

1970s: Crisis, nationalism, and identity



- 1. October Crisis (1970)** – FLQ kidnappings and the War Measures Act imposed in Québec
- 2. Election of Robert Bourassa (1970)** – Liberal government begins modernization reforms
- 3. James Bay Project begins (early 1970s)** – Massive hydroelectric development in northern Québec
- 4. James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (1975)** – Landmark agreement with Indigenous peoples
- 5. Parti Québécois elected (1976)** – First sovereigntist government under René Lévesque
- 6. Bill 101 – Charter of the French Language (1977)** – French becomes official language

Robert Bourassa

July 14, 1933 – October 2, 1996

lawyer and politician

22nd premier of Quebec : 1970 to 1976
and from 1985 to 1994.

Liberal Party of Quebec,



1970 October Crisis

James Bay Hydroelectric Project (1971): a massive hydro plan to make Quebec a "hydroelectric superpower".

Social and Legal Reforms: [Quebec Council on the Status of Women](#) (1973), the Quebec Charter of Human Rights (1975).

Language Policy (Bill 22): made French the official language of Quebec, setting the stage for future language legislation.

Meech Lake Accord (1987-1990): Negotiated a constitutional agreement to bring Quebec into the 1982 Constitution with "distinct society" status, which ultimately failed to be ratified.

Oka Crisis (Summer 1990): Managed the armed standoff between Mohawk warriors, Quebec police, and the army

Language Policy (Bill 178): Passed legislation allowing French-only outdoor commercial signs, invoking the notwithstanding clause to navigate earlier court rulings.

Charlottetown Accord (1992): Championed another, failed attempt at constitutional reform, which was rejected in a national referendum

A large, irregularly shaped rock is the central focus, partially covered in white paint. The white paint is shaped into a map of the state of Missouri. The text "THIS IS MOHAWK LAND" is painted in large, bold, red capital letters across the center of the white map. The rock is situated in a grassy field with a dense forest of green trees in the background. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

THIS
IS
MOHAWK
LAND









Canadian Constitution

Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law:

Guarantee of Rights and Freedoms

1. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Fundamental Freedoms

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion; (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and (d) freedom of association.

Democratic Rights

3. Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein. 4. (a) The House of Commons and no legislative assembly shall continue for longer than five years from the date fixed for the return of the writs at a general election of its members. (b) In time of real or apprehended war, invasion or insurrection, a House of Commons may be continued by Parliament and a legislative assembly may be continued by the legislature beyond five years if such continuation is not opposed by the votes of more than one-third of the members of the House of Commons or the legislature, as the case may be. 5. There shall be a sitting of Parliament and of each legislature at least once every twelve months.

Mobility Rights

6. (a) Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in and leave Canada. (b) Every citizen of Canada and every person who has the status of a permanent resident of Canada has the right: (c) to move to and take up residence in any province; and (d) to pursue the gaining of a livelihood in any province. (1) The rights specified in subsection (2) are subject to: (a) any law or practice of general application in force in a province other than those that discriminate among persons primarily on the basis of province of present or previous residence; and (b) any law providing for reasonable residency requirements as a qualification for the receipt of publicly provided social services. (2) Subsections (1) and (3) do not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration in a province of conditions of individuals in that province who are socially or economically disadvantaged if the rate of employment in that province is below the rate of employment in Canada.

Legal Rights

7. Everyone has the rights to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice. 8. Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure. 9. Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned. 10. Everyone has the right on arrest or detention: (a) to be informed promptly of the reasons therefor; (b) to retain and instruct counsel without delay and to be informed of that right; and (c) to have the validity of the detention determined by way of habeas corpus and to be released if the detention is not lawful. 11. Any person charged with an offence has the right: (a) to be informed without unreasonable delay of the specific offence; (b) to be tried within a reasonable time; (c) not to be compelled to be a witness in proceedings against that person in respect of the offence; (d) to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal; (e) not to be denied reasonable bail without just cause; (f) except in the case of an offence under military law tried before a military tribunal, to the benefit of trial by jury where the maximum punishment for the offence is



CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS



imprisonment for five years or a more severe punishment; (d) not to be found guilty on account of any act or omission unless, at the time of the act or omission, it constituted an offence under Canadian or international law or was criminal according to the general principles of law recognized by the community of nations; (e) if finally acquitted of the offence, not to be tried for it again and, if finally found guilty and punished for the offence, not to be tried or punished for it again; and (f) if found guilty of the offence and if the punishment for the offence has been varied between the time of conviction and the time of sentencing, to the benefit of the lesser punishment. 12. Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment. 13. A witness who testifies in any proceedings has the right not to have any incriminating evidence so given used to incriminate that witness in any other proceedings, except in a prosecution for perjury or for the giving of contradictory evidence. 14. A party or witness in any proceedings who does not understand or speak the language in which the proceedings are conducted or who is deaf has the right to the assistance of an interpreter.

Equality Rights

15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability. (2) Subsection (1) does not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged individuals or groups including those that are disadvantaged because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

Official Languages of Canada

16. (1) English and French are the official languages of Canada and have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and government of Canada. (2) English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick and have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the legislature and government of New Brunswick. (3) Nothing in this Charter limits the authority of Parliament or a legislature to advance the equality of status or use of English and French. (4) Everyone has the right to use English or French in any debates and other proceedings of Parliament. (5) Everyone has the right to use English or French in any debates and other proceedings of the legislature of New Brunswick. 17. (1) The statutes, records and journals of Parliament shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative. (2) The statutes, records and journals of the

legislature of New Brunswick shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative. 18. (1) Either English or French may be used by any person in, or in any pleading in or process issuing from, any court established by Parliament. (2) Either English or French may be used by any person in, or in any pleading in or process issuing from, any court of New Brunswick. 20. (1) Any member of the public in Canada has the right to communicate with, and to receive available services from, any head or central office of an institution of the Parliament or government of Canada in English or French, and has the same right with respect to any other office of any such institution where: (a) there is a significant demand for communications with and services from that office in such language; or (b) due to the nature of the office, it is reasonable that communications with and services from that office be available in both English and French. (3) Any member of the public in New Brunswick has the right to communicate with, and to receive available services from, any office of an institution of the legislature or government of New Brunswick in English or French. 21. Nothing in sections 16 to 20 abrogates or derogates from any right, privilege or obligation with respect to the English and French languages, or either of them, that exists or is continued by virtue of any other provision of the Constitution of Canada. 22. Nothing in sections 20 to 21 abrogates or derogates from any legal or customary right or privilege acquired or enjoyed either before or after the coming into force of this Charter with respect to any language that is not English or French.

Minority Language Educational Rights

23. (1) Citizens of Canada (a) whose first language learned and still understood is that of the English or French linguistic minority population of the province in which they reside; or (b) who have received their primary school instruction in Canada in English or French and reside in a province where they have the right to have their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in that language in that province. (2) Citizens of Canada of whom any child has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in English or French in Canada, have the right to have all their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in the same language. (3) The right of citizens of Canada under subsection (1) and (2) to have their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in the language of the English or French linguistic minority population of a province (a) applies whenever in the province the number of children of citizens who have such a right is sufficient to warrant the provision to them out of public funds of minority language instruction; and (b) includes, where the number of those children so warrants, the right to have them receive that instruction in minority language educational facilities provided out of public funds.

