



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 84
(2025, chapter 13)

**An Act respecting integration into
the Québec nation**

**Introduced 30 January 2025
Passed in principle 19 March 2025
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Assented to 28 May 2025**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of this Act is to establish the Québec model for integration into the Québec nation, which fosters living together, as well as the vitality and preservation of Québec culture as the common culture and vector for social cohesion, a culture of which the French language is the main vehicle and which enables immigrants and persons identifying with cultural minorities to integrate into Québec society.

To that end, the Act details the foundations of the model, which is based on the principle of reciprocity according to which integration into the Québec nation is a common objective and a commitment shared between the Québec State and all persons living in Québec.

The Act also determines what is expected of the Québec State and of Quebecers, including those who are immigrants. Accordingly, it sets out that the State takes measures aimed at ensuring the preservation, vitality and sharing of the French language and Québec culture and that it is expected of all Quebecers that they participate fully, in French, in Québec society.

The Act provides that the Minister of the French Language develops a national policy on integration into the Québec nation and the common culture, a policy that may address in particular the welcoming of immigrants into Québec society as well as research and dissemination of knowledge on the Québec model for integration into the Québec nation. It specifies the agencies to which the policy applies and allows the Government to determine the other agencies to which the policy may apply.

The Act entrusts the Minister with the responsibility for proposing to the Government general policy directions on integration into the Québec nation, development of the common culture and intercultural relations. It entrusts the Minister with, in particular, the functions of promoting the Québec model for integration into the Québec nation and strengthening all Quebecers' sense of belonging to the Québec nation.

In addition, the Act provides that the conditions for the granting, by an agency subject to the national policy on integration into the Québec nation and into the common culture, of any financial

assistance to support projects must be consistent with the model for integration into the Québec nation and its foundations. The Act allows the Government to make this requirement inapplicable in the cases it determines by regulation.

The Act amends the Charter of human rights and freedoms, in particular to set out that human rights and freedoms are exercised in conformity with the Québec model for integration into the Québec nation.

Lastly, the Act contains miscellaneous and final provisions.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS ACT:

- Charter of human rights and freedoms (chapter C-12);
- Act respecting the exercise of the fundamental rights and prerogatives of the Québec people and the Québec State (chapter E-20.2);
- Québec Immigration Act (chapter I-0.2.1);
- Act respecting the Ministère de l’Immigration, de la Francisation et de l’Intégration (chapter M-16.1).

Bill 84

AN ACT RESPECTING INTEGRATION INTO THE QUÉBEC NATION

AS Quebecers form a nation the culture of which is defined in particular by the French language as the common language, the civil law tradition, specific institutions, equality between women and men, State laicity, distinct social values and a specific history, which have led the Québec nation to develop a unique model of living together and of full participation by all, in French, in Québec society;

AS Québec is a national State, the only French-speaking State in North America, a democratic State, sovereign in its areas of jurisdiction and endowed with the means to guarantee its territorial integrity, which possesses the right to self-determination, establishes its own contribution to the universal movement for the protection of human rights and has the prerogatives to establish its own international policy, and as it forms a distinct society through its French language, culture and institutions;

AS French is the common language and the only official language of Québec, the instrument by which the Québec nation articulates its identity, the distinctive mode of expression of Québec culture and the language of integration for immigrants;

AS the Québec nation has a particular attachment to State laicity;

AS the National Assembly recognizes the right of the First Nations and the Inuit in Québec, descendants of the first inhabitants of this land, to preserve and develop their original language and culture;

AS the law applies in a manner that is respectful of the institutions of the English-speaking community of Québec;

AS immigrants from all over the world contribute to the Québec nation;

AS Québec culture is where all Quebecers can be brought together and where they can express diversity while embracing a common cultural horizon;

AS integration of immigrants must be carried out in a manner that respects the distinct identity of Québec society, as recognized in the Canada-Québec Accord relating to Immigration and Temporary Admission of Aliens;

AS the French language is the main vehicle of Québec culture, to which all are called upon to adhere and contribute, so that they may enrich Québec culture without denying their culture of origin;

