

WHEREAS special provisions must be made by returning officers on polling day in situations where it is impossible for them to have two officers assigned to the list of electors in every polling station;

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 sections 310.1, 314 and 315 in order to authorize returning officers to take one of the following steps if they observe that the number of officers assigned to the list of electors is insufficient:

— appoint a single officer for each polling station;

— where it is impossible to ensure the presence of at least one officer in a polling station, have the duties of the officer performed by the deputy returning officer and the poll clerk.

This decision shall take effect on the date of the order enjoining the Chief Electoral Officer to hold general elections in Québec.

Québec, 19 March 2007

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

8091

Decision

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

Chief Electoral Officer — Exercise of voting rights by election officers on polling day

Decision of the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by section 490 of the Election Act, concerning the exercise of voting rights by election officers on polling day

WHEREAS order-in-council number 167-2007, issued on February 21, 2007, enjoined the Chief Electoral Officer to hold general elections in Québec on March 26, 2007;

WHEREAS significant difficulties were encountered in several electoral divisions with regard to the recruitment of the election officers required to hold the poll;

WHEREAS the recruitment of election officers is underway on the date of this decision, and will continue until the day preceding polling day;

WHEREAS many election officers who are recruited did not exercise their right to vote during the advance poll or may have had their name entered on the list of electors or made a correction to their entry through a special board of revisors;

WHEREAS these election officers cannot leave their positions on polling day to exercise their right to vote in the polling subdivision in which their domicile is located;

WHEREAS provisions are required to enable these election officers to exercise their right to vote;

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 225, 301.2, 312.1, 340 and the Vote Regulation in order to outline procedures that will enable the election officers concerned to exercise their voting right.

Advance polling station in the office of the returning officer

1. The returning officer shall open an advance polling station reserved for election officers entered on the list of electors of the electoral division in which they exercise their functions and who did not exercise their right to vote during the advance poll.

2. The advance polling station reserved for election officers is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the second day before polling day and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the day before polling day.

3. The returning officer may not set up such an advance polling station in his office, especially due to the area of his electoral division or due to the number of persons affected by this decision. In such a case, he must obtain the authorization of the Chief Electoral Officer.

4. The advance polling station reserved for election officers is made up of the deputy returning officer and the poll clerk who will also serve as members of the identity verification panel.

Authorization to vote

1. The returning officer or his deputy shall issue an authorization to vote to any election officer who is entered on the list of electors of the electoral division in which he exercises his functions and for whom the special board of revisors has made an entry or a correction or who has not exercised his right to vote during the advance poll, including in the advance polling station reserved for election officers.

2. The authorization to vote shall be issued to the election officers concerned on the day of the poll, by the officer in charge of information and order.

3. An election officer who has obtained an authorization shall present it to the deputy returning officer and declare under oath:

(a) that he is indeed the person who obtained it;

(b) that he did not exercise his right to vote in the advance poll because he intended to vote on polling day.

This decision shall take effect on the date of the order enjoining the Chief Electoral Officer to hold general elections in Québec.

Québec, 19 March 2007

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

8092

Decision

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

Chief Electoral Officer — Identification of electors on polling day

Decision of the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by section 490 of the Election Act, concerning the identification of electors on polling day

WHEREAS order-in-council number 167-2007, issued on February 21, 2007, enjoined the Chief Electoral Officer to hold general elections in Québec on March 26, 2007;

WHEREAS that problems may arise regarding security and the conduct of the election in polling stations on March 26, 2007;

WHEREAS the security of electors who exercise their right to vote and the good conduct of the election must be guaranteed;

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 or emergency, 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 sections 335.2 and 337 of this Act as follows: