesses, alone, the right to choose its political regime and juridical status.

6. The Assemblée nationale alone possesses the right to legislate on the nature, scope and technical procedures of the exercise of the right of the people of Québec to self-determination.

7. In the event of interference with the right of the people of Québec to self-determination or with the competence of the Assemblée nationale or with the free operation of the political institutions of Québec, the Government of Québec, on the recommendation of the Assemblée nationale, may appeal directly to international bodies to restore the people of Québec in its rights.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

8. This act shall not be so construed as to limit the rights defined herein.

9. This act forms part of the constitution of Québec.

10. This act comes into force on the day of its sanction.