

## Decisions

### Decision, 12 March 2003

Election Act  
(R.S.Q., c. E-3.3)

#### Chief electoral officer

##### — Officers assigned to the list of electors

Decision of the chief electoral officer pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by section 490 of the Election Act, concerning officers assigned to the list of electors

WHEREAS Order in Council number 370-2003, issued on March 12, 2003, enjoined the chief electoral officer to hold general elections in Québec on April 14, 2003;

WHEREAS section 310.1 of the Election Act (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3) provides that the returning officer shall appoint two persons in every polling station to act as officers assigned to the list of electors, recommended by the candidates of the authorized parties whose candidates came first and second at the last election;

WHEREAS section 489.1 allows the chief electoral officer, where circumstances so require, in particular by reason of the area or distance involved, to adapt the provisions concerning the revision process, the filing of nomination papers, the advance poll or the establishment of an identity verification panel, with the consent of the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly;

WHEREAS the distance, isolation and small number of electors in the remote polling subdivisions contemplated by section 489.1 require the introduction of special procedures concerning officers assigned to the list of electors;

WHEREAS section 489.1, as currently worded, does not allow for the adaptation of the provisions of the Act concerning officers assigned to the list of electors;

WHEREAS the chief electoral officer intends to issue a directive providing for special conditions in remote electoral subdivisions, in particular regarding officers assigned to the list of electors;

WHEREAS section 490 of the Election Act allows the chief electoral officer to adapt a provision of the Act where he observes that, subsequent to an exceptional circumstance, it does not meet the demands of the situation;

WHEREAS the chief electoral officer has informed the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly of his intention to use the provisions of the said section, and has taken the steps required to inform the other authorized parties, the candidates and the electors in question;

The chief electoral officer, pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by section 490 of the Election Act, has decided to adapt section 489.1 of the said Act in order to add a provision concerning officers assigned to the list of electors.

For the purposes of this decision, section 489.1 of the Election Act shall read as follows:

“**489.1.** The chief electoral officer, with the consent of the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly, may, where circumstances so require, in particular, by reason of the area or distance involved, adapt the provisions concerning the enumeration of electors, the revision process, the filing of nomination papers, the advance poll, the establishment of an identity verification panel and the officers assigned to the list of electors.”.

This decision shall take effect on the date of the order enjoining the chief electoral officer to hold general elections in Québec.

Québec, 12 March 2003

MARCEL BLANCHET,  
*Chief Electoral Officer and  
Chairman of the Commission de  
la représentation électorale*

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