Enforcement

24. (1) Anyone whose rights or freedoms, as guaranteed by this Charter, have been infringed or denied may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction to obtain such remedy as the court considers appropriate and just in the circumstances. (2) Where, in proceedings under subsection (1), a court concludes that evidence was obtained in a manner that infringed or denied any rights or freedoms guaranteed by this Charter, the evidence shall be excluded if it is established that, having regard to all the circumstances, the admission of it in the proceedings would bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

General

25. The guarantee in this Charter of certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any aboriginal, treaty or other rights or freedoms that pertain to the aboriginal peoples of Canada including (a) any rights or freedoms that have been recognized by the Royal Proclamation of October 4, 1960; and (b) any rights or freedoms that may be acquired by the aboriginal peoples of Canada by way of land claims agreements. 26. The guarantee in this Charter of certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed as denying the existence of any other rights or freedoms that exist in Canada. 27. This Charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians. 28. Notwithstanding anything in this Charter, the rights and freedoms referred to in it are guaranteed equally to male and female persons. 29. Nothing in this Charter abrogates or derogates from any rights or privileges guaranteed by or under the Constitution of Canada in respect of denominational, separate or dissentient schools. 30. A reference in this Charter to a province or to the legislature assembly or legislature of a province shall be deemed to include a reference to the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, or to the appropriate legislative authority thereof, as the case may be. 31. Nothing in this Charter extends the legislative powers of any body or authority.

Application of Charter

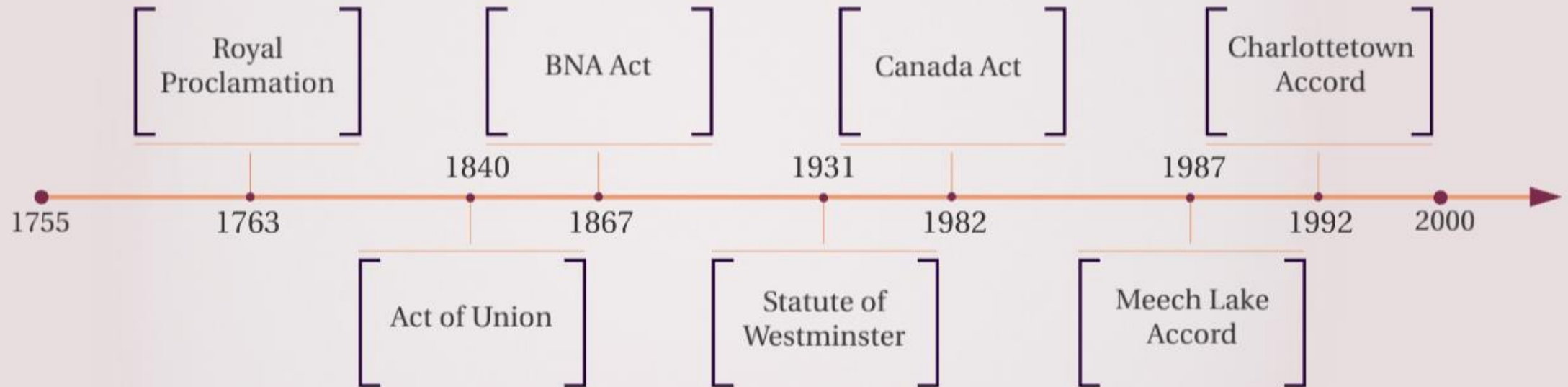
32. (1) This Charter applies: (a) to the Parliament and government of Canada in respect of all matters within the authority of Parliament including all matters relating to the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories; and (b) to the legislature and government of each province in respect of all matters within the authority of the legislature of each province. (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), section 31 shall not have effect until three years after this section comes into force. (3) Parliament or the legislature of a province may expressly declare in an Act of Parliament or of the legislature, as the case may be, that the Act or a provision thereof shall operate notwithstanding a provision included in section 1 or sections 2 to 4 of this Charter. (4) An Act or a provision of an Act in respect of which a declaration made under this section is in effect shall have such operation as it would have but for the provision of this Charter referred to in the declaration. (5) A declaration made under subsection (3) shall cease to have effect five years after it comes into force or on such earlier date as may be specified in the declaration. (6) Parliament or a legislature of a province may re-enact a declaration made under subsection (3). (7) Subsection (3) applies in respect of an enactment made under subsection (3).

