

RESTONS FORTS

PLATE-FORME ÉLECTORALE 2003



Parti Québécois

ENGLISH

Payé et autorisé par Pierre Séguin, agent officiel du Parti Québécois
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25 actions for staying strong

1.
4-day work week for parents

2.
Third week of annual paid vacation

3. Daycare centres: more spaces, more hours and more flexibility

4.
Parental leave for self-employed workers

5.
Tax reductions for families

6.
An integrated after-school policy

7.
Healthcare: integral application of the "Making the right choices" plan

8.
300 family medicine groups across the territory

9.
Action plan to fight childhood poverty

10.
Support policy for informal caregivers

11.
Umbrella law for family-work reconciliation

12.
National population policy

13.
Decentralization of the regional map

14.
Maintenance of the zero deficit

15.
Biggest hydro-electric sites in the history of Québec

16.
Improvement of home care and residential services for seniors

17.
Full employment strategy and priority for quality employment

18.
Modernization of public administration

19.
Measures to attract young graduates to the region

20.
Healthier and safer schools

21.
Integral application of the National Water Policy

22.
Youths: more co-op, work and study opportunities abroad

23.
Two more hours of primary school

24.
More physical education in high school

25.
Methodical and thorough process to prepare Québec for sovereignty

Our vision of Québec

The Parti Québécois has accomplished a great deal since 1994, although much remains to be done to accelerate Québec's quest for progress. The right choices must be made. These choices must be made based on coherent principles for action.

The Parti Québécois government has already adopted an action plan aimed at ensuring for Québec increased prosperity and a better quality of life over the period ending in 2005. Its objective now is to support this trend and proceed even farther by the end of the decade.

Our goals are ambitious but well within reach for Québec. First, we must challenge the limitations of full employment. A Parti Québécois government will strive to attain a 7.5% unemployment rate by 2005 and 5% by 2010.

This broad vision will guide the way for other actions of the Parti Québécois government. By 2005, it will raise the bar considerably to improve public services. This will put it in a position to better equip Québec with even more favourable taxation for families and affront the task of debt repayment. The modernization of the State will be well underway by 2005 and completed by the turn of the decade. Lastly, measures for ensuring better reconciliation between family and work will gradually be implemented so as to make Québec the best place in the world to enjoy a full and well-rounded family life.

One vision, two horizons

	2005	2010
Economy	7.5% unemployment rate	5% unemployment rate
Public finance	Improvement of public services, specifically in healthcare, education and for families	Massive tax reduction for families Debt repayment
Solidarity	Launch of the action plan against poverty	One of the lowest poverty rates in the world
Health	Reinforcement of the front line: • 300 GMF • CLSCs open 7 days a week • Home care • Prevention at the heart of the healthcare system	Québec in fine form: • Increased healthy life expectancy • Decreased inequality with regard to illness
Education	Two more hours of elementary school and transformation of high school	Success rates among the best in the world Science-oriented Québec
Families and childhood	Umbrella law for family-work reconciliation: 4-day work week and third vacation week	Québec, the best place to raise a family
Regions	Map decentralization	Regions fully involved in their development
Environment	Protected areas: 8% of the Québec territory	Protected areas: 10% of the Québec territory

Public services first, taxes later

Quality of life comes first. After contributing to the strengthening of public finances, Quebecers were entitled to a dividend with the reduction of individuals' tax burden by $15 billion over five years.

However, realism has always been in the balance. In fact, today it is impossible to massively reduce taxes while at the same time making massive reinvestments in healthcare and education. We must make a choice. The Parti Québécois has made its choice: during the first part of the new mandate, its government's priority will be to reinvest in public services at the same pace as budget availability. Healthcare, education and family support will receive top priority. Prevention will also be a major focus of government action, and major investments will be made in road and urban infrastructures.

Once these efforts materialize, a Parti Québécois government will once again address the taxpayers' burden, mainly for young families. Repayment of the public debt will then be tackled.

The Parti Québécois' choices are clear: first, a reinvestment in public services, followed by an effort to reduce the tax burden and public debt.

Québec is making choices

Parti Québécois

- Priority placed on the improvement of healthcare services, education and family support.
- Responsible and realistic approach for reducing the tax burden and debt.

Liberal Party

- Priority placed on tax reductions at a level that would plunge Québec into a massive deficit.
- Under-investments in education and freezing expenses in other State missions, specifically through assistance for families and protection of the environment.

Action démocratique du Québec

- Dismantling of the State and reduction of public services.
- Two-tiered healthcare system that favours the rich.

A strong economy

Nobody can deny that Québec presently benefits from unprecedented prosperity. For the past eight years, it has not ceased to surprise with its dynamic economy and its success on foreign markets. The performance of its companies is remarkable, specifically in knowledge-based industries where it stands as a major player on the world stage.