AS successful integration of immigrants is based on a shared responsibility of immigrants, the Québec State and the host society;

AS the Politique québécoise du développement culturel laid the groundwork for an integration model based on cultural integration;

AS cultural integration and promotion of Québec values, including the fight against racism and discrimination, are matters of concern to the State, the population, social stakeholders and the nation's institutions;

AS the National Assembly has never adhered to the Constitution Act, 1982, which was enacted despite its opposition, and as the Québec State must continue building the constitutional foundations on which the Québec nation stands;

AS it is important to formalize the model for integration into the Québec nation while ensuring a balance between the collective rights of the Québec nation and human rights and freedoms;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Act is to establish the model for integration into the Québec nation, a model which fosters living together as well as the vitality and preservation of Québec culture as the common culture and vector for social cohesion. Québec culture, of which the French language is the main vehicle, enables immigrants and persons identifying with cultural minorities to integrate into Québec society, in particular through their full participation in the latter.

CHAPTER II

MODEL AND FOUNDATIONS

2. The Québec State affirms and establishes the model for integration into the Québec nation. The model is based on the principle of reciprocity according to which integration into the Québec nation is a common objective and a commitment shared between the Québec State and all persons living in Québec, including immigrants and persons identifying with cultural minorities.

As a distinct host society, the Québec nation has its own integration model, which counters isolation and withdrawal into specific cultural groups. The model is distinct from Canadian multiculturalism.

The model is designated as “national integration”.

3. The common culture, to which all are called upon to adhere and to contribute, is defined in particular by the French language, the civil law tradition, specific institutions, distinct social values, unique cultural objects and heritage, a specific history, and the importance given to equality between women and men, to the laicity of the State and to the protection of Québec’s only official and common language.

4. In order to foster adherence and contribution by all to the common culture, national integration requires the welcoming and the full participation, in French, of immigrant persons and persons identifying with cultural minorities, and relies on interaction and closer ties between those persons and persons identifying with the French-speaking majority.

5. National integration is based on the following foundations:

(1) Québec culture is the common culture and, as such,

(a) it is the bedrock on which all Quebecers build a united nation;

(b) the Québec State is responsible for protecting it and taking measures for all Quebecers to participate in its vitality;

(c) immigrants and persons identifying with cultural minorities are called upon to contribute to its evolution and enrichment, in particular on the basis of their cultural characteristics; and

(d) it takes concrete form particularly in cultural objects, for example in the fields of the arts and literature;

(2) French is the official and common language of Québec under the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11) and, as such,

(a) it is the main vehicle of the common culture;

(b) it is the host language and language of integration that enables immigrants to interact and thrive within Québec society and to participate in the latter’s development;

(c) it is the language of intercultural communication, which enables closer ties between persons identifying with the French-speaking majority and persons identifying with cultural minorities, and enables all Quebecers to participate in public life in society; and

(d) it must be protected and its value must be asserted by the Québec State and by all Quebecers;

(3) adherence to democratic values and Québec values expressed, in particular, by the Charter of human rights and freedoms (chapter C-12), including equality between women and men and the fight against racism and discrimination;

(4) the laicity of the Québec State, affirmed by the Act respecting the laicity of the State (chapter L-0.3), which is based on the separation of the State and religions, the religious neutrality of the State, the equality of all citizens, as well as freedom of conscience and freedom of religion;

(5) the opportunity given to all to participate fully in Québec society, the identity of which is closely linked to the territory of Québec and its local and regional realities; and

(6) recognition of the paramountcy of laws over the various cultures, whether minority or majority, since the laws are drawn up by the democratic institutions that govern the Québec nation.

CHAPTER III

DUTIES AND EXPECTATIONS

6. The Québec State

(1) takes measures to welcome immigrants and to contribute to their fulfillment and integration particularly in the labour market, for example, by offering them a personalized support pathway and by creating and maintaining conditions that foster the learning of French, as well as the learning of democratic values and Québec values expressed, in particular, by the Charter of human rights and freedoms (chapter C-12);

(2) takes measures to ensure the preservation, vitality and sharing of the French language as well as of the common culture in all its forms;

(3) facilitates access to Québec works, cultural content and heritage property, enhances them and fosters their discoverability;

(4) facilitates cultural mixing and establishment of harmonious intercultural relations;

(5) promotes policies, programs and actions that enable Quebecers of all origins to better understand, respect, adhere to and contribute to the common culture;

(6) takes measures to promote, defend and enforce the laicity of the State and equality between women and men; and

(7) takes measures to increase the effectiveness of the fight against racism and discrimination.