Citation

34. This Part may be cited as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.


"We must now establish the basic principles, the basic values and beliefs which hold us together as Canadians in this legal and regional landscape that is a way of life and a source of values which make us proud of the country that has given us such freedom and such tranquillity."
 P.E. Trudeau 1982

Timeline of Canada's Constitution







A scenic view of Meech Lake. The foreground features a large, weathered log partially submerged in the water. The middle ground shows the calm, blue-grey water of the lake. The background is a dense forest of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and green, set against a blue sky with light, wispy clouds.

Meech Lake
Accord
1987- 1990

An effort an agreement
between the Federal and
Provincial Governments

To recognize Quebec as a
distinct society within
Canada, authorizing the
government to preserve and
promote this identity.



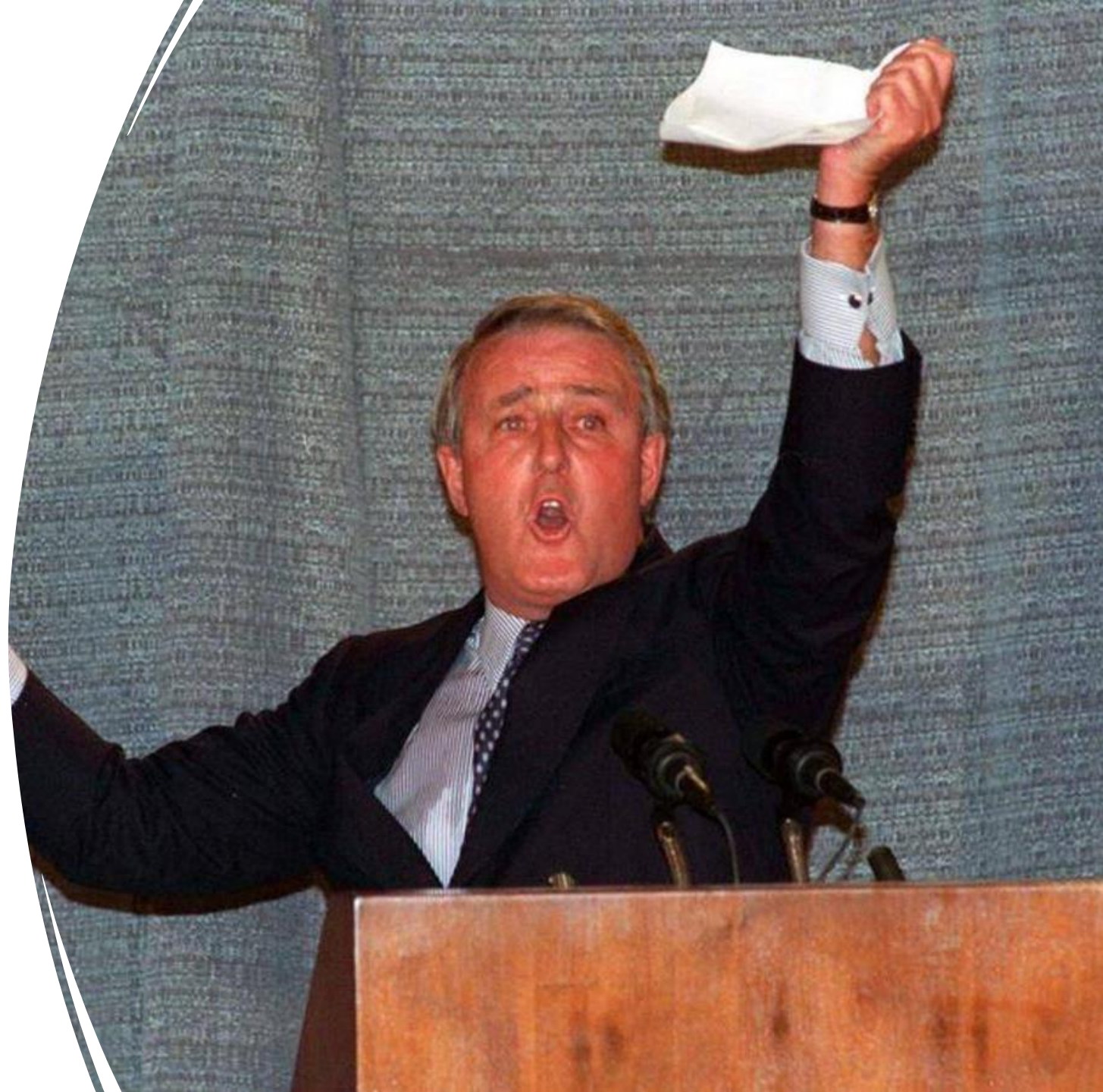


Elijah Harper - Manitoba



Clyde Wells - Newfoundland

Charlottetown Accord 1992



Goal of Charlottetown accord:

To change Canada's constitution
for Quebec and Indigenous
peoples

Defeated in a national
referendum



2000s: Economic reform and globalization



Bernard Landry premiership (2001) – Economic nationalism and globalization policies

Jean Charest elected (2003) – Liberal government introduces reforms

Student protests and tuition debates (mid-2000s) – Growing activism

