



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 57
(2024, chapter 24)

**An Act to enact the Act to protect
elected municipal officers and to
facilitate the unhindered exercise of
their functions and to amend various
legislative provisions concerning
municipal affairs**

**Introduced 10 April 2024
Passed in principle 7 May 2024
Passed 6 June 2024
Assented to 6 June 2024**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Act enacts the Act to protect elected municipal officers and to facilitate the unhindered exercise of their functions, which introduces the possibility for an elected municipal officer who, due to being an elected officer, is the subject of comments or actions that abusively hinder the exercise of their functions or constitute an unlawful infringement of their privacy, to apply to the Superior Court for an injunction to put an end to the situation. The new Act makes anyone who hinders the exercise of an elected officer's functions by threatening, intimidating or harassing the officer in a manner that causes them to reasonably fear for their integrity or safety liable to a fine. It also makes anyone who causes disorder in a way that abusively interferes with the conduct of a sitting of a council of a municipal body liable to a fine. The legal action provided for by the enacted Act may be taken by the elected officer concerned or by a municipal body.

The Act allows a Member of the National Assembly who, due to being an elected officer, is the subject of comments or actions that abusively hinder the exercise of their functions or that constitute an unlawful infringement of their privacy to apply to the Superior Court for an injunction to put an end to the situation, and sets out the conditions on which the Member is entitled to reimbursement of the expenses incurred in such a case. The Act also makes anyone who intimidates or harasses a Member liable to a fine.

Furthermore, the Act allows elected municipal officers to refuse to allow their address and other personal information entered on a list of electors or on other electoral documents to be communicated. The Act also establishes that the address and, in certain cases, other personal information of a candidate in a provincial or municipal election or of a Member of the National Assembly, where the address and other personal information are entered on, among other things, a list of electors or other electoral documents, are confidential information.

As concerns municipal affairs, the Act broadens admissibility for mobile voting, allows voting at the office of the returning officer and establishes new ways to make applications to a board of revisors of the municipal list of electors. The Act amends the criteria to be met to be an elector and to be a qualified voter as well as those

applicable to eligibility for office as a member of the council of a local municipality. The Act also provides that a person is disqualified from holding office as a member of the council of a local municipality if they are the director general, clerk or treasurer of the regional county municipality whose territory includes that of the municipality concerned or of another local municipality included in the territory of the same urban agglomeration or of the same regional county municipality.

The Act allows another person to act as the returning officer in local municipalities where the clerk-treasurer also holds the office of director general. The Act makes adjustments to certain rules concerning the financial reports of municipal political parties, and provides that an extract of the permanent list of electors is to be sent annually to authorized parties.

The minister responsible for municipal affairs is granted the power to postpone or suspend a municipal election where the safety of persons or property is threatened or where an unforeseeable event seriously hinders the orderly conduct of the election.

The Act imposes on intermunicipal management boards the obligation to adopt a code of ethics and conduct for their employees, and requires every municipality and metropolitan community to adopt standards with respect to maintaining order, respect and civility during council sittings. It allows a municipality to prescribe measures to give precedence, during question period at sittings of the council, to questions put by persons who reside in the territory of the municipality or who are owners of immovables or occupants of business establishments situated in that territory.

The Act provides that the Commission municipale du Québec may cause a decision it has made to impose a financial penalty on a member of a municipal council under the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act to be executed.

The Act allows the minister responsible for municipal affairs to designate a person to advise a municipality in the preparation and conduct of sittings of its council and in its relations with citizens. It also allows the minister to determine the training that elected municipal officers must undergo on their role and on the municipal system, and introduces the possibility for the Commission municipale du Québec to suspend an elected municipal officer who fails to participate in such training.

The Act allows a member of the council of a municipal body to participate remotely in a sitting of the council on certain conditions. It also provides that an elected officer who must be absent from council sittings for a period of more than 90 consecutive days may request the council or the Commission municipale du Québec, as applicable, to grant the officer a new period during which the officer may be absent.

The Act allows a municipality having a population of under 2,000 to reduce the number of its councillors from six to four. Moreover, it imposes the transmission of a notice to the minister responsible for municipal affairs where there is a vacancy on the council, and provides for the transmission, after each election, of a statement regarding the composition of the council.

The Act extends to four years the term of office of a warden elected by co-optation, while allowing a regional county municipality to limit such a term to two years. The Act specifies that a municipality has the duty to offer assistance to elected municipal officers and municipal employees who are summoned to appear at an inquiry or a pre-inquiry.

The Act allows a mayor of a municipality having a population of between 50,000 and 99,999 or a councillor of such a municipality, designated by a political party other than the party of the mayor, to appoint a chief of staff and any other staff members necessary for the orderly administration of the mayor's or councillor's office. It provides that the mayor of a municipality having a population of 50,000 or more may request the municipal council to designate another member to act as council chair. It also provides that a local municipality continues to be subject to the legal provisions that apply to municipalities having a population of 100,000 or more even if its population falls below that threshold.

The Act updates the process whereby municipalities sell immovables at public auction for failure to pay property taxes, in particular by allowing remote bidding. It provides that dams owned by the State or under its administration or management are not to be entered on the property assessment roll.

The Act grants local municipalities the power to adopt a differentiated zoning by-law. The Act allows such municipalities to require, under an agreement concerning incentive zoning, payment of a sum of money intended for the implementation of an affordable,

social or family housing program. It amends the penal sanctions that may be imposed for the felling of trees in contravention of a municipal by-law.

The Act provides that a municipal body's by-law on contract management must also include measures to promote Québec or otherwise Canadian goods and services as well as suppliers, insurers and contractors having an establishment in Québec or elsewhere in Canada, and increases the ceiling applicable to the amounts that a municipality may pay into its financial reserves.

The Act confers on the minister responsible for natural resources the power to transfer gratuitously lands in the domain of the State for educational purposes, for the provision of health services and social services or for uses that are incidental to those uses and, where the assignee is a municipality, for purposes of urban development.

The Act establishes that, for the purposes of any Act other than the Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance, a commissioner of an English-language school board, a council of commissioners of an English-language school board and an English-language school board are deemed to be, respectively, a member of the board of directors of a school service centre, a board of directors of a school service centre and a school service centre.

Lastly, the Act includes miscellaneous, transitional and final provisions.

LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THIS ACT:

– Act to protect elected municipal officers and to facilitate the unhindered exercise of their functions (2024, chapter 25, section 1).

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS ACT:

- Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1);
- Act respecting the National Assembly (chapter A-23.1);
- Charter of Ville de Gatineau (chapter C-11.1);
- Charter of Ville de Longueuil (chapter C-11.3);

- Charter of Ville de Montréal, metropolis of Québec (chapter C-11.4);
- Charter of Ville de Québec, national capital of Québec (chapter C-11.5);
- Cities and Towns Act (chapter C-19);
- Municipal Code of Québec (chapter C-27.1);
- Act respecting the Commission municipale (chapter C-35);
- Act respecting the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (chapter C-37.01);
- Act respecting the Communauté métropolitaine de Québec (chapter C-37.02);
- Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2);
- Election Act (chapter E-3.3);
- Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act (chapter E-15.1.0.1);
- Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (chapter E-20.1);
- Act respecting municipal taxation (chapter F-2.1);
- Act establishing the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (chapter G-1.04);
- Education Act (chapter I-13.3);
- Act respecting the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l’Occupation du territoire (chapter M-22.1);
- Act respecting municipal territorial organization (chapter O-9);
- Police Act (chapter P-13.1);
- Act respecting the Société du Centre des congrès de Québec (chapter S-14.001);
- Act respecting the Société du Palais des congrès de Montréal (chapter S-14.1);

- Act respecting public transit authorities (chapter S-30.01);
- Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (chapter T-8.1);
- Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34);
- Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing (2024, chapter 2).

Bill 57

AN ACT TO ENACT THE ACT TO PROTECT ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND TO FACILITATE THE UNHINDERED EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS AND TO AMEND VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

ENACTMENT OF THE ACT TO PROTECT ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND TO FACILITATE THE UNHINDERED EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS

1. The Act to protect elected municipal officers and to facilitate the unhindered exercise of their functions, the text of which appears in this chapter, is enacted.

“ACT TO PROTECT ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND TO FACILITATE THE UNHINDERED EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS

1. The purpose of this Act is to promote the role of elected municipal officers, to encourage candidates to run in municipal elections and to improve the retention of elected municipal officers already in office by facilitating exercise of the functions of elected office within Québec municipal institutions that is unhindered and free from threats, harassment and intimidation, without restricting the right of any person to participate in public debates.

2. For the purposes of this Act,

(1) “**elected municipal officer**” means a member of the council of a local municipality or a warden elected in accordance with section 210.29.2 of the Act respecting municipal territorial organization (chapter O-9);

(2) “**municipal body**” means a local municipality, a regional county municipality, a metropolitan community, a public transit authority, an intermunicipal board, the Kativik Regional Government or the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government.

“3. An elected municipal officer who, due to being an elected officer, is the subject of comments and actions that abusively hinder the exercise of their functions or that constitute an unlawful infringement of their privacy, may apply to the Superior Court for an injunction to put an end to the situation.

The Court assesses the application taking into account the public interest. It may, in particular, order a person

(1) to not attend the sittings of any council of a municipal body of which the elected officer is a member;

(2) to not be in the offices of any municipal body referred to in subparagraph 1 without having been authorized to do so by the council of that body;

(3) to cease communicating with the elected officer; or

(4) to cease disseminating in the public sphere comments referred to in the first paragraph.

An application is heard and decided on an urgent basis.

For the purposes of the first paragraph, expressing an opinion, by any means, in a manner that is in keeping with the democratic values of Québec does not constitute a hindrance.

“4. Anyone who, during a sitting of any council of a municipal body, causes disorder in a way that abusively interferes with the conduct of the sitting is liable to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500.