7. All Quebecers, including immigrants, are expected to

(1) recognize that French, Québec's official language and common language, lies at the heart of the common culture;

(2) learn the French language if they do not master it, and contribute to its unifying role;

(3) participate in the vitality of the common culture;

(4) adhere to democratic values and Québec values expressed, in particular, by the Charter of human rights and freedoms (chapter C-12), and respect the fact that the State of Québec is a lay State;

(5) participate fully, in French, in Québec society, in particular in its economic, cultural and civic spheres;

(6) collaborate in the welcoming of immigrants and foster their integration into the Québec nation, in particular by encouraging their full participation, in French, in Québec society; and

(7) foster closer ties between persons identifying with the French-speaking majority and persons identifying with cultural minorities, in order to contribute to the establishment of harmonious intercultural relations and to the vitality and preservation of the common culture and the French language.

CHAPTER IV

NATIONAL POLICY ON INTEGRATION INTO THE QUÉBEC NATION AND INTO THE COMMON CULTURE

8. The Minister develops, in collaboration with the ministers concerned, and submits for approval to the Government a national policy on integration into the Québec nation and into the common culture that is consistent with national integration and its foundations under this Act.

The policy applies to the agencies referred to in the first paragraph of paragraph A of Schedule I to the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11), except the Commission de la représentation established under the Election Act (chapter E-3.3).

9. The policy may address, in particular, the following matters:

(1) the welcoming of immigrants within Québec society, assistance for them and their integration into the labour market, in particular according to the local and regional realities, to ensure their full participation, in French, in Québec society;

(2) democratic values and Québec values, including equality between women and men and the fight against racism and discrimination;

(3) State laicity;

(4) cultural mixing;

(5) access to Québec works, cultural content and heritage property, their enhancement and their discoverability;

(6) the flag and other emblems of Québec and the respect for those emblems expected of every person in Québec;

(7) the learning of French and of the history of the Québec nation;

(8) the preservation, vitality and sharing of the French language, and of the common culture in all its forms; and

(9) research on and dissemination of knowledge about national integration.

The policy is reviewed at least every 10 years.

10. The Government may determine that the policy applies to

(1) any professional order listed in Schedule I to the Professional Code (chapter C-26) or established in accordance with that Code;

(2) any college established in accordance with the General and Vocational Colleges Act (chapter C-29);

(3) any private educational institution accredited for purposes of subsidies under the Act respecting private education (chapter E-9.1);

(4) any educational institution at the university level referred to in any of paragraphs 1 to 11 of section 1 of the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level (chapter E-14.1); or

(5) any childcare centre, any home educational childcare coordinating office and any day care centre whose childcare services are subsidized referred to in the Educational Childcare Act (chapter S-4.1.1).

11. It is incumbent on the person who exercises the highest administrative authority within an agency to take the necessary means for the agency to take the policy into account.

12. The Minister may require any agency to which the policy applies to provide information on its implementation.

If the agency required to provide information is under the responsibility of another minister, the requirement is made jointly with the latter.

13. The Minister tables in the National Assembly a five-year report on the carrying out of this Act and the implementation of the national policy within four months after the end of the fiscal year or, if the Assembly is not sitting, within 15 days after resumption.

CHAPTER V

RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE MINISTER

14. The Minister proposes to the Government the general policy directions with regard to integration into the Québec nation, development of the common culture and intercultural relations.

The Minister also exercises the following functions:

- (1) coordinate the implementation of the national policy on integration into the Québec nation and into the common culture;
- (2) support and assist the agencies to which the policy applies, and see to cohesive State action in that regard;
- (3) promote national integration;
- (4) strengthen all Quebecers' sense of belonging to the Québec nation; and
- (5) foster research on national integration and on the common culture.

