

## 3. 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 SIX COPIES,

In Montréal, on 7 March 2012

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JEAN CHAREST,  
*Leader of the Quebec Liberal Party*

In Québec, on 28 March 2012

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PAULINE MAROIS,  
*Leader of the Parti québécois*

In Montréal, on 13 March 2012

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FRANÇOIS LEGAULT,  
*Leader of Coalition Avenir Québec*

In Montréal, on 2 April 2012

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RÉGENT SÉGUIN,  
*Leader of Québec Solidaire*

In Nicolet, on 22 March 2012

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JEAN-MARTIN AUSSANT,  
*Leader of Option Nationale*

In Québec, on 5 March 2012

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JACQUES DROUIN  
*Chief Electoral Officer of Québec*

2045

**Agreement**

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

AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE TESTING OF NEW POLLING FORMALITIES

BETWEEN

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

AND

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

AND

MR. FRANÇOIS LEGAULT, LEADER OF COALITION AVENIR QUÉBEC, AN AUTHORIZED PARTY REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AND

MR. RÉGENT SÉGUIN, LEADER OF QUÉBEC SOLIDAIRE, AN AUTHORIZED PARTY REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AND

MR. JEAN-MARTIN AUSSANT, LEADER OF OPTION NATIONALE, AN AUTHORIZED PARTY REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AND

MR. JACQUES DROUIN, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF QUÉBEC

WHEREAS the Election Act prescribes a model ballot that must be used during provincial elections;

WHEREAS the model does not provide for candidates' photographs to appear on the ballot;

WHEREAS, following an agreement reached in October 2010 between the Chief Electoral Officer and the leaders of the authorized parties represented at that time in the National Assembly, a new type of ballot bearing photographs was produced for the by-election of December 5, 2011, in the electoral division of Bonaventure;

WHEREAS the Chief Electoral Officer wishes to avail himself of section 489 of the Election Act in order to recommend to the leaders of the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly that a new type of ballot bearing photographs be tested at the by-election in the electoral division of Argenteuil, and in any other by-election to be held by order of the Government on the same date;

WHEREAS the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer has been accepted by the five 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 by these 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 this agreement is to test a new model ballot during the by-election in the electoral division of Argenteuil and of any other by-election ordered by government writ that should be held at the same date.

The amendments to the current model are as follows:

1. The circle currently measuring 3 mm is enlarged to 9 mm;
2. The size of the font used to write the candidates' names and political affiliations is enlarged from 16 pt to 18 pt;
3. Photographs of the candidates are added to the stub of the ballot.

#### 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION ACT

3.1 Section 241 of the Election Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The photograph contemplated in the first paragraph shall be reproduced on the ballot opposite the candidate's name. The candidate may submit another photograph in accordance with the standards prescribed by regulation, before 2:00 p.m. on the sixteenth day preceding polling day.”

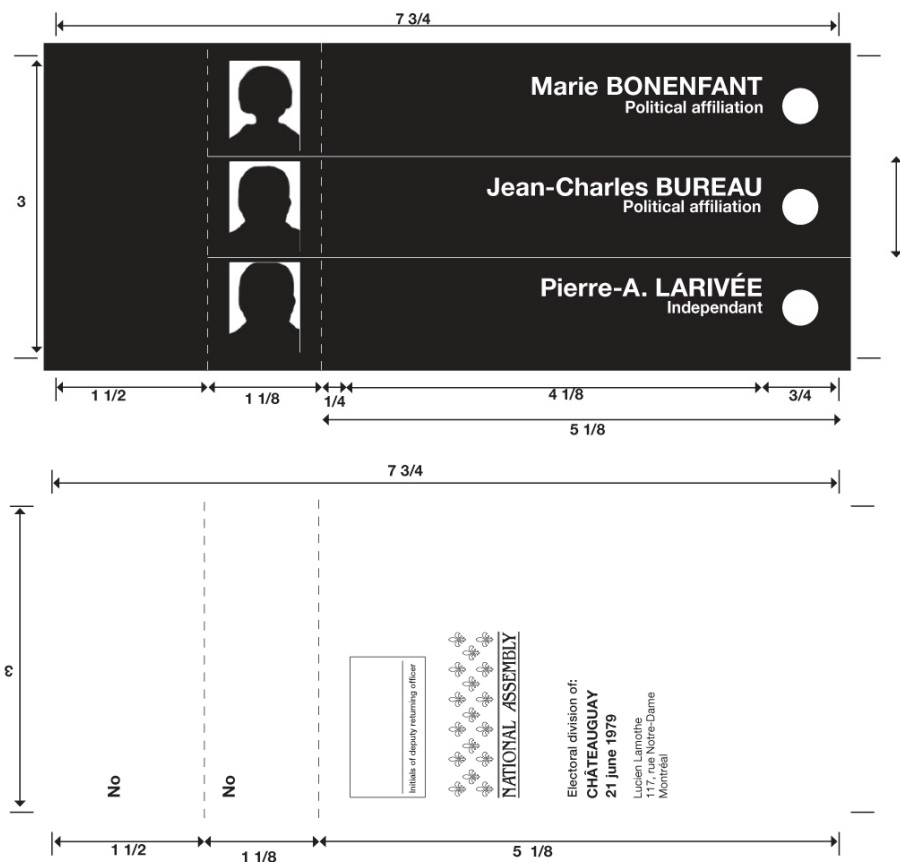
3.2 Section 323 of the Election Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The photograph contemplated in section 241 shall be reproduced in black and white on the stub of the ballot, opposite the candidate's name.”

3.3 Section 490 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph :

“The present section applies to an agreement made between the leaders of the authorized parties represented in the National Assembly and the chief electoral officer in accordance with section 489.”.

3.4 Schedule III of the Act is replaced by the following schedule:



#### 4. AMENDMENTS TO ELECTION REGULATIONS

4.1 Section 6 of the Nomination Regulation is replaced by the following section:

“6. The photograph attached to the nomination papers shall comply with the following standards:

(a) It shall show a full face view of the candidate from the shoulders, bareheaded, against a plain light background and be printed on single-thickness paper measuring approximately 13 cm x 18 cm; or

(b) It shall show a full face view or slightly offset view of the candidate from the shoulders, bareheaded, against a plain light background and be printed on single-thickness paper measuring approximately 5 cm x 7 cm.”

#### 5. 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.

#### 6. EVALUATION REPORT

Within 90 days following the date of the by-elections referred to in the present agreement, 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 advantages and disadvantages encountered in applying the present agreement;
- recommended amendments to the provisions of the Election Act, if any.

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