

## 2007 Quebec Provincial Election

### Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO

Brian Gibb, Green Party, Papineau



<p><b>1- If your party is in favor of Quebec independence what guarantees can it give to workers in the federal public sector (the government and agencies) about their employment? Will you guarantee similar employment (salary and working conditions) in a Quebec public service or negotiate an arrangement with Ottawa whereby they could be kept on in the federal public-sector?</b></p>	<p>The Green Party does not have a position on the national question, because it is not a priority for the party. MNAs for the Green Party will be invited to vote according to their conscience on sovereignty matters.</p> <p>The Green Party believes that the issue of sovereignty is a matter for the people of Quebec to decide, not a party in particular.</p> <p>It is therefore impossible to state the party's position concerning a possible transfer of federal public sector workers.</p>
<p><b>2- What does your party intend to do to eliminate poverty in Quebec? Give us some concrete examples.</b></p>	<p>We must get away from the conventional institutional approach with respect to this matter and deal directly with the issue. As far as affordable housing and a guaranteed income are concerned, no progress has been made to date because the groups defending its positions and the people experiencing these difficulties do not matter to the mainstream parties.</p> <p>To attack the issue of poverty, an actual scale of governance must be established regionally through an elected regional assembly which will be given a mandate to resolve these problems. Furthermore, proportional voting must be introduced provincially. Countries which have proportional voting achieve a more equitable sharing of wealth, because it ensures that all groups are represented.</p> <p>The Green Party is in favour of an increase in the number of affordable housing units and a minimum guaranteed income for everyone.</p>

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<p><b>3- What does your party intend to do to counter the harmful consequences of climate change?</b></p>	<p>The Green Party's plan is called Kyoto Plus and its key measure calls for a 30% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2020. In addition, in the region, we must demand that public sector vehicles, e.g., STO buses, use of biofuels and that these biofuels be produced locally by farmers in the Outaouais. This would result in an immediate reduction of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>The Green Party is opposed to the mega dump in Danforth Lake. Instead, waste in the Outaouais must be treated locally using new techniques that produce residual matter that can subsequently be used the manufacture of asphalt or concrete, for example.</p> <p>What is most unfortunate is that in the 30 years that the Liberal MPs had been in the region, no progress has been made regionally on environmental issues due to a lack of leadership.</p>
<p><b>4- Are you in favor of using subcontracting and privatization to reduce the size of the Quebec public service? What role would you give to the public service to deliver quality services to citizens?</b></p>	<p>On going government services must be provided by the Public Service. However, as for ad hoc projects with time constraints, it may be a good idea to call on subcontractors.</p> <p>Getting the Quebec Public Service back on its feet is an absolute must, as it has been abused by successive governments. Employees are poorly paid and many politicians have made promises to them over the years. The passage of Bill 142 is yet one more example of the disregard politicians have for the Public Service. The politicians must go on record as saying that public services are important in Quebec.</p>
<p><b>5- What will you do to help the region improve traffic between Gatineau and Ottawa? If your party forms the government, would it contribute to the funding of a corridor reserved for STQ (Rapibus) buses? If so, how much would your government contribute?</b></p>	<p>The transit issue shows that regional governance has been a failure. The services of the Société de transport de l'Outaouais must be matched up with those of OC Transpo. Steps must be taken to enhance passenger transportation to Ottawa. The extension of Highway 50 will once again contribute to urban sprawl so solutions should be found to reduce the number of cars on the road.</p> <p>Emphasis must therefore be placed on long-term solutions and a regional approach involving Gatineau and Ottawa. Furthermore, manufacturing biofuels in the region would help create some jobs locally.</p>

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<p><b>6- According to a citizens' coalition on health matters, the Outaouais is said to be currently underfunded by the Quebec public system if you consider the funding allocated in terms of population. Do you share their findings and you believe that the region is underfunded? If so, how do you intend to resolve the problem? In addition, what measures does your party intend to take to improve to provide better access to family doctors access in the region and to public sector health care resources?</b></p>	<p>The Green Party is calling for a public inquiry on the healthcare system crisis in the Outaouais. The health care sector must be restructured in the region.</p> <p>The current situation is scandalous, but it is understandable as the main political parties are in no way motivated to invest in health care in the region. The Liberals are taking the region for granted, and the MPs in the region have shown to be incompetent, while the PQ has simply turned its back on the region.</p> <p>In addition to the public inquiry, the Green Party solutions are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secure adequate health care funding in the Outaouais for the public;</li> <li>2. See to it that the Aylmer Health Cooperative provides emergency services to reduce traffic at the Hull and Gatineau hospitals;</li> <li>3. Create a healthcare cooperative in the Gatineau sector, which would reduce the number persons with no family doctor.</li> </ol>
<p><b>7- What is your party's platform on daycare services? In particular, we would like to know whether you intend to increase the current \$7 cost per day. In addition, what is your position on the presence of the private sector in the daycare services sector? Are you also planning on increasing the number of subsidized spaces in the Outaouais?</b></p>	<p>The Centres de la petite enfance (CPE), where parents sit on the board of directors, are the best model to ensure quality services. In an ideal world, the State would provide all of these services, but such is not the case.</p> <p>The French model, where the State provides all of these services and has crèches available for everyone, merits some review, but the question as to who should pay for this model remains. However one must bear in mind that each dollar invested in early childhood can save up to \$8 in services dispensed to adolescents and adults later on in life.</p>

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<p>8- What measures which are party propose to improve primary and secondary school education? Provide some concrete examples. Moreover, are you in favor of maintaining the freeze on tuition fees in universities?</p>	<p>The Green Party is proposing that the high student-class ratio be reduced at all levels. It is also proposing that a Negawatt Fund be created to adequately fund education. A negawatt is a Watt of electricity saved by taking energy-efficiency measures (replacing incandescent light bulbs, installing better insulation in houses, etc). This electricity would be sold outside Quebec and the savings invested in education. Moreover, the freeze on tuition fees would be maintained, and the Green Party is also proposing that an evolution take place leading to an education eventually being completely free of charge.</p>
<p>9- What is your party's position on the laïcité of Quebec society? In particular, do you believe that the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides sufficient protection to guarantee the denomination-free nature of society and its public institutions? If not, what do you plan to do to rectify this problem?</p>	<p>The Quebec Charter of Rights is sufficient to guarantee human rights. The Green Party is in favour of the laïcité (denomination-free nature) of Quebec society.</p> <p>On the issue of religious and private schools, we would like to see us move progressively toward a denomination-free public school system.</p>
<p>10- What is your party's current position with respect to the current debate on a reasonable accommodation? Specify, in particular, which fundamental values you believe that Quebec society must not negotiate (equality of men and women, laïcité, etc.) when it reviews requests for accommodation in the public sector.</p>	<p>There are some rock-solid principles that define Quebec society: equality of men and women, education for all children, universal suffrage, human rights and democracy. We must be tolerant of differences, but we must adhere to these principles.</p> <p>Through dialogue, we can come up with solutions, and it is very healthy to talk about these things as we're doing now. Language, culture and our values shape our society.</p>