15. In the exercise of ministerial functions, the Minister may, in accordance with the law, enter into agreements with a government other than the Gouvernement du Québec, with a department or body of such a government, or with an international organization or a body of such an organization.

CHAPTER VI

FINANCING

16. The conditions for the granting, by an agency subject to the national policy on integration into the Québec nation and into the common culture, of any financial assistance to support projects must be consistent with national integration and its foundations.

The Government may, however, render that requirement inapplicable in the cases it determines by regulation. Such a regulation may apply to all or some of the agencies.

Section 12 applies to this section, with the necessary modifications.

CHAPTER VII

AMENDING PROVISIONS

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

17. The preamble to the Charter of human rights and freedoms (chapter C-12) is amended by inserting the following paragraph after the fourth paragraph:

“WHEREAS the Parliament of Québec has formalized the model for integration into the Québec nation, which is distinct from Canadian multiculturalism;”.

18. Section 9.1 of the Charter is amended by inserting “the model for integration into the Québec nation,” after “French,”.

19. Section 43 of the Charter is amended

(1) by replacing “ethnic” by “cultural”;

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end: “They also have the right to full participation, in French, in Québec society.”

20. Section 50 of the Charter is amended by inserting “, and shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the model for integration into the Québec nation provided for in the Act respecting integration into the Québec nation (2025, chapter 13)” at the end of the second paragraph.

ACT RESPECTING THE EXERCISE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND PREROGATIVES OF THE QUÉBEC PEOPLE AND THE QUÉBEC STATE

21. The Act respecting the exercise of the fundamental rights and prerogatives of the Québec people and the Québec State (chapter E-20.2) is amended by inserting the following section after section 8:

“**8.1.** The Québec State has its own national integration model provided for by the Act respecting integration into the Québec nation (2025, chapter 13).”

QUÉBEC IMMIGRATION ACT

22. Section 1 of the Québec Immigration Act (chapter I-0.2.1) is amended, in the third paragraph,

(1) by inserting “, the Québec State” after “Québec society”;

(2) by replacing “, à son enrichissement culturel” in the French text by “, à l’enrichissement culturel de la société québécoise”.

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE DE L'IMMIGRATION, DE LA FRANCISATION ET DE L'INTÉGRATION

23. Section 1 of the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (chapter M-16.1) is amended by replacing “ethnocultural diversity and inclusiveness” in the second paragraph by “francization and integration”.

24. Section 2 of the Act is amended by striking out “and ethnocultural minorities” in the first paragraph.

25. Section 4 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “ethnocultural diversity and inclusiveness” in the introductory clause by “francization and integration”;

(2) by replacing paragraph 8 by the following paragraph:

“(8) to foster the commitment and coordinate the actions of the departments and bodies and of the other social actors concerned, including the municipalities, in order to support immigrants’ integration into the Québec nation in accordance with the integration model provided for in the Act respecting integration into the Québec nation (2025, chapter 13) and thereby build a more cohesive society that contributes to immigrants’ long-term settlement in the regions;”.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

26. The parliamentary institutions referred to in the third paragraph of paragraph A of Schedule I to the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11) and the Commission de la représentation established under the Election Act (chapter E-3.3) establish and implement a policy on integration into the Québec nation and into the common culture that is consistent with national integration and its foundations under this Act.

27. In addition to the regulation-making powers provided for by this Act, the Government may make any regulation to facilitate the implementation of this Act, including to define the terms and expressions used in it or their scope.

28. The Minister of the French Language must submit to the Government for approval the first national policy on integration into the Québec nation and into the common culture no later than 28 November 2026.

29. The provisions of this Act prevail over any contrary provisions of any subsequent Act, unless such an Act expressly states that it applies despite this Act.

30. The Minister of the French Language is responsible for the administration of this Act.

31. The provisions of this Act come into force on 28 May 2025, except those of sections 16 and 26, which come into force on the date of publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* of the first order made under the first paragraph of section 8 of this Act.