“5. Anyone who hinders the exercise of an elected municipal officer’s functions by threatening, intimidating or harassing the officer in a manner that causes them to reasonably fear for their integrity or safety is liable to a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,500.

“6. Legal action referred to in section 3 may be taken by a local municipality for the benefit of a member of its council or by a regional county municipality for the benefit of its warden elected in accordance with section 210.29.2 of the Act respecting municipal territorial organization.

Where the member or warden takes such legal action themselves or through an attorney of their choice, the municipality referred to in the first paragraph must pay any reasonable costs incurred for the action or, with the consent of the member or warden, reimburse those costs to them instead of paying the costs. However, if the Superior Court does not grant an injunction and the municipality is of the opinion that the legal action was taken without reasonable cause, the municipality is exempt from that obligation and may, where applicable, claim reimbursement of the expenses it incurred.

“7. A local municipality may institute penal proceedings for an offence under section 4 or 5 that was committed in its territory.

The fine belongs to the municipality that instituted the proceedings.

Proceedings referred to in the first paragraph are instituted in any municipal court having jurisdiction in the territory in which the offence was committed. The costs relating to proceedings instituted before a municipal court belong to the municipality to which the court is attached, except the part of the costs remitted to another prosecuting party by the collector under article 345.2 of the Code of Penal Procedure (chapter C-25.1), and the costs remitted to the defendant or imposed on that municipality under article 223 of that Code.

“8. No injunction may be applied for under section 3 against an elected municipal officer regarding words or actions directed at another member of the municipal council of which the elected officer is a member.

No penal proceedings may be instituted against an elected municipal officer under section 4 regarding an act performed during a sitting of the council of which the elected officer is a member, or under section 5 regarding an act directed at another member of the municipal council of which the elected officer is a member.

“9. The Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy is responsible for the administration of this Act.”

CHAPTER II

AMENDING PROVISIONS

ACT RESPECTING LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

2. Section 110.10.1 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1) is amended by replacing “or incentive zoning by-law” in the first paragraph by “, incentive zoning by-law or differentiated zoning by-law”.

3. Section 120 of the Act is amended by replacing “with the by-law adopted under section 116 and with the by-law adopted under section 145.21” in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph by “with the by-law adopted under section 116, 145.21 or 145.35.5”.

4. Section 123 of the Act is amended by inserting “or the differentiated zoning by-law” after “the incentive zoning by-law” in subparagraph 2 of the fourth paragraph.

5. Section 145.35.2 of the Act is amended by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph *a* of subparagraph 1 of the second paragraph:

“(a.1) pay the municipality a sum of money intended for the implementation of an affordable, social or family housing program, or transfer, in favour of the municipality, an immovable intended to be used for those purposes.”.

6. The Act is amended by inserting the following division after section 145.35.4:

“DIVISION X.2

“DIFFERENTIATED ZONING

“145.35.5. Every municipality may adopt a differentiated zoning by-law to promote the construction of affordable or social housing.

“145.35.6. The by-law may contain any standard that complies with section 113, excluding a standard relating to uses, and that is intended to apply in replacement of a standard contained in the zoning by-law.

A replacement standard applies to a project where the following conditions are met:

(1) the applicant for the building permit or certificate of authorization indicates to the municipality that the applicant wishes to be subject to the replacement standards; and

(2) the project consists mainly of the construction of affordable or social housing units, in accordance with the requirements prescribed for that purpose in the by-law.

“145.35.7. The by-law must prescribe standards to ensure the social nature or affordability of the housing for the time it determines.

The by-law may provide that an offence under any of its provisions is punishable by a fine of which it prescribes the minimum and maximum amounts, provided the maximum does not exceed \$10,000.

The by-law may prescribe separate minimum and maximum amounts for a second or subsequent offence or for cases where the offender is not a natural person.”

7. Section 188 of the Act is amended by inserting “and subject to the third paragraph of article 4 of that Code” after “(chapter C-27.1)” in the second paragraph.

8. Section 233.1 of the Act is amended by replacing “under section 79.3 or either of subparagraphs 12 or 12.1” and “2,500” in the introductory clause of the first paragraph by “under subparagraph 12” and “500”, respectively.

9. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 233.1:

“233.1.0.1. The minimum fine for felling trees in contravention of a regulatory provision adopted under section 79.3 or subparagraph 12.1 of the second paragraph of section 113 is \$500 plus,

(1) for felling trees on 1,000 m² or less of land, an amount varying from \$100 to \$2,500; or

(2) for felling trees on more than 1,000 m² of land, an amount varying from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per hectare deforested or, proportionately, per fraction of a hectare; where at least half of the forest cover has been felled, the maximum amount is increased to \$30,000.

The amounts specified in the first paragraph are doubled for a second or subsequent offence.”

10. Section 264.0.9 of the Act is amended by replacing “or incentive zoning by-law” in the second paragraph by “, incentive zoning by-law or differentiated zoning by-law”.

ACT RESPECTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

11. Section 55 of the Act respecting the National Assembly (chapter A-23.1) is amended

(1) by replacing “parliamentary duties or” in paragraph 7 by “duties or”;

(2) by inserting “intimidating, harassing or” at the beginning of paragraph 8;

12. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 56:

“56.1. A Member who, due to being an elected officer, is the subject of comments or actions from a person other than a Member that abusively hinder the exercise of their functions or that constitute an unlawful infringement of their privacy may apply to the Superior Court for an injunction to put an end to the situation.

The Court assesses the application taking into account the public interest. It may, in particular, order a person

(1) to not be in the Member’s electoral division office;

(2) to not be in the offices of the staff of a member of the Conseil exécutif;

- (3) to cease communicating with the Member; or
- (4) to cease disseminating in the public sphere comments referred to in the first paragraph.

An application shall be heard and decided on an urgent basis.

For the purposes of the first paragraph, expressing an opinion, by any means, in a manner that is in keeping with the democratic values of Québec does not constitute a hindrance.

A copy of the application must be notified to the President.”

13. Section 85.1 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting “or where the Member takes the legal action provided for in section 56.1” at the end of the second paragraph;

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end of the third paragraph: “It may also refuse to reimburse the costs incurred in connection with the legal action taken under section 56.1 but only if the Superior Court refused to grant an injunction and the juriconsult is of the opinion that the legal action was taken without reasonable cause.”

CHARTER OF VILLE DE GATINEAU

14. Section 18 of Schedule B to the Charter of Ville de Gatineau (chapter C-11.1) is repealed.

CHARTER OF VILLE DE LONGUEUIL

15. Section 72 of the Charter of Ville de Longueuil (chapter C-11.3) is amended by inserting “, X.2” after “X.1” in the first paragraph.

16. Section 39 of Schedule C to the Charter is repealed.

CHARTER OF VILLE DE MONTRÉAL, METROPOLIS OF QUÉBEC

17. Section 131 of the Charter of Ville de Montréal, metropolis of Québec (chapter C-11.4) is amended by inserting “, X.2” after “X.1” in the first paragraph.

18. Section 144.7 of the Charter is amended by replacing “June” in the first paragraph by “September”.

19. Section 223 of Schedule C to the Charter is amended by inserting “educational, social, community, environmental, scientific,” after “organize” in the first paragraph.

20. Schedule D to the Charter is amended by adding the following at the end:

“—Maison Nivard-De Saint-Dizier.”

CHARTER OF VILLE DE QUÉBEC, NATIONAL CAPITAL
OF QUÉBEC

21. Section 115 of the Charter of Ville de Québec, national capital of Québec (chapter C-11.5) is amended by inserting “, X.2” after “X.1” in the first paragraph.

22. Schedule C to the Charter is amended by inserting the following section after section 125:

“**126.** A person who demolishes an immovable or has it demolished without the Commission’s authorization or in contravention of the conditions of the authorization is liable to a fine of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$250,000.”

CITIES AND TOWNS ACT

23. The Cities and Towns Act (chapter C-19) is amended by inserting the following section after section 6:

“**6.1.** The provisions of this Act or of another Act, except those of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2), that apply only to municipalities having a population of 100,000 or more continue to apply to a municipality whose population falls below that threshold.

Despite the first paragraph, a municipality ceases to be subject to the provisions that are applicable to it under the first paragraph when its population is both decreasing and below 100,000 inhabitants for five consecutive years. In such a case, the municipality must notify the Minister and the Minister of Public Security.

A municipality that, under the second paragraph, is no longer subject to those provisions becomes subject to them again if its population is again 100,000 inhabitants or more.”

24. Section 105.2 of the Act is amended by replacing “15 May” in the first paragraph by “30 June”.

25. Section 105.2.2 of the Act is amended by replacing “June” in the first paragraph by “September”.

26. Section 114.4 of the Act is amended by replacing “100,000” in the first paragraph by “50,000”.

27. Section 322 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the third paragraph: “It may also, by by-law, prescribe measures to give precedence to questions put by persons who reside in the territory of the municipality or who are the owners of an immovable or the occupants of a business establishment situated in that territory.”

28. Section 328 is amended

(1) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

“Despite the first paragraph, the council of a municipality with a population of 50,000 or more must, if the mayor so requests, choose from among its members a chair of the council as well as a vice-chair to replace the chair if the latter is absent. In the absence of the chair and the vice-chair, the council shall choose another of its members to preside.”;

(2) by replacing “fourth” in the third and fifth paragraphs by “fifth”.

29. Section 331 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“331. The council must adopt internal management by-laws that include standards with respect to maintaining order, respect and civility during its sittings.”

30. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 332:

“332.1. A member of the council of a municipality who so wishes may participate remotely in a sitting of the council by a means allowing all persons who participate in or attend the sitting to see and hear each other in real time, in the following cases:

(1) during a special sitting;

(2) because of a reason related to the member’s safety or health, or the safety or health of a close relation, and, if a health reason is invoked, for a maximum of three regular sittings per year or, where applicable, for the duration indicated in a medical certificate attesting that remote participation by the member is necessary;

(3) because of a deficiency causing a significant and persistent disability that constitutes a barrier to the member’s participation in person in council sittings; or

(4) because of the member’s pregnancy or the birth or adoption of the member’s child, in which case remote participation shall not exceed the following number of consecutive weeks:

(a) 50, if the member was not absent due to pregnancy or the birth or adoption of the member’s child in accordance with section 317 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2); or

(b) the number obtained by subtracting 50 from the number of weeks the member was absent for a reason referred to in subparagraph a.

Remote participation is allowed only if the member participates in the sitting from a location situated in Québec or in a bordering province.

The minutes of the sitting must mention the name of any council member who participated in the sitting remotely.

If a majority of the council members participate in a sitting remotely, the municipality must make a video recording of the sitting and make it available to the public, on the municipality's website or on any other website it designates by resolution, from the working day following the day on which the sitting ended."

31. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 468.27:

"468.27.1. The board of directors must adopt a code of ethics and conduct applicable to the officers and employees of the management board. Section 16.1 of the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act (chapter E-15.1.0.1) applies, with the necessary modifications, to that code."

32. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 468.28:

"468.28.1. A member who so wishes may participate remotely in a meeting by a means allowing all persons who participate in or attend the meeting to see and hear each other in real time.

Remote participation is allowed only if the member participates in the meeting from a location situated in Québec or in a bordering province.

The minutes of the meeting must mention the name of any member who participated in the meeting remotely.

If a majority of the members participate remotely in a meeting, the management board must make a video recording of the meeting and make it available to the public from the working day following the day on which the meeting ended.

Despite the first paragraph, a member must participate in person in the meeting during which the budget of the management board is drawn up. However, a member's remote participation in that meeting is allowed in the following cases:

(1) for a reason related to the member's safety or health, or the safety or health of a close relation, provided that, where a health reason is invoked, a medical certificate attests that the member's remote participation is necessary;

(2) because of a deficiency causing a significant and persistent disability that constitutes a barrier to the member's participation in person in the meeting; or

(3) because of the member's pregnancy or the birth or adoption of the member's child."

33. Section 468.45.5 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing "30" in subparagraph 1 by "50";

(2) by replacing "15" in subparagraph 2 by "30".

34. Section 509 of the Act is amended by striking out the third paragraph.

35. Section 512 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraphs at the end:

"The council may prescribe the payment period to be granted to the purchaser of an immovable. In such a case, the council shall prescribe the manner in which the immovable is to be put up for sale again should payment not be made within the allotted period.

If the council grants a payment period, it may also provide that the bids are to be made remotely instead of being made in a physical place."

36. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 512:

"512.1. The council may prescribe that, should the highest bidder fail to pay the amount of his purchase money within the applicable period, the second highest bidder shall be substituted for him as the purchaser, instead of the immovable being put up for sale again.

The council's decision must also prescribe the terms of such an adjudication, in particular the manner in which the immovable is to be put up for sale again should the second highest bidder be in default of payment within the applicable period."

37. Section 513 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

"The notice must mention any decision made under the second or third paragraph of section 512 or under section 512.1. If bids are made remotely, the notice must state how and when bids will be received and specify the closing date."

38. Section 517 of the Act is amended by striking out the last sentence.

39. Section 519 of the Act is amended by inserting the following at the beginning of the first paragraph: “Subject to a payment period prescribed under the second paragraph of section 512,”.

40. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 534:

“534.1. The purchaser may compel the owner, or the person who redeems the immovable in the name of the owner, to indemnify him for all necessary repairs and improvements made by him on the immovable so redeemed, even if they are then non-existent, with interest on the whole at the rate of 10% per annum, a fraction of the year being counted as a year.

The purchaser may retain possession of the immovable redeemed until payment of such claim.”

41. Section 535 of the Act is repealed.

42. Section 536 of the Act is amended by striking out the second paragraph.

43. Section 569.5 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing “30” in subparagraph 1 by “50”;

(2) by replacing “15” in subparagraph 2 by “30”.

44. Section 573.3.1.2 of the Act is amended, in the third paragraph,

(1) by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 6:

“(6.1) measures to promote Québec or otherwise Canadian goods and services as well as suppliers, insurers and contractors having an establishment in Québec or elsewhere in Canada for the making of any contract that involves an expenditure below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 573; and”;

(2) by replacing “that may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph and that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 573” in subparagraph 7 by “that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 573, to the extent that those contracts may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph or are covered by a measure taken under subparagraph 6.1”.

45. Section 604.6 of the Act is amended

(1) by adding the following subparagraph at the end of the first paragraph:

“(4) offer assistance to a person who is summoned to appear at an inquiry or a pre-inquiry in connection with his functions as a member of the council or as an officer or employee of the municipality or of a mandatory body of the municipality.”;

(2) by inserting “or where he obtains assistance from the attorney of his choice” after “representation” in the second paragraph.

46. Section 604.7 of the Act is amended by replacing “relating to the person’s defence or representation assumed by the person himself or by an attorney of his choice” in the second paragraph by “incurred under the second paragraph of section 604.6”.

MUNICIPAL CODE OF QUÉBEC

47. Article 4 of the Municipal Code of Québec (chapter C-27.1) is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“This article also applies for the purposes of the exercise by a regional county municipality of a function set out in Title XXV on behalf of a municipality governed by the Cities and Towns Act, under an agreement made in accordance with article 569 or 569.0.1 or under article 678.0.1.”

48. Article 149.1 of the Code is amended by replacing “paragraph 2 of article 491” in the first paragraph by “article 159.1”.

49. Article 150 of the Code is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: “It may also, by by-law, prescribe measures to give precedence to questions put by persons who reside in the territory of the municipality, or who are the owners of an immovable or the occupants of a business establishment situated in that territory.”

50. The Code is amended by inserting the following article after article 159:

“**159.1.** The council must adopt internal management by-laws that include standards with respect to maintaining order, respect and civility during its sittings.”

51. Article 164.1 of the Code is replaced by the following article:

“**164.1.** A member of the council of a municipality who so wishes may participate remotely in a sitting of the council by a means allowing all persons who participate in or attend the sitting to see and hear each other in real time, in the following cases:

(1) during a special sitting;

(2) because of a reason related to the member's safety or health, or the safety or health of a close relation, and, if a health reason is invoked, for a maximum of three regular sittings per year or, where applicable, for the duration indicated in a medical certificate attesting that remote participation by the member is necessary;

(3) because of a deficiency causing a significant and persistent disability that constitutes a barrier to the member's participation in person in council sittings;

(4) because of the member's pregnancy or the birth or adoption of the member's child, in which case remote participation shall not exceed the following number of consecutive weeks:

(a) 50, if the member was not absent due to pregnancy or the birth or adoption of the member's child in accordance with section 317 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2); or

(b) the number obtained by subtracting 50 from the number of weeks the member was absent for a reason referred to in subparagraph *a*;

(5) during a sitting of the council of Municipalité régionale de comté de Caniapiscau, Municipalité régionale de comté de Minganie or Municipalité régionale de comté du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent; or

(6) the member is the representative of Municipalité de Rapides-des-Joachims, Paroisse de Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs or Paroisse de Saint-Antoine-de-l'Isle-aux-Grues on the council of the regional county municipality to which the member belongs and the member participates in a sitting of the council of that regional county municipality.

Remote participation is allowed only if the member participates in the sitting from a location situated in Québec or in a bordering province.

The minutes of the sitting must mention the name of any council member who participated in the sitting remotely.

If a majority of the council members participate in a sitting remotely, the municipality must make a video recording of the sitting and make it available to the public, on the municipality's website or on any other website it designates by resolution, from the working day following the day on which the sitting ended."

52. Article 176.2 of the Code is amended by replacing "15 May" in the first paragraph by "30 June".

53. Article 176.2.2 of the Code is amended by replacing “June” in the first paragraph by “September”.

54. Article 491 of the Code is amended by striking out paragraph 2.

55. The Code is amended by inserting the following article after article 596:

“596.1. The board of directors must adopt a code of ethics and conduct applicable to the officers and employees of the management board. Section 16.1 of the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act (chapter E-15.1.0.1) applies, with the necessary modifications, to that code.”

56. The Code is amended by inserting the following article after article 597:

“597.1. A member who so wishes may participate remotely in a meeting by a means allowing all persons who participate in or attend the meeting to see and hear each other in real time.

Remote participation is allowed only if the member participates in the meeting from a location situated in Québec or in a bordering province.

The minutes of the meeting must mention the name of any member who participated in the meeting remotely.

If a majority of the members participate in a meeting remotely, the management board must make a video recording of the meeting and make it available to the public from the working day following the day on which the meeting ended.

Despite the first paragraph, a member must participate in person in the meeting during which the budget of the management board is drawn up. However, a member’s remote participation in that meeting is allowed in the following cases:

(1) for a reason related to the member’s safety or health, or the safety or health of a close relation, provided that, where a health reason is invoked, a medical certificate attests that the member’s remote participation is necessary;

(2) because of a deficiency causing a significant and persistent disability that constitutes a barrier to the member’s participation in person in the meeting; or

(3) because of the member’s pregnancy or the birth or adoption of the member’s child.”

57. Article 614.5 of the Code is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing “30” in subparagraph 1 by “50”;

(2) by replacing “15” in subparagraph 2 by “30”.

58. Article 711.19.1 of the Code is amended

(1) by adding the following subparagraph at the end of the first paragraph:

“(4) offer assistance to a person who is summoned to appear at an inquiry or a pre-inquiry in connection with his functions as a member of the council or as an officer or employee of the municipality or of a mandatory body of the municipality.”;

(2) by inserting “or where he obtains assistance from the attorney of his choice” after “representation” in the second paragraph.

