

WHEREAS the Chief Electoral Officer has informed the authorized parties represented at the National Assembly of his intention to use these sections and has taken the necessary means to inform the other authorized parties, candidates and electors concerned.

The Chief Electoral Officer, pursuant to the powers conferred on him by section 26 of Bill 24 and by section 490 of the Election Act, has decided to adapt the first paragraph of section 15 and sections 17, 18, 22 and 23 of Bill 24 so that the envelope containing the elector's ballot paper may also be transmitted to the Chief Electoral Officer and to provide for the procedures for verifying and counting the envelopes received by the latter.

For the purposes of this decision, the first paragraph of section 15 and sections 17, 18, 22 and 23 of Bill 24 reads as follows:

“15. The elector must send the second envelope to the returning officer of his or her electoral division or to the Chief Electoral Officer so that it is received before 8:00 p.m. on polling day.

“17. The verification of envelopes preceding the counting of votes starts on the days and at the times determined by the Chief Electoral Officer.

To that end, the returning officer transmits to the Chief Electoral Officer, in the manner determined by the Chief Electoral Officer, the list referred to in section 10.

“18. The returning officer designates one or more persons to verify the envelopes received at his or her office.

The Chief Electoral Officer designates one or more persons to verify the envelopes received at his office.

“22. The returning officer and the Chief Electoral Officer set up as many stations as necessary to count the votes they received. And, for each of the stations, appoints a deputy returning officer and a poll clerk.

Where the count is conducted in the office of the returning officer, such appointments are made in accordance with section 310 of the Election Act.

Where the count is conducted in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, such appointments are made in accordance with the second and third paragraphs of section 370.8 of the Election Act.

“23. At the office of the returning officer, the votes are counted at the place and time determined by the returning officer in accordance with sections 361 to 370.2 of the Election Act, with the necessary modifications. The candidates and their representatives may be present.

At the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, the votes are counted at the place and time determined by the Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with sections 361 to 370.2 and 370.11 to 370.12 of the Election Act, with the necessary modifications. Each authorized party may designate a representative to be present.

No ballot paper may be rejected for the sole reason that it does not bear the election officer's initials. This paragraph also applies in the case of a judicial recount.”

This decision takes effect on the date of signature.

Québec, September 21, 2022

PIERRE REID
Chief Electoral Officer

106010

Decision

Election Act
(chapitre E-3.3)

Decision of the chief electoral officer pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by section 490 of the election act with respect to the lack of polling staff in certain electoral divisions

WHEREAS Order in Council No. 1633-2022, issued on August 28, 2022, enjoins the Chief Electoral Officer to hold general elections in Québec on October 3, 2022;

WHEREAS, under section 302 of the Election Act (CQLR, c. E-3.3), the returning officer shall, on polling day, establish a polling station for each polling subdivision;

WHEREAS, under sections 310 and 312 of the Election Act, the returning officer shall appoint a deputy returning officer and a poll clerk for each polling station, in the manner provided for in those sections;

WHEREAS, under section 312.1 of the Election Act, the returning officer shall establish an identity verification panel for every place where a polling station is located;

WHEREAS the Chief Electoral Officer and the returning officers make every effort to fill the positions of deputy returning officers and poll clerks and to establish a sufficient reserve in the event that the persons appointed to these positions withdraw;

WHEREAS, in several electoral divisions, the number of deputy returning officers and poll clerks available on polling day will not be sufficient to meet the provisions of sections 302, 310 and 312 of the Election Act;

WHEREAS special arrangements must be made by returning officers in cases where it is not possible to have a deputy returning officer and a poll clerk at each polling station on polling day;

WHEREAS section 490 of the Election Act allows the Chief Electoral Officer to adapt a provision of the Act where he finds that, subsequent to an exceptional circumstance, the provision does not meet the demands of the situation;

WHEREAS the Chief Electoral Officer has informed the authorized parties represented at the National Assembly of his intention to use the provisions of this section and has taken the necessary means to inform the other authorized parties, candidates and electors concerned.

The Chief Electoral Officer, pursuant to the powers conferred on him by section 490 of the Election Act, has decided to adapt sections 302, 310, 312 and 312.1 of the Election Act as follows:

1. Returning officers in electoral divisions where it is not possible to appoint a deputy returning officer and a poll clerk for a polling station are authorized to have the deputy returning officer and the poll clerk of another polling station or the members of the identity verification panel perform these duties, except in cases where such members are already acting as deputy returning officers and poll clerks pursuant to the third paragraph of section 312.1.

This decision takes effect on the date of signature.

Québec, October 2, 2022

PIERRE REID
Chief Electoral Officer

106014

Decision

Election Act
(chapter E-3.3)

An Act to foster voting in the next general election in Québec
(chapter 24)

Decision of the chief electoral officer pursuant to the powers conferred upon him or her by section 26 of An Act to foster voting in the next general election in Québec and section 490 of the Election Act with respect to the cancellation of an advance poll day in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine electoral division

WHEREAS Order in Council No. 1633-2022, issued on August 28, 2022, enjoins the Chief Electoral Officer to hold general elections in Québec on October 3, 2022;

WHEREAS according to section 132 of the Election Act (CQLR, c. E-3.3), the main office of the returning officer is open every day as of the order instituting the by-election from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday;

WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 220 and 222 of the Election Act, a special board of revisors sits at the main office of the returning officer from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from the thirteenth to the fourth day before the poll;

WHEREAS pursuant to section 301.2 of the Election Act, the advance polling station is open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the eighth and seventh days before the poll;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 301.5 of the Election Act, the returning officer sends the candidates, after each day, a list of the electors who voted in the advance poll;

WHEREAS pursuant to section 9 of An act to foster voting in the next general election in Québec (S.Q. 2022, c. 24; hereinafter Bill 24), an application to vote by mail from an elector referred to in subparagraph 1 of section 6 of this bill must be received not later than the eighth day before the poll;

WHEREAS pursuant to section 10 of Bill 24, the returning officer transmits to the candidates the list of electors eligible to vote by mail on the seventh day before the poll;