Reasonable Accommodation Debate (2007) – Identity and multiculturalism discussions

Bouchard–Taylor Commission (2007–2008) – Examines cultural accommodation

Bernard Landry (PQ)

- 1937 – 2018
- Sherbrooke
- Teacher
- Premier 2001- 2003
- Strong separatist



Jean Charest (Liberal)

1958 –

Sherbrooke

Lawyer

Premier 2003-2012

Plan du Nord – Natural resources

Environmentalist

Student strike





**2010s: Social movements
and political shifts**



Student “Maple Spring” protests (2012) – Massive demonstrations against tuition hikes

Pauline Marois (PQ)

**(2012) – First
female premier of
Québec**



Philippe Couillard (Liberal)

- 1957 – Montreal
- Neurosurgeon
- Premier 2014-2018
- 2017 Bill 62, a Quebec ban on face covering.



François Legault (CAQ)

- 1957 in Montreal
- Air Transat
- CAQ – 2011
- Premier 2018-2026



**Charter of
Values debate
(2013–2014) –
Secularism
controversy**

Not allowed



Bill 21



March 28, 2019, ban public workers in positions of authority from wearing religious symbols.

On May 2, 2024, The bill was renewed by using the notwithstanding clause for five more years until 2029.



What's your view: Should the state enforce strict secularism **in public institutions?**

Public Health Measures & First Wave:

The province went into lockdown in mid-March, closing schools and non-essential businesses.

The virus hit eldercare homes (CHSLDs) devastatingly hard, leading to over 7,600 new cases and hundreds of deaths in the first months.

Masks became mandatory in indoor public spaces by July.





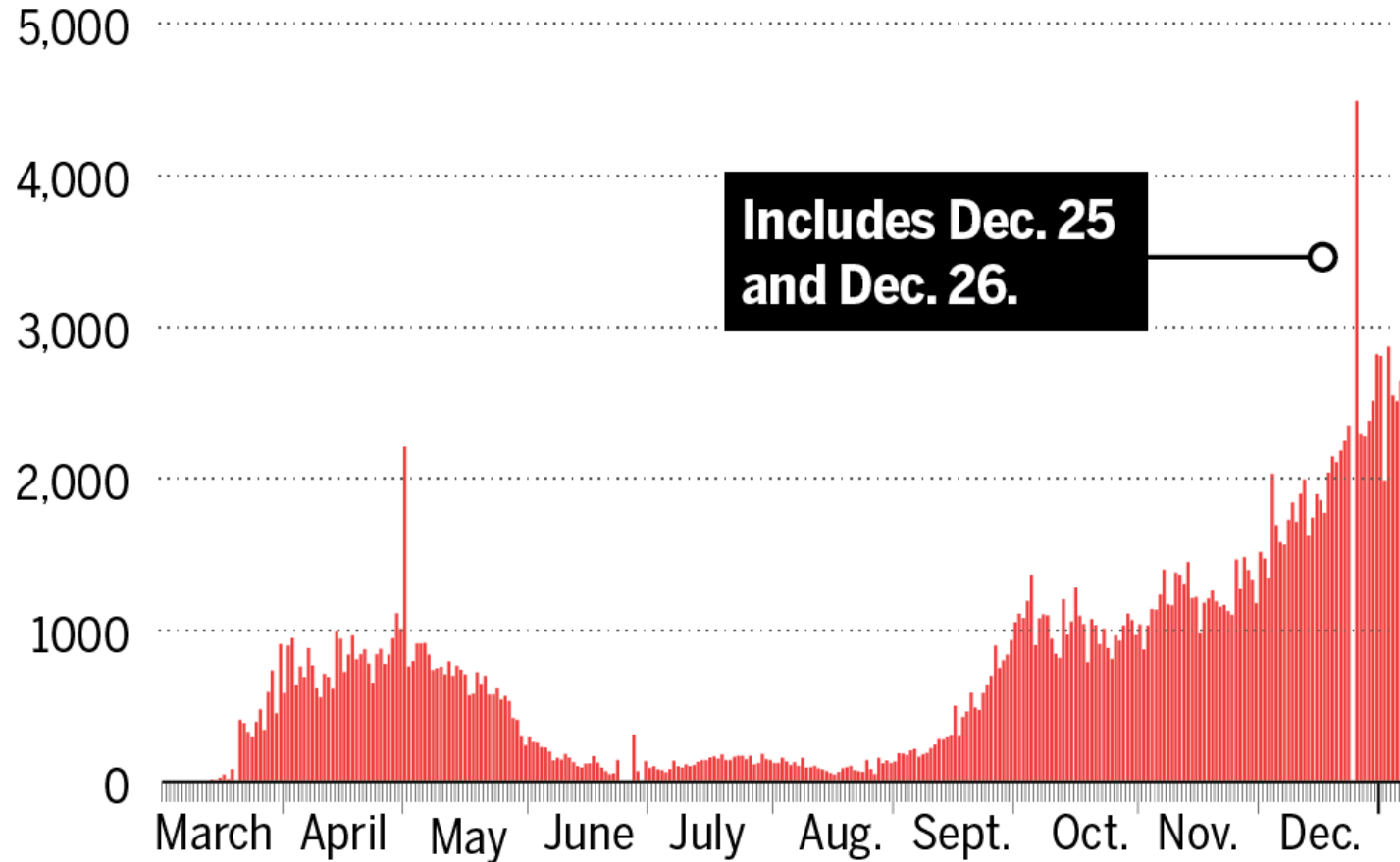
But is there for the night a resting place?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.