59. Article 711.19.2 of the Code is amended by replacing “relating to the person’s defence or representation assumed by the person himself or by an attorney of his choice” in the second paragraph by “incurred under the second paragraph of article 711.19.1”.

60. Article 938.1.2 of the Code is amended, in the third paragraph,

(1) by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 6:

“(6.1) measures to promote Québec or otherwise Canadian goods and services as well as suppliers, insurers and contractors having an establishment in Québec or elsewhere in Canada for the making of any contract that involves an expenditure below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under article 935; and”;

(2) by replacing “that may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph and that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under article 935” in subparagraph 7 by “that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under article 935, to the extent that those contracts may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph or are covered by a measure taken under subparagraph 6.1”.

61. Article 1026 of the Code is amended by inserting “or time” after “other date” in the fourth paragraph.

62. The Code is amended by inserting the following articles after article 1026:

“1026.1. The council of the regional county municipality may prescribe the payment period to be granted to the purchaser of an immovable. In such a case, the council shall prescribe the manner in which the immovable is to be put up for sale again should payment not be made within the allotted period.

If the council grants a payment period, it may also prescribe that the bids are to be made remotely instead of being made in a physical place.

“1026.2. The council of the regional county municipality may prescribe that, should the highest bidder fail to pay the amount of his purchase money within the applicable period, the second highest bidder shall be substituted for him as the purchaser, instead of the immovable being put up for sale again.

The council’s decision must also prescribe the terms of such an adjudication, including the manner in which the immovable is to be put up for sale again should the second highest bidder be in default of payment within the applicable period.

“1026.3. The notice provided for in the second paragraph of article 1026 must mention any decision made under article 1026.1 or 1026.2. If bids are made remotely, the notice must state how and when bids will be received and specify the closing date.”

63. Article 1033 of the Code is repealed.

64. Article 1034 of the Code is amended by inserting the following at the beginning of the first paragraph: “Subject to a payment period prescribed under article 1026.1,”.

65. Article 1036 of the Code is amended by inserting “or structures” after “timber” in the third paragraph.

66. Article 1038 of the Code is amended by striking out the second paragraph.

67. Article 1044 of the Code is amended by replacing “all municipal taxes” in the first paragraph by “the municipal and school taxes”.

68. Article 1057 of the Code is amended by replacing “The owner of any immovable sold under Chapter I of this Title (articles 1022 to 1056) may, within the year following the date of the adjudication, redeem the same” by “An immovable sold for taxes may be redeemed by the owner or his legal representatives, at any time within the year following the date of the adjudication”.

69. Article 1094.5 of the Code is amended, in the first paragraph,

- (1) by replacing “30” in subparagraph 1 by “50”;
- (2) by replacing “15” in subparagraph 2 by “30”.

ACT RESPECTING THE COMMISSION MUNICIPALE

70. Section 19 of the Act respecting the Commission municipale (chapter C-35) is amended by inserting “, 32” after “22”.

ACT RESPECTING THE COMMUNAUTÉ MÉTROPOLITAINE DE MONTRÉAL

71. Section 28 of the Act respecting the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (chapter C-37.01) is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The council must adopt standards with respect to maintaining order, respect and civility during its sittings.”

72. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 28:

“28.0.1. Section 332.1 of the Cities and Towns Act (chapter C-19) applies, with the necessary modifications, to remote participation in a sitting of the council of the Community.”

73. Section 113.2 of the Act is amended, in the third paragraph,

(1) by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 6:

“(6.1) measures to promote Québec or otherwise Canadian goods and services as well as suppliers, insurers and contractors having an establishment in Québec or elsewhere in Canada for the making of any contract that involves an expenditure below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 108; and”;

(2) by replacing “that may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph and that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 108” in subparagraph 7 by “that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 108, to the extent that those contracts may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph or are covered by a measure taken under subparagraph 6.1”.

74. Section 194 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing “30” in subparagraph 1 by “50”;

(2) by replacing “15” in subparagraph 2 by “30”.

75. Section 209 of the Act is amended by replacing “15 May” in the first paragraph by “30 June”.

76. Section 210.1 of the Act is amended by replacing “June” in the first paragraph by “September”.

ACT RESPECTING THE COMMUNAUTÉ MÉTROPOLITAINE
DE QUÉBEC

77. Section 20 of the Act respecting the Communauté métropolitaine de Québec (chapter C-37.02) is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The council must adopt standards with respect to maintaining order, respect and civility during its sittings.”

78. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 20:

“20.0.1. Section 332.1 of the Cities and Towns Act (chapter C-19) applies, with the necessary modifications, to remote participation in a sitting of the council of the Community.”

79. Section 106.2 of the Act is amended, in the third paragraph,

(1) by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 6:

“(6.1) measures to promote Québec or otherwise Canadian goods and services as well as suppliers, insurers and contractors having an establishment in Québec or elsewhere in Canada for the making of any contract that involves an expenditure below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 101; and”;

(2) by replacing “that may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph and that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 101” in subparagraph 7 by “that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 101, to the extent that those contracts may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph or are covered by a measure taken under subparagraph 6.1”.

80. Section 184 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing “30” in subparagraph 1 by “50”;

(2) by replacing “15” in subparagraph 2 by “30”.

81. Section 196 of the Act is amended by replacing “15 May” in the first paragraph by “30 June”.

82. Section 197.1 of the Act is amended by replacing “June” in the first paragraph by “September”.

ACT RESPECTING ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS IN MUNICIPALITIES

83. The Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2) is amended by inserting the following section after section 44:

“**44.1.** Despite section 44, the council of a municipality having a population of under 2,000 and whose territory is not divided for election purposes may be composed of the mayor and four councillors if a by-law is passed for that purpose.

To that end, the council must pass, by resolution, a draft by-law and hold a public consultation meeting on it. Not later than ten days before the day of the meeting, the council must have a notice published that indicates the date, time and place of the meeting. The provisions of section 20 apply to the meeting.

The by-law must be passed not later than 31 December of the calendar year preceding the year in which the general election is to be held and applies from that general election. The same applies to a by-law that repeals the by-law, which, however, is not subject to the requirements of the second paragraph.

The clerk or the clerk-treasurer must send a certified copy of the by-law to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy and to the Chief Electoral Officer.”

84. Section 47 of the Act is amended by replacing “12 months” in subparagraph 2 by “45 days”.

85. Section 54 of the Act is amended by replacing the first and second paragraphs by the following paragraph:

“Every person who is an elector of a municipality, or will be such an elector on polling day, may be entered on the list of electors.”

86. Section 55 of the Act is amended by replacing “on 1 September of the calendar year in which a general election must be held” by “or who will be on polling day”.

87. Section 58 of the Act is amended by striking out “, on 1 September of the calendar year in which a general election is to be held,” in the first paragraph.

88. Section 61 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**61.** A person is eligible for office as a member of the council of a municipality if he is entitled to have his name entered on the list of electors of the municipality and if he resides in the territory of the municipality.”

89. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 70:

“**70.0.1.** A clerk-treasurer who also holds the office of director general may, with the authorization of the Commission municipale du Québec, appoint another person to act as returning officer for a period not exceeding four years. Where the person is not already an officer or employee of the municipality, the application for authorization must, on pain of dismissal, be accompanied by the contract of employment to be entered into with the person. If the application is filed during a year in which a general election is to be held, it must be filed not later than 1 May.

The clerk-treasurer may, with the authorization of the Commission, enter into the contract of employment referred to in the first paragraph, which has no effect unless, in accordance with a by-law adopted under the second paragraph of section 477 of the Cities and Towns Act (chapter C-19) or the second paragraph of article 960.1 of the Municipal Code of Québec (chapter C-27.1), as the case may be, funds are available.

If the appointed person is unable to act, the clerk-treasurer shall replace the person, except during the election period.

The clerk-treasurer shall inform the Chief Electoral Officer as soon as possible of the person’s appointment as returning officer.

“**70.0.2.** The Commission may, for cause, dismiss the person appointed in accordance with the first paragraph of section 70.0.1 after giving the person the opportunity to be heard.”

90. Section 77 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“This section does not apply to the deputy returning officer and the poll clerk of the polling station at the office of the returning officer.”

91. Section 81.1 of the Act is amended by replacing the first, second and third paragraphs by the following paragraphs:

“An identity verification panel must be established in every place where a polling station is located. The panel shall be established, at the discretion of the returning officer, at the polling station or elsewhere in that place.

Any panel referred to in the first paragraph shall be composed of three members, including a chairman.

The members of a panel established at the polling station are the deputy returning officer, the poll clerk and a chairman appointed by the returning officer. The members of a panel established elsewhere in that place shall be appointed by the returning officer and, in the case of a municipality described in section 77, sections 77 to 79 apply, with the necessary modifications, to the appointment of members other than the chairman.”

92. Section 81.2 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“81.2. Despite section 81.1, an identity verification panel established for a mobile polling station or for the polling station at the office of the returning officer shall be composed of the deputy returning officer, who is the chairman of the panel, and the poll clerk; the deputy returning officer and the poll clerk shall make their decisions unanimously.”

93. Section 99 of the Act is amended by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 4 of the first paragraph:

“(4.1) the requirements to be met to be entitled to vote at a mobile polling station;”.

94. Section 100 of the Act is amended by striking out the fifth paragraph.

95. Section 125 of the Act is amended by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph:

“(3.1) the other means of making an application to the board of revisors, determined in accordance with subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph of section 132;”.

96. Section 126 of the Act is amended by inserting “, 3.1” after both occurrences of “3” in the first paragraph.

97. Section 128 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“128. Any person whose name is not entered on the list of electors when it could be may apply to the competent board of revisors to have his name entered on the list.