Québec must continue to consolidate its economic success. The Parti Québécois proposes a vigorous economic development strategy with four major components:

- Increased exports;
- Energy development;
- Technological development;
- Labour training.

Quality jobs

In the context of world labour transformation, the Parti Québécois is also intent on signing a new social contract in the labour world to ensure the development of quality jobs with adequate social protection. In return, companies, more specifically small and medium-sized businesses, will benefit from lower taxes and support in their human resources management efforts.

Objective: full employment

- 7.5% unemployment rate by 2005
- Challenge the limits of full employment by reducing this rate to 5% by 2010

A winning strategy

- Global export policy
- Biggest energy sites since James Bay
- Support for key industries: hydro-electricity, information technologies, pharmaceuticals, aerospace and biotechnology

A social contract for quality jobs

- Development of quality jobs and adequate social protection
- Lower taxes for companies, and support for human resources management

Healthcare: assets on which to build

The efforts of a Parti Québécois government in the realm of healthcare will be based on a credible financial framework and logical choices. We cannot, as the Québec Liberal Party claims, implement massive tax reductions and make the necessary reinvestments in healthcare. It is unfair, inequitable and inefficient to give the most fortunate better access to healthcare as the ADQ had wanted.

The actions of a Parti Québécois government will reflect not only a choice of means but also of values. The capacity of people to pay must not constitute a barrier to healthcare access. A Parti Québécois government will instead promote a public healthcare system that corresponds to values of equity and solidarity that Quebecers hold dear.

The Québec healthcare system has undergone numerous transformations in recent years. It is now entering a consolidation phase involving front-line strengthening, flexibility in the operating rules, and greater complementarity between the establishments. Only the Parti Québécois is capable of exercising the necessary leadership for attaining this objective of strengthening our healthcare system.

The right choices

For a real prevention policy

- More physical activity at school
- Prevention of family violence and juvenile crime
- Doubling the budget allocated for prevention

To strengthen the front lines

- Accessible and quality home care
- Access to a family medicine group 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- CLSCs: longer hours, more services

To consolidate hospital care

- Reduce waiting lists and waiting times
- Make emergency a priority at each hospital by establishing an obligation to attain results
- Create new spaces at home-care centres

For stable and adequate financing

- Win the battle against fiscal imbalance on behalf of patients
- Caisse-Santé project

Family-work reconciliation

Support for families has received its due attention from the Parti Québécois government. Boasting a family policy that is among the most progressive in the world, Québec can now stake its claim as one of the best places in the world to raise a family.

The next mandate will provide the opportunity to take another giant step: the Parti Québécois, which innovated in the areas of daycare and family support services, now plans to stand out with original formulas that will make it easier to reconcile work and family life. Québec must resume its position as a benchmark in this area. The key variable on which it plans to work is time. We must organize our society to allow the members of a given family to spend more time together.

This intent will not remain out of reach: a Parti Québécois government will act quickly, adopting in the first year of its mandate an umbrella law for the reconciliation of family and work. This law will clearly recognize those who are raising their children or caring for their loved ones. It will also include the key principles guiding the development of a veritable support policy for informal caregivers.

A project for society

Daycare centres

- More spaces, more hours, more flexibility

Better parental leave

- Tax credits for maternity or adoption leave for self-employed workers
- Parental leave for workers under the Act respecting labour standards

More time for families

- 4-day work week
- Third week of annual paid vacation
- Flexible schedules for parents

An integrated after-school policy

- Extended teaching hours
- Development of extra-curricular activities
- Homework assistance program

Solidarity between the generations

- Support policy for informal caregivers
- Increased support at relief centres for those caring for loved ones

An environment to preserve and enhance

In the eyes of the Parti Québécois, the environment is not a luxury, but a value. From this perspective, a Parti Québécois government will invest the necessary resources to ensure that the National Water Policy is fully applied over the coming years. With a view to ensuring coherence, it will uphold the moratorium on the construction of hydro-electric stations along Québec's small rivers.

The same constant will prevail in the application of the policy for protected areas. The Natural Heritage Conservation Act adopted last December strives to increase, from 5% to 8%, the area of land that will be transformed into protected areas by 2005. A Parti Québécois government will be committed to attaining this objective within the stipulated timeframes and to increasing it to 10% by the end of the decade.

The Parti Québécois government recently echoed concerns surrounding the enhancement of this resource by announcing a public investigation into the management of the Québec forest. During the upcoming mandate it will apply the recommendations of this inquiry while respecting its commitments in the areas of environment and regional development.

Environmental leadership

Integral application of the National Water Policy

Protected areas

- Preservation of 8% of the territory as "protected areas" by 2005
- This objective increased to 10% by 2010

Sound management of the Québec forest

Trend toward green farming

- Improved support program for biological farming
- Considerable improvements for the Prime-Vert program

Kyoto and much more

Québec as a leader in sustainable development

- Updating of the Environment Quality Act
- Application of the principle of ecoconditions for all government programs