DAILY COVID CASES IN QUEBEC

March 1, 2020 to Jan. 6, 2021

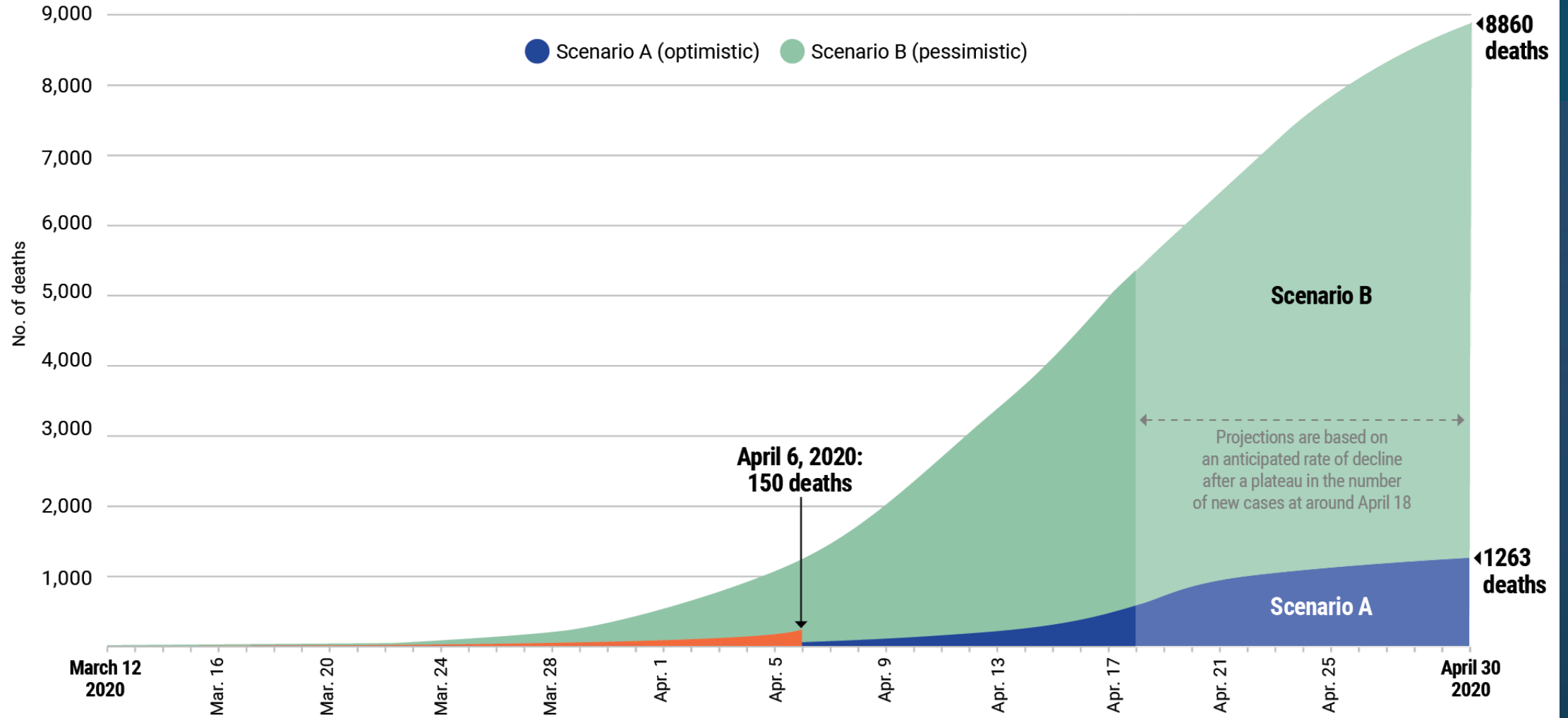


SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

NATIONAL POST

Estimated no. of cumulative deaths

(scenarios as of April 7)







Bill 96 (2022) – Strengthening of French language laws

Significantly tightened the *Charter of the French Language* (Bill 101). It establishes French as the sole official and common language of the province

Business: Companies with 25 or more employees must undergo a formal Francisation process to ensure French is the language of the workplace.

Signage: Commercial signs, posters, and outdoor advertising featuring non-French trademarks are required to make French "markedly predominant" (taking up twice the space of other languages).

Contracts & Legal: Contracts must be presented in French first. Only after examining the French version can the parties mutually agree to use another language.

Government Services: Provincial government institutions must communicate exclusively in French, with limited exceptions (e.g., for historical English-speaking communities, new immigrants within their first six months, or Indigenous communities).

Penalties: Businesses face significantly increased penalties for non-compliance (\$3K - \$30K fines)

A close-up portrait of Christine Fréchette, a woman with short brown hair and green eyes, smiling. She is wearing a light-colored, textured blazer and a small gold hoop earring. The background is a plain, light grey wall. A blue triangular shape is visible in the upper left corner. A dark grey banner with a white border and a scalloped edge on the right side is positioned at the bottom left, containing the text.