An application to have one’s name struck off the list of electors may be submitted by any person

- (1) who should not be entered on the list of electors;
- (2) who does not wish to be entered on the list of electors; or

(3) who is entered on the list of electors for the wrong domicile, immovable or business establishment.

In a case referred to in subparagraph 2 of the second paragraph, the striking off may apply only for the purposes of a municipal poll.

In a case referred to in subparagraph 3 of the second paragraph, a person's application to have his name struck off must be accompanied by an application to have his name entered on the list of electors if the person wishes to exercise his right to vote. Where two boards are each competent to hear one of the applications, the board before which a first application is made becomes competent to hear the other application. That board shall notify the returning officer of its decision concerning the part of the list that is not within its competence, and the returning officer shall send the notice to the other board."

98. Section 129 of the Act is amended by replacing "apply in person to the competent board of revisors to have the name of that person struck off the list" by "apply to the competent board of revisors to have that person's name struck off the list".

99. Section 130 of the Act is amended by replacing "shall apply in person to the competent board of revisors" by "may apply to the competent board of revisors".

100. Section 132 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

"132. Every application must be made to the board of revisors

(1) in person, on the days and at the times fixed by the returning officer; or

(2) by any other means determined by the returning officer.

The Chief Electoral Officer may determine standards applicable to the choice and use of the means referred to in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph.

The returning officer must provide that the board of revisors must hear the applications made in person on at least two separate days, not later than two days before the last day the board of revisors sits in accordance with the first paragraph of section 122. The sittings must be held between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and last for at least three hours, and one of them must be held between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m."

101. Section 133 of the Act is amended by replacing "before" in the first paragraph by "to".

102. Section 134.1 of the Act is amended by replacing "person" and "lodged in such a facility" in the first paragraph by "person who is domiciled in the territory of the municipality and who has a mobility impairment or is unable

to move about for health reasons, any person who is” and “any person who is lodged in such a facility and”, respectively.

103. Section 146 of the Act is amended by replacing the last sentence of the second paragraph by the following sentence: “Section 6.1 of the Cities and Towns Act (chapter C-19) applies, with the necessary modifications, if the population of the municipality falls below 100,000.”

104. Section 171 of the Act is amended by replacing subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph by the following subparagraph:

“(3) an entry allowing a distinction to be made between the independent candidates for the same office who have the same name, if applicable;”.

105. Section 172 of the Act is amended by replacing “, to the name and to the address” in the first paragraph by “and to the name”.

106. Section 174 of the Act is replaced by the following sections:

“174. An advance poll must be held seven days before polling day and, if the returning officer so decides, eight days before polling day.

In addition to the advance poll, the returning officer may allow voters to exercise their right to vote at the polling station at his office or at a mobile polling station, which are considered advance polling stations for the purposes of this Act.

Voting at the returning officer’s office may, at the discretion of the returning officer, take place on the ninth, sixth, fifth and fourth days before polling day. For municipalities with a population of 20,000 or more, such voting must be held at least nine days before polling day.

Voting at a mobile polling station may, at the discretion of the returning officer, take place on the ninth, eighth, sixth, fifth and fourth days before polling day.

“174.1. The returning officer may, instead of establishing a polling station at his office, decide that voting will take place at any other place. The other place is considered to be the office of the returning officer for the purposes of the provisions of this Act governing the voting to take place there.”

107. Section 175 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“175. Any elector whose name is entered on the list of electors may vote in an advance poll.

An elector who has a mobility impairment or is unable to move about for health reasons may vote at a mobile polling station if the following requirements are met:

- (1) the elector is entered on the list of electors as a domiciled person; and
- (2) the elector or his caregiver applies therefor to the returning officer not later than the last day fixed for making applications to the board of revisors or, if there is no revision of the list under section 277, not later than 12 days before polling day.

An elector referred to in the second paragraph who is domiciled in any private seniors' residence within the meaning of the Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34) or the Act respecting health services and social services for the Inuit and Naskapi (chapter S-4.2) or in any facility referred to in the second paragraph of section 50 and who has not made an application under subparagraph 2 may be admitted to vote in an advance poll at a mobile polling station if he applies therefor at the mobile polling station.

An elector who acts as a caregiver for an elector referred to in the second paragraph may vote at the same mobile polling station as that elector if he is registered on the part of the list of electors for the polling subdivision in which the domicile of the person for whom he acts as a caregiver is located.”

108. Section 177 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out “and determine, where applicable, any such station that is a mobile polling station” in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after the second paragraph:

“The mobile polling station established for a private seniors' residence within the meaning of the Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34) or the Act respecting health services and social services for the Inuit and Naskapi (chapter S-4.2) or a facility referred to in the second paragraph of section 50 may, at the discretion of the returning officer and in addition to going to electors, be set up in a common area.”

109. Section 177.1 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**177.1.** No person to whom Division V of Chapter V applies may be present during polling at the office of the returning officer or at the mobile polling station.”

110. Section 178 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**178.** Every advance polling station and every office of the returning officer must be accessible to handicapped persons.

The operator of any private seniors' residence within the meaning of the Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34) or the Act respecting health services and social services for the Inuit and Naskapi (chapter S-4.2) or the president and executive director or the executive director, as the case may be, of any institution referred to in the second paragraph of section 50 is required to ensure that the mobile polling station has access to the electors.”

III. Section 179 of the Act is amended by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraphs:

“Voting at a mobile polling station shall take place during the hours fixed by the returning officer. Those hours may not, however, coincide with the hours fixed for voting in the advance poll or with those fixed for voting at the office of the returning officer.

Voting at the office of the returning officer shall take place during the hours fixed by the returning officer, who must allow at least four consecutive hours, between 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. For municipalities with a population of 20,000 or over, he must also provide that voting shall take place between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the ninth day before polling day.”

II2. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 179:

“179.1. A staff member of a private seniors' residence within the meaning of the Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34) or the Act respecting health services and social services for the Inuit and Naskapi (chapter S-4.2) or a facility referred to in the second paragraph of section 50 may confirm the identity of an elector who is domiciled there and who has no proof of identity in his possession. The procedure set out in subparagraph *b* of subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph of section 213.2 applies for that purpose, except subparagraph *iii*.”

II3. Section 182 of the Act is amended by inserting “on the first day” after “advance polling station” in the introductory clause of the first paragraph.

II4. Section 183 of the Act is amended

- (1) by replacing “the second day” in the first paragraph by “another day”;
- (2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“After the close of the polling station on that day, the deputy returning officer and the poll clerk shall observe the same formalities as after the close of the polling station on the first day. The ballot papers used or cancelled on that day shall be placed in envelopes separate from those containing the ballot papers used or cancelled on any prior day.”

II5. Section 193 of the Act is repealed.

116. Section 196 of the Act is amended by replacing the fourth paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Where two or more independent candidates for the same office have the same name, the ballot papers used in the polling for that office must include, under each candidate’s name, an entry allowing a distinction to be made between the candidates.”

117. Section 284 of the Act is amended by adding the following subparagraph at the end of the second paragraph:

“(8) the returning officer appointed in accordance with section 70.0.1.”

118. Section 300 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out “after 1 September of the calendar year in which the election was held,” in paragraph 2;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph 4:

“(4.1) if he was elected while holding the office of director general, clerk or treasurer of the regional county municipality whose territory includes that of the municipality concerned or such an office in another municipality included in the same urban agglomeration as that of the municipality concerned or in the same regional county municipality and did not cease to hold that office before the 31st day after taking his oath of office as a member of the council, as long as the plurality continues;”;

(3) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“(6) if he begins, after his election, to hold the office of director general, clerk or treasurer of the regional county municipality whose territory includes that of the municipality concerned or such an office in another municipality included in the same urban agglomeration as that of the municipality concerned or in the same regional county municipality, as long as the plurality continues.”

119. Section 317 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “in due time” in the third paragraph by “, not later than at the first sitting following the 90-day period mentioned in the first paragraph,”;

(2) by inserting “or under section 8 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l’Occupation du territoire (chapter M-22.1)” after “(chapter E-15.1.0.1)” in the fifth paragraph.

120. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 317:

“317.1. A council member whose absence is due to a reason referred to in the third paragraph of section 317 and causes no prejudice to the citizens of the municipality may request that the council, on the expiry of the 90-day period referred to in the first paragraph of that section, grant the member a new time limit. The request must be read by the clerk or the clerk-treasurer not later than at the first sitting of the council following the expiry of the 90-day period and the council must decide the matter at that sitting.

If the council refuses the request or fails to decide the matter, the member may, within 15 days after the sitting referred to in the first paragraph, apply to the Commission municipale du Québec for a new time limit of 30 days.

The Commission shall render its decision after hearing the member and the municipality, if the latter wishes to be heard.

The Commission shall send the municipality a notice of its decision, which must be read by the clerk or the clerk-treasurer at the first sitting of the council following its receipt.

On the expiry of any period of time granted by the Commission, a new time limit may be granted, with the necessary modifications, in accordance with the second, third and fourth paragraphs.”

121. Section 333 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“Within 30 days after the date on which the clerk or the clerk-treasurer ascertains that an office has become vacant, he shall also notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy of the vacancy.”

122. Section 341 of the Act is repealed.

123. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 346:

“346.1. The Minister may, at the request of the returning officer and after informing the Chief Electoral Officer, postpone or suspend an election where the safety of persons or property is threatened by a real or apprehended emergency situation or when an unforeseeable event seriously hinders the orderly conduct of the election.

The Minister may prescribe the standards applicable to the resumption of the election and may for that purpose adapt any provision of this Act, except Chapters XIII and XIV.

The Chief Electoral Officer may then, after informing the Minister, adapt any provision of Chapters XIII and XIV.

