

“Where several films are put together on a single medium or on several media in a single package, case, box or other container, the duties are \$55 for one film title of a compilation and \$3 for the other titles.”.

2. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

8496

Gouvernement du Québec

Agreement

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

AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE TESTING OF NEW METHODS OF VOTING

BETWEEN

MR. JEAN CHAREST, LEADER OF THE QUÉBEC
LIBERAL PARTY, AN AUTHORIZED PARTY
REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

AND

MR. MARIO DUMONT, LEADER OF THE ACTION
DÉMOCRATIQUE DU QUÉBEC / TEAM MARIO
DUMONT, AN AUTHORIZED PARTY REPRE-
SENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

AND

MS. PAULINE MAROIS, LEADER OF THE PARTI
QUÉBÉCOIS, AN AUTHORIZED PARTY REPRE-
SENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

AND

MR. MARCEL BLANCHET IN HIS CAPACITY AS
THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF QUÉBEC.

WHEREAS section 15 of the Act to amend the Election Act to encourage and facilitate voting (2006, c. 17) introduced to the Election Act (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3) sections 263 to 268 concerning polling by electors at the office of the returning officer of the electoral division of their domicile;

WHEREAS sections 263 to 268 are currently not in force;

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of section 489 of the Election Act, the Chief Electoral Officer may recommend to leaders of authorized parties represented at the National Assembly new provisions for exercising voting rights during a by-election or during general elections for all electoral divisions or for only some of them;

WHEREAS the Chief Electoral Officer would like to avail himself of section 489 of the Election Act in order to test polling by electors at the office of the returning officer of the electoral division of their domicile during any by-election and during the next general election if this occurs before the entry into force of sections 263 to 268 introduced by section 15 of the Act to amend the Election Act to encourage and facilitate voting;

WHEREAS the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer has been accepted by the three leaders of authorized parties represented at the National Assembly;

WHEREAS section 489 of the Election Act states that when the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer is accepted by the party leaders, an agreement must be signed in this respect between the party leaders and the Chief Electoral Officer;

WHEREAS this agreement has force of law.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. PREAMBLE

The preamble to this agreement forms an integral part of this agreement.

2. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

The purpose of the present agreement is to test polling by electors at the office of the returning officer of the electoral division of their domicile during any by-election occurring after the signing of the present agreement and during the general election if this occurs before sections 263 to 268 of the Election Act go into effect.

3. AMENDMENTS OF THE ELECTION ACT

3.1 Polling at the office of the returning officer

Sections 263 to 268 of the Election Act, introduced by section 15 of the Act to amend the Election Act to encourage and facilitate voting, are replaced by the following:

“**263.** An elector who would like to vote at the office of the returning officer votes at the main office or at the satellite office of the polling subdivision of his domicile established by the returning officer in the electoral division, on the tenth and ninth days before polling day and from the sixth day to the fourth day before polling day. On the last day, polling ends at 2 p.m.

264. Unless the provisions are repugnant, sections 307, 320 to 327, 329 to 332, 334, 335.1 to 340 apply to polling at the office of the returning officer, considering the necessary adaptations.

265. The members of the special board of revisors act as members of the identity verification panel.

The chair of the special board of revisors acts as the chair of the identity verification panel.

266. When the elector is admitted to vote, the person assigned to voting at the returning officer’s office gives the elector a ballot paper, after initialling it in the space reserved for that purpose and removing it from the counterfoil. After voting, the elector places the ballot paper in a ballot box provided for that purpose.

Sections 342 to 351 apply, with the necessary modifications.

267. At the end of each voting day at the returning officer’s office, the person assigned to voting seals the ballot box and the various envelopes used and puts the polling materials away in a safe place. When the voting resumes, the person takes out the polling materials and removes the seals.

After each day, the returning officer sends the candidates the list of the electors who have voted.

At the end of the period referred to in section 263, the person assigned to voting at the returning officer’s office follows the procedures set out in sections 301.3 and 301.4, with the necessary modifications.

268. The votes are counted in the electoral district.”

3.2 Discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer upon Observing an Error, Emergency or Exceptional Circumstance

Section 490 of the said Act is replaced by the following:

“**490.** If, during the election period, the chief electoral officer realizes that because of an error, emergency or an exceptional circumstance, a provision of the current Act is inadequate, the chief electoral officer may adapt the provision in order to achieve its object.

However, the chief electoral officer must inform the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly beforehand of the intended decision and must use all means necessary to inform the other authorized parties, candidates and electors concerned of the decision.

Within 30 days after polling day, the chief electoral officer must send the President or the Secretary General of the National Assembly a report on the decisions under this section. The President lays the report before the National Assembly within 30 days after receiving it or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 30 days after resumption.”

4. APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Chief Electoral Officer and the returning officer of each electoral division in which the present agreement will be applicable are responsible for its application, hence, for the good conduct of the testing of polling at the office of the returning officer.

5. EVALUATION REPORT

Within 90 days following the date of any general or by-election during which the present agreement is applied, the Chief Electoral Officer shall transmit to the leaders of the political parties represented at the National Assembly, a report covering the following points:

- election preparations related to the present agreement;
- the setting up of polling stations at the office of the returning officer;
- the conduct of polling at the office of the returning officer;
- recommended amendments to the provisions of the Election Act, if any.

6. EFFECT OF THE AGREEMENT

The present agreement takes effect on the date on which the last signature is affixed on this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES HAVE SIGNED, IN FOUR COPIES,

In Québec, on 21 November 2007

JEAN CHAREST,
Leader of the Québec Liberal party

In Québec, on 27 November 2007

MARIO DUMONT,
*Leader of the Action démocratique du Québec /
team Mario Dumont*

In Québec, on 5 December 2007

PAULINE MAROIS,
Leader of the Parti québécois

In Québec, on 29 November 2007

MARCEL BLANCHET,
Chief electoral officer of Québec

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