**Christine Fréchette (2026)
(CAQ)**



Rank ↕	Premier ↕	Incumbency ↕	Dates in power ↕	Mandates ↕	Party ↕
1	Maurice Duplessis ^[a]	18 years, 82 days	1936-8-26–1939-11-8 1944-8-30–1959-9-7	5	Union Nationale
2	Louis-Alexandre Taschereau	15 years, 338 days	1920-7-9–1936-6-11	4	Liberal
3	Lomer Gouin	15 years, 108 days	1905-3-23–1920-7-9	4	Liberal
4	Robert Bourassa	14 years, 227 days	1970-5-12–1976-11-25 1985-12-12–1994-1-11	4	Liberal
5	Jean Charest	9 years, 143 days	2003-4-29–2012-9-19	3	Liberal
6	René Lévesque	8 years, 312 days	1976-11-25–1985-10-3	2	Parti Québécois
7	François Legault	7 years, 179 days	2018-10-18–2026-04-15	2	Coalition Avenir Québec
8	Jean Lesage	5 years, 346 days	1960-7-5–1966-6-16	2	Liberal
9	Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau	5 years, 225 days	1867-07-15–1873-02-25	2	Conservative
10	Lucien Bouchard	5 years, 38 days	1996-1-29–2001-3-8	1	Parti Québécois
11	Adélard Godbout	5 years, 7 days	1936-6-11–1936-8-26 1939-11-8–1944-8-30	1	Liberal
12	Honoré Mercier	4 years, 326 days	1887-01-29–1891-12-21	1	Liberal
13	Philippe Couillard	4 years, 178 days	2014-4-23–2018-10-18	1	Liberal

14	Charles Boucher de Boucherville	4 years, 163 days	1874-09-22–1878-03-08 1891-12-21–1892-12-16	2	Conservative
15	Simon-Napoléon Parent	4 years, 121 days	1900-10-3–1905-3-23	2	Liberal
16	Louis-Olivier Taillon	3 years, 151 days	1887-01-25–1887-01-29 1892-12-16–1896-5-11	0	Conservative
17	Félix-Gabriel Marchand ^[a]	3 years, 124 days	1897-5-24–1900-9-25	1	Liberal
18	John Jones Ross	3 years, 2 days	1884-01-23–1887-01-25	1	Conservative
19	Joseph-Adolphe Chapleau	2 years, 273 days	1879-10-31–1882-07-31	1	Conservative
20	Daniel Johnson Sr. ^[a]	2 years, 102 days	1966-6-16–1968-9-26	1	Union Nationale
21	Bernard Landry	2 years, 52 days	2001-3-8–2003-4-29	0	Parti Québécois
22	Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière	1 year, 237 days	1878-03-08–1879-10-31	1	Liberal
23	Jean-Jacques Bertrand	1 year, 222 days	1968-10-2–1970-5-12	0	Union Nationale
24	Pauline Marois	1 year, 216 days	2012-9-19–2014-4-23	1	Parti Québécois
25	Gédéon Ouimet	1 year, 207 days	1873-02-27–1874-09-22	0	Conservative
26	Joseph-Alfred Mousseau	1 year, 176 days	1882-07-31–1884-01-23	0	Conservative
27	Jacques Parizeau	1 year, 125 days	1994-9-26–1996-1-29	1	Parti Québécois
28	Edmund James Flynn	1 year, 13 days	1896-5-11–1897-5-24	0	Conservative
29	Daniel Johnson Jr.	0 years, 258 days	1994-1-11–1994-9-26	0	Liberal
30	Antonio Barrette	0 years, 179 days	1960-1-8–1960-7-5	0	Union Nationale
31	Paul Sauvé ^[a]	0 years, 113 days	1959-9-11–1960-1-2	0	Union Nationale
32	Pierre Marc Johnson	0 years, 70 days	1985-10-3–1985-12-12	0	Parti Québécois
33	Christine Fréchette (<i>incumbent</i>)	32 days	2026-04-15–present	0	Coalition Avenir Québec



The next Québec provincial general election is scheduled for **October 5, 2026**.

General elections are held on the first Monday in October of the fourth year following the last election.

An early general election may be held before that date.