Within 30 days following the polling day fixed for the postponed or suspended election, the Minister must transmit to the President or the Secretary General of the National Assembly a report on the decisions the Minister made under the first and second paragraphs. The Chief Electoral Officer must do likewise with regard to the decisions he made under the third paragraph. The President shall table the reports in the National Assembly within 30 days after the day on which he received them or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 30 days after resumption.”

124. Section 387.1 of the Act is amended by replacing both occurrences of “being appointed” by “their names are entered in the register provided for in section 424”.

125. Section 429 of the Act is amended by replacing “designated in accordance with section 429.1” by “designated for that purpose by means of a power of attorney. Sections 55 to 55.2 apply to the power of attorney, with the necessary modifications”.

126. Section 429.1 of the Act is repealed.

127. Section 436 of the Act is amended by inserting “or by a transfer of funds to an account held by the official representative of the authorized party or independent candidate for which or whom the contribution is intended” at the end of the second paragraph.

128. Section 446.1 of the Act is amended by inserting “or by a transfer of funds from such an account to an account held by the official representative” at the end.

129. Section 471 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “to his order” in the third paragraph by “to the order of the treasurer or make a transfer of funds to the account held by the treasurer”;

(2) by inserting “or the transfer of funds” at the end of the fourth paragraph.

130. Section 488 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “revenues collected” by “revenues”;

(2) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“Any reimbursement of election expenses or of the expense incurred for the audit of a financial report as well as any supplemental public financing shall be excluded from the revenues referred to in the first paragraph.”

131. Section 494 of the Act is amended by inserting “or with a transfer of funds to the account held by the treasurer. The Chief Electoral Officer may, by directive, determine the terms governing the transfer of funds” at the end of the second paragraph.

132. Section 506 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**506.** On proof that the failure to file the report or return is due to the absence, death, illness, misconduct or physical disability of the official representative or official agent, a case of irresistible force or any other reasonable cause, the Chief Electoral Officer may determine an additional period of time for the preparation and delivery of the report or return.”

133. Section 508 of the Act is amended by replacing “505 to 507” by “505 and 507” in the first paragraph.

134. Section 512.14 of the Act is amended by replacing the third paragraph by the following paragraph:

“A private intervenor must pay any expense by means of a cheque or order of payment signed by the private intervenor if the private intervenor is an elector, or by the representative if the private intervenor is a group of electors, and drawn on the private intervenor’s account in a financial institution having an office in Québec. The expense can also be paid by a transfer of funds from such an account.”

135. Section 513.1.2 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraphs at the end:

“The gift of money may also be made by a transfer of funds from the account of the person making the gift to the account held by the person referred to in the first paragraph of section 513.1.

The Chief Electoral Officer may determine, by directive, the terms governing the transfer of funds.”

136. Section 518 of the Act is amended by replacing “has been, for at least 12 months” in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph by “is, on the date of reference”.

137. Section 612 of the Act is amended

- (1) by inserting “transfer of funds,” after “credit card,” in paragraph 2;
- (2) by inserting “or a transfer of funds” after “credit card” in paragraph 2.1.

138. Section 649 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“The clerk or the clerk-treasurer shall, not later than 30 days after an election, transmit to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy and to the Chief Electoral Officer a statement naming the persons who form the council of the municipality. The clerk or the clerk-treasurer shall also, at the request of the Minister or the Chief Electoral Officer and for the purpose of drawing up a statistical portrait of the election, transmit, as soon as possible, any data relating to the nominations, to the participation of electors in the election or to the results of the election.”;

(2) by inserting “, within 30 days,” after “notify” in the second paragraph.

139. Section 659 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: “Nor is a candidate’s or elected candidate’s address appearing on his nomination paper or declaration of election, as the case may be, except the name of the municipality.”

140. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 659:

“659.0.1. Despite section 659, a member of a council of a municipality, including a regional county municipality, may refuse to allow his address appearing on any document provided for by this Act, other than a list of electors or referendum list, to be communicated.

He may also refuse to allow his name, address, date of birth and sex entered on a list of electors or referendum list to be communicated when such a list is deposited for examination under section 121 or transmitted to an authorized party, a recognized ticket, a candidate or a representative of the qualified voters under section 106, 109, 139, 184, 564 or 659.5.

The council member shall inform the director general of the municipality concerned of his refusal, and the director general shall inform the Chief Electoral Officer, the returning officer and the treasurer.

The council member’s refusal shall remain valid until three months after the expiry of his term of office.

“659.0.2. Despite section 659, the address of a Member of the National Assembly appearing on any document provided for by this Act, other than a list of electors or referendum list, must not be communicated.

The name, address, date of birth and sex of any Member entered on a list of electors or referendum list must not be communicated when that list is deposited for examination under section 121 or transmitted to an authorized party, a recognized ticket, a candidate or a representative of the qualified voters under section 106, 109, 139, 184, 564 or 659.5.

The Chief Electoral Officer shall request that each Member indicate every address that must be covered by the first and second paragraphs. He shall transmit that information to the returning officer and the treasurer of each municipality concerned.

“659.0.3. In any publication of the Chief Electoral Officer relating to a list of electors having made a contribution or gift to an authorized party or to a candidate, the postal code of a Member of the National Assembly or that of a member of a council of a municipality who refused to allow the communication of his information under section 659.0.1 is replaced by the postal code of the Member’s electoral division office or that of the council member’s city hall, as applicable.”

141. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 659.4:

“659.5. Except during an election year or during the election period within the meaning of section 364, the Chief Electoral Officer shall send, in September of each year and according to the procedure he determines, to any party authorized under Chapter XIII, the list of the electors of the municipality within which the authorized party carries on activities whose names are entered on the permanent list of electors. The Chief Electoral Officer shall also send a copy to the municipality concerned.

The procedure provided for in the first paragraph must, in particular, be aimed at promoting compliance with the provisions of section 659.1. It must also concern the confidentiality of the information entered on the list and the designation of a person by the party to receive the list.”

142. Section 888 of the Act is amended by replacing “and 579” in the second paragraph by “, 579, 659.0.1 and 659.0.2”.

ELECTION ACT

143. Section 40.38.2 of the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) is amended by inserting “, with the exception of an elector who is a Member or of a member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2)” after “elector” in the second paragraph.

144. Section 93.1 of the Act is amended

(1) in the second paragraph,

(a) by replacing “elector, the city and” by “elector, the name of the municipality and the”;

(b) by inserting “or by a member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2)” after “contribution paid by a Member”;

(c) by replacing “the city and postal code of the Member’s electoral division office instead of the city and postal code of the Member’s domicile” by “the name of the municipality and the postal code of the Member’s electoral division office or the name of the municipality and the postal code of the city hall of the municipality of the council member having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information, as the case may be, instead of the name of the municipality and the postal code of the Member’s or council member’s domicile”;

(2) by replacing the first sentence of the fourth paragraph by the following sentence: “In addition, the Chief Electoral Officer shall replace, on the Chief Electoral Officer’s website, the name of the municipality and the postal code of the domicile of the Member or of the member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities by the name of the municipality and the postal code of the Member’s electoral division office or of the council member’s city hall, as the case may be, for any contribution paid before his election.”

145. Section 126 of the Act is amended by adding the following subparagraphs at the end of the first paragraph:

“(6) a Member’s domiciliary address; and

“(7) the domiciliary address of a member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2).”

146. Section 127.9 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “elector, the city and” in the second paragraph by “elector, the name of the municipality and the”;

(2) in the third paragraph,

(a) by inserting “or a member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2)” after “contribution paid by a Member”;

(b) by replacing “the city and postal code of the Member’s electoral division office instead of the city and postal code of the Member’s domicile” by “the name of the municipality and the postal code of the Member’s electoral division office or the name of the municipality and the postal code of the city hall of

the municipality of the council member having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information, as the case may be, instead of the name of the municipality and the postal code of the Member's or council member's domicile;

(3) by replacing the first sentence of the fifth paragraph by the following sentence: "In addition, the Chief Electoral Officer shall replace, on the Chief Electoral Officer's website, the name of the municipality and the postal code of the domicile of the Member or of the member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities by the name of the municipality and the postal code of the Member's electoral division office or of the council member's city hall, as the case may be, for any contribution paid before his election."

147. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 147:

"148. Any list transmitted under this Title by the Chief Electoral Officer or the returning officer to an authorized party or a candidate shall not include the name, address, date of birth or sex of an elector who was a Member at the time of the end or the dissolution of the last Legislature or of an elector who is a member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2)."

148. Section 246 of the Act is amended by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

"With the exception of the name of the municipality, the candidate's address is not accessible."

149. Section 260 of the Act is amended by replacing "his address" in the second paragraph by "the name of his municipality".

150. Section 488 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

"Despite subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph, the domiciliary address of a Member or of a member of a council of a municipality having exercised his right to refuse to allow the communication of information under section 659.0.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2) shall not be accessible."

MUNICIPAL ETHICS AND GOOD CONDUCT ACT

151. Section 15 of the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act (chapter E-15.1.0.1) is amended by inserting "within nine months after the beginning" after "term and" in the first paragraph.

152. Section 22.1 of the Act is amended by inserting “, 32” after “22” in the first paragraph.

153. Section 32 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“32. The forced execution of a decision of the Commission that imposes a penalty or the delivery of a thing or the reimbursement of an amount of money is carried out by the filing of the decision with the office of the competent court in accordance with the rules set out in the Code of Civil Procedure (chapter C-25.01).

If the Commission finds that such a decision has not been executed, the Commission itself may cause the decision to be executed, in the manner specified in the first paragraph, after notifying the municipality and the council member in writing of its intention to cause the decision to be executed if they fail to do so themselves within 60 days after the sending of the notice. If the Commission executes the decision, the amounts or things received through the execution of the decision must be delivered or remitted to the municipality.”

ACT TO SECURE HANDICAPPED PERSONS IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHTS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING SOCIAL, SCHOOL AND WORKPLACE INTEGRATION

154. Section 61.1 of the Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (chapter E-20.1) is amended by replacing “Not later than 17 December 2005, every” and “15,000” by “Every” and “10,000”, respectively.

ACT RESPECTING MUNICIPAL TAXATION

155. The Act respecting municipal taxation (chapter F-2.1) is amended by inserting the following section after section 64.1:

“64.2. Dams owned, administered or managed by the State are not to be entered on the roll.”

ACT ESTABLISHING THE EYYOU ISTCHEE JAMES BAY REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

156. Section 12 of the Act establishing the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (chapter G-1.04) is replaced by the following section:

“12. A council member may participate remotely in a meeting by a means allowing all persons who participate in or attend the meeting to see and hear each other in real time.

Remote participation is allowed only if the member participates in the meeting from a location situated in Québec or in a bordering province.

The minutes of the meeting must mention the name of any council member who participated in the meeting remotely.

If a majority of the council members participate in a meeting remotely, the Regional Government must make a video recording of the meeting and make it available to the public from the working day following the day on which the meeting ended.

Despite the first paragraph, the Regional Government must, every year, hold at least two meetings in which the council members participate in person; one of those meetings is to be held in the territory of a Cree community and the other in the territory of an enclosed municipality or a locality. However, a member's remote participation in either of the meetings is allowed in the following cases:

(1) for a reason related to the member's safety or health, or the safety or health of a close relation, provided that, where a health reason is invoked, a medical certificate attests that remote participation by the member is necessary;

(2) because of a deficiency causing a significant and persistent disability that constitutes a barrier to the member's participation in person in the meeting; or

(3) because of the member's pregnancy or the birth or adoption of the member's child."

EDUCATION ACT

157. The Education Act (chapter I-13.3) is amended by inserting the following section after section 705:

"705.1. For the purposes of any Act other than the Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance (2020, chapter 1), a commissioner of an English-language school board, a council of commissioners of an English-language school board and an English-language school board shall be deemed to be, respectively, a member of the board of directors of a school service centre, a board of directors of a school service centre and a school service centre.

This section is declaratory."

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES
MUNICIPALES, DES RÉGIONS ET DE L'OCCUPATION
DU TERRITOIRE

158. The Act respecting the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire (chapter M-22.1) is amended by inserting the following section after section 7.0.1:

“8. The Minister may, by regulation, prescribe the training that members of municipal councils must undergo on their role and on the municipal system, and prescribe any condition and procedure concerning participation in such training.

A member of the council of a local municipality must, within 30 days after participating in such training, report his participation to the clerk or the clerk-treasurer of the local municipality, who in turn shall report it to the council.

Every local municipality shall keep up to date on its website a list of the members of its council who have participated in all the training prescribed by regulation.

Where a council member fails to participate in training prescribed by regulation, the clerk or the clerk-treasurer of the local municipality must notify the Commission municipale du Québec in writing of that fact within 30 days.

The Commission municipale du Québec may suspend a council member who, without a serious reason, fails to participate in training prescribed by regulation. The suspension may continue after the expiry of the council member's term if he is re-elected in an election held during the suspension and that suspension has not expired on the day the council member's new term begins. The suspension ends following a decision of the Commission municipale du Québec stating that the council member has participated in the program.

When suspended, the council member may not perform any duty related to the office of warden, mayor or councillor and, in particular, may not sit on any council, committee or commission of the municipality or, in his capacity as member of a council of a municipality, on those of another body, nor receive any remuneration, allowance or other sum from the municipality or such a body.

This section applies, with the necessary modifications, to any warden elected in accordance with section 210.29.2 of the Act respecting municipal territorial organization (chapter O-9) as well as to the regional county municipality of which he is the warden.”

159. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 14.1:

“**14.2.** The Minister may designate a person to advise a municipal body

- (1) in the preparation and conduct of its sittings; and
- (2) with regard to its relations with citizens.

The person so designated may require the body to provide any information or document relevant to the performance of his mandate.”

ACT RESPECTING MUNICIPAL TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

160. Section 210.25 of the Act respecting municipal territorial organization (chapter O-9) is replaced by the following section:

“**210.25.** Subject to section 210.29.1, the council of the regional county municipality shall, at a sitting held within three months of the general election, elect the warden.

The council may also, by resolution, within the time prescribed in the first paragraph and before the election of the warden, decide that an additional election for the office of the warden will be held at its first sitting to be held two years after the election of the warden. The resolution shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote as provided for in section 202 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1), except the second paragraph. The resolution shall not be repealed and is valid for only one election.”

161. Section 210.26 of the Act is amended

- (1) by striking out “Subject to section 210.26.1,” in the first paragraph;
- (2) by replacing “may” in the fifth paragraph by “must”.

162. Section 210.26.1 of the Act is repealed.

163. Section 210.28 of the Act is amended

- (1) by replacing the first and second paragraphs by the following paragraph:

“The warden’s term of office expires when the succeeding warden is elected. However, it comes to an end when the warden resigns from that office, is removed from office in accordance with the provisions of the third paragraph or ceases to be the mayor of a local municipality whose territory is comprised in that of the regional county municipality.”;

- (2) by striking out the last sentence of the fourth paragraph;
- (3) by striking out the fifth paragraph.

164. Section 210.29 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“210.29. Any vacancy in the office of warden must be filled in accordance with section 210.26 at the next regular sitting or at a special sitting called for that purpose.

However, where the office is vacant because the warden ceases to be the mayor of a local municipality following a general election, the deputy warden shall hold the office of warden until a new warden is elected in accordance with section 210.25. If the deputy warden was not re-elected as mayor, a new deputy warden must be appointed at the first sitting of the council following the general election.”

165. Section 26 of Schedule I to the Act is amended by replacing the second paragraph of section 244 by the following paragraphs:

“The returning officer of the local municipality shall then transmit the statement of votes by a technological means to the returning officer of the regional county municipality or to the person the returning officer designates to receive it. If the statement of votes cannot be transmitted by a technological means, the returning officer of the local municipality must instead transmit a paper statement.

The Chief Electoral Officer may determine the terms governing the transmission and the storage of the statement transmitted by a technological means.”

166. Schedule I to the Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 26:

“26.1. Section 247 is replaced by the following section:

“(247) The returning officer shall proceed to the addition of the votes by using the statements of votes received and compiling the votes cast in favour of each candidate.

The returning officer shall, however, use the statements contained in the ballot boxes if a candidate or an elector concerned produces to him a sworn declaration in writing attesting that there is reason to believe that a statement received is erroneous or fraudulent and does not correspond to the statement placed in the ballot box, and that the results may be different if the statement placed in the ballot box is used in conducting the addition of the votes. The returning officer shall then determine the time limit within which the returning officer of the local municipality must transmit the ballot boxes and shall adjourn the addition of the votes until he obtains them.

“26.2. The first paragraph of section 249 does not apply where the statement was transmitted by a technological means.”

POLICE ACT

167. Section 78 of the Police Act (chapter P-13.1) is amended by replacing subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph by the following subparagraph:

“(1) four to seven persons who are,

(a) where the agreement is entered into with the regional county municipality, designated by that municipality and chosen from among the members of the councils of the local municipalities to which the agreement applies and, where applicable, the warden elected in accordance with section 210.29.2 of the Act respecting municipal territorial organization (chapter O-9); or

(b) where the agreement is entered into with the local municipality, designated by that municipality and chosen from among the members of its council.”

168. Schedule C to the Act is amended by replacing subparagraph *a* of paragraph 3 by the following subparagraphs:

“(a) in the case of an agreement entered into with a local municipality, four members of the council of that municipality who are designated by the local municipality or, failing such designation, by the Minister;

“(a.1) in the case of an agreement entered into with a regional county municipality, four members designated by that municipality or, failing such designation, by the Minister, from among the members of the councils of the local municipalities to which the agreement applies and, where applicable, the warden elected in accordance with section 210.29.2 of the Act respecting municipal territorial organization (chapter O-9);”.

ACT RESPECTING THE SOCIÉTÉ DU CENTRE DES CONGRÈS DE QUÉBEC

169. Section 17 of the Act respecting the Société du Centre des congrès de Québec (chapter S-14.001) is amended

(1) by inserting “as well as any other establishment that is situated in the Québec city region or the surrounding regions and that is dedicated to holding conventions, trade shows or exhibitions for which responsibility is entrusted to it by the Government” at the end of paragraph 1;

(2) by replacing “Centre des congrès” in paragraph 2 by “establishments referred to in paragraph 1”;

(3) by replacing “of the Centre des congrès and take up their operation, promotion and management” in paragraph 3 by “and promotion of the establishments referred to in paragraph 1 and to maximize the economic, tourism, intellectual and social benefits generated by their operation”.

ACT RESPECTING THE SOCIÉTÉ DU PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE MONTRÉAL

170. Section 18 of the Act respecting the Société du Palais des congrès de Montréal (chapter S-14.1) is amended

(1) by inserting “as well as any other establishment that is situated in the Montréal region or the surrounding regions and that is dedicated to holding conventions, trade shows or exhibitions for which responsibility is entrusted to it by the Government” at the end of paragraph 1;

(2) by replacing “Palais des congrès” in paragraph 2 by “establishments referred to in paragraph 1”;

(3) by replacing “of the Palais des congrès and take up their operation, promotion and management” in paragraph 3 by “and promotion of the establishments referred to in paragraph 1 and to maximize the economic, tourism, intellectual and social benefits generated by their operation”.

ACT RESPECTING PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITIES

171. Section 37 of the Act respecting public transit authorities (chapter S-30.01) is replaced by the following section:

“37. A member may participate remotely in a meeting by a means allowing all persons who participate in or attend the meeting to see and hear each other in real time.

Remote participation is allowed only if the member participates in the meeting from a location situated in Québec or in a bordering province.

The minutes of the meeting must mention the name of any member who participated in the meeting remotely.

If a majority of the members participate in a meeting remotely, the transit authority must make a video recording of the meeting and make it available to the public from the working day following the day on which the meeting ended.”

172. Section 103.2 of the Act is amended, in the third paragraph,

(1) by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 6:

“(6.1) measures to promote Québec or otherwise Canadian goods and services as well as suppliers, insurers and contractors having an establishment in Québec or elsewhere in Canada for the making of any contract that involves an expenditure below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 95; and”;

(2) by replacing “that may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph and that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 95” in subparagraph 7 by “that involve an expenditure of at least \$25,000 but below the expenditure threshold for a contract that may be awarded only after a public call for tenders under section 95, to the extent that those contracts may be made by agreement under the rules adopted under the fourth paragraph or are covered by a measure taken under subparagraph 6.1”.

ACT RESPECTING THE LANDS IN THE DOMAIN OF THE STATE

173. Section 37 of the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (chapter T-8.1) is replaced by the following section:

“37. The Minister may, by the issue of letters patent or by notarial act *en minute*, transfer gratuitously land under his authority, together with the buildings, improvements and movable property situated thereon, for the following uses:

(1) educational purposes or the provision of health services and social services, and uses incidental to those uses; and

(2) a public utility use prescribed by regulation of the Government.

A use provided for in the first paragraph must be specified in the letters patent or notarial act.”

174. Section 38 of the Act is amended by replacing “of the letters patent, the conditions and restrictions attached to a gratuitous transfer cease to apply, and the transfer” in the first paragraph by “of the gratuitous transfer referred to in section 37, the conditions and restrictions attached to the transfer cease to apply, and the transfer”.

175. Section 39 of the Act is amended by replacing “holder of the letters patent” and “purpose” by “assignee” and “use”, respectively.

176. Section 40 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

“At the request of the assignee, the Minister may amend the conditions set out in the letters patent or notarial act in order to substitute another use provided for in the first paragraph of section 37 for the use specified in the letters patent or notarial act.”;

(2) by replacing “purpose not so prescribed” and “holder, he may amend or waive the purpose clause” in the second paragraph by “use not provided for in the first paragraph of section 37” and “assignee, he may amend or waive the use clause”, respectively.

177. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 40:

“40.0.1. The Minister may, by the issue of letters patent or by notarial act *en minute*, transfer gratuitously, to a municipality, land under his authority, together with the buildings, improvements and movable property situated thereon for purposes of urban development.

The municipality must send to the Minister, before the transfer, a land development plan that specifies the nature of the urban development project and that demonstrates the municipality’s needs.

The development plan may provide that a part of the land transferred under this section is to be allocated to a use provided for in the first paragraph of section 37.

“40.0.2. Where a transfer is for urban development purposes, the letters patent or notarial act may contain restrictive clauses, in particular to ensure compliance with the land development plan. At the end of a period of 30 years from the date of the transfer, such clauses cease to apply, and the transfer becomes irrevocable.”

ACT TO MAKE THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM MORE EFFECTIVE

178. Sections 1003 and 1004 of the Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34) are repealed.

ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS WITH RESPECT TO HOUSING

179. Section 93 of the Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing (2024, chapter 2) is amended by inserting “, unless it is possible to establish that the project is in conformity with the land uses determined in the municipality’s planning program” at the end of subparagraph 3 of the second paragraph.

CHAPTER III

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

180. Until 6 June 2027, section 145.35.1 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1) is to be read as if “, in accordance with the policy directions defined for that purpose in the planning program,” were struck out.

181. Despite subparagraph 2 of the fourth paragraph of section 123 of the Act respecting land use planning and development, amended by section 4 of this Act, a differentiated zoning by-law or a by-law that amends or replaces such a by-law is not subject to approval by way of referendum where the draft by-law is adopted before 6 June 2029.

182. Section 6.1 of the Cities and Towns Act (chapter C-19), enacted by section 23 of this Act, applies to Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu from 1 January 2024.

183. Section 509 of the Cities and Towns Act, as it reads on 5 June 2024, continues to apply to an immovable sold before 6 June 2024.

184. Section 534.1 of the Cities and Towns Act, enacted by section 40 of this Act, does not apply to an immovable sold before 6 June 2024.

185. Article 4 of the Municipal Code of Québec (chapter C-27.1), as it reads on 5 June 2024, continues to apply to a sale for taxes ordered by the council of a municipality before 6 June 2024.

186. No sale for taxes ordered before 6 June 2024 that is executed by a regional county municipality for a local municipality governed by the Cities and Towns Act is invalidated solely because the provisions of the Municipal Code of Québec relating to such sales were applied when those of the Cities and Towns Act should have been.

187. Not later than 31 December 2025, every local municipality that, on 6 June 2024, has at least 10,000 inhabitants but less than 15,000 inhabitants must adopt the plan described in section 61.1 of the Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (chapter E-20.1), as amended by section 154 of this Act.

188. Sections 54, 55, 58, 61, 77, 81.1, 81.2, 99, 100, 125, 126, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134.1, 174, 175, 177, 177.1, 178, 179, 182, 183, 300 and 341 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2) and Schedule I to the Act respecting municipal territorial organization (chapter O-9), as they read on 5 June 2024, continue to apply to election or referendum proceedings that begin before the 2025 municipal general election.

Sections 47 and 518 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, as they read on 5 June 2024, continue to apply to election or referendum proceedings that begin before 1 January 2025.

Sections 171 and 172 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, as they read on 5 June 2024, continue to apply to election proceedings that begin before 6 June 2024.

Sections 174.1 and 179.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, enacted by sections 106 and 112 of this Act, do not apply to election or referendum proceedings that begin before the 2025 municipal general election.

For the purposes of this section, election proceedings begin when a notice is given in accordance with section 99 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, and referendum proceedings begin when a notice is given in accordance with section 539 of that Act or, in the absence of such a notice, in accordance with section 572 of that Act.

189. Despite paragraphs 4 and 5 of section 300 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, no member of a council of a municipality is disqualified on the ground that the council member is an elected, appointed or designated member of the board of directors of an English-language school service centre before 2 November 2025.

190. Until the date of coming into force of section 1293 of the Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34), sections 175, 177, 178 and 179.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities are to be read as if “within the meaning of the Act to make the health and social services system more effective (2023, chapter 34) or the Act respecting health services and social services for the Inuit and Naskapi (chapter S-4.2)” were replaced by “listed in the register established under the Act respecting health services and social services (chapter S-4.2)”.

191. No amount referred to in section 254 of the Act respecting municipal taxation (chapter F-2.1) is to be paid by the Government, from the municipal fiscal period 2025, with regard to a dam not entered on the property assessment roll under section 64.2 of that Act, as enacted by section 155 of this Act.

The first paragraph applies despite the third paragraph of section 254.1 of the Act respecting municipal taxation and section 7.1 of the Regulation respecting compensations in lieu of taxes (chapter F-2.1, r. 2).

192. The territory of the Indian reserve of Mashteuiatsh is withdrawn from the territory of Ville de Roberval and thereby integrated into the unorganized territory of the Municipalité régionale de comté du Domaine-du-Roy, in accordance with section 7 of the Act respecting municipal territorial organization.

193. Each of the local municipalities of Gatineau, Laval, Lévis, Longueuil, Mirabel, Montréal, Québec, Saguenay, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières and each of the regional county municipalities of Beauharnois-Salaberry, Deux-Montagnes, La Côte-de-Beaupré, La Jacques-Cartier, La Vallée-du-Richelieu, L’Assomption, L’Île-d’Orléans, Marguerite-D’Youville, Les

Moulins, Roussillon, Rouville, Thérèse-De Blainville and Vaudreuil-Soulanges must produce, for the four-year period beginning on 1 January 2025, a report containing the following information:

(1) a status report on housing in the territory to which its land use and development plan applies;

(2) reporting on achievement of the targets and implementation of the policy directions and objectives set out in the land use and development plan with respect to housing; and

(3) the means it intends to take to achieve any target with respect to housing that was not achieved during the period covered by the report.

Sections 10 and 11 of the Act respecting land use planning and development apply to that report, with the necessary modifications.

A municipality referred to in the first paragraph must also produce such a report to cover each subsequent four-year period as long as the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy has not determined the date provided for in section 129 of the Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other provisions (2023, chapter 12). The expired portion of the four-year period in progress on the date determined by the Minister is, where applicable, covered by the first regional report the municipality produces under section 9 of the Act respecting land use planning and development.

194. The provisions of this Act come into force on 6 June 2024, except

(1) sections 139, 148 and 149, which come into force on 6 July 2024;

(2) sections 30, 32, 51, 56, 72, 78, 156 and 171, which come into force on 6 September 2024;

(3) sections 29, 31, 44, 48, 50, 54, 55, 60, 71, 73, 77, 79 and 172, which come into force on 6 December 2024;

(4) sections 140, 142 to 147 and 150, which come into force on 6 March 2025;

(5) sections 84, 125 to 129, 131, 134 to 137 and 155, which come into force on 1 January 2025;

(6) paragraphs 2 and 3 of section 118 and section 138, which come into force on 19 September 2025;

(7) sections 121 and 160 to 164, which come into force on 2 November 2025;

(8) sections 115 and 116, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the first regulation made after 6 June 2024 to amend the Regulation respecting models of ballot papers and the form of the template for municipal elections and referendums (chapter E-2.2, r. 1); and

(9) section 26, which comes into force on the date of coming into force of the first amounts or percentages determined, after 6 June 2024, by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy, under section 114.11 of the Cities and Towns Act.

