

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO

Bill Clennett, Québec solidaire, Hull



<p>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?</p>	<p>To achieve sovereignty, Québec solidaire is proposing an original approach, i.e., election by universal suffrage of a group of citizens who are representative of the plurality of political trends. This group, which is called the Constituent Assembly, would be responsible for submitting proposals on Quebec's political and constitutional future, and the values and institutions that should be associated therewith. Its first mandate would be to organize a broad-based consultation process enabling Quebec's people to express her views on these subjects. The Constituent Assembly would have to take into account the results of this consultation in its proposals which, in the final analysis, would be put before the public in a referendum. The issue of transferring from the Public Service of Canada would be analyzed and discussed within the framework of this democratic exercise.</p>
<p>2- What does your party intend to do to eliminate poverty in Quebec? Give us some concrete examples.</p>	<p>Québec solidaire believes it is essential that the universal policies which Quebec produced during the Quiet Revolution be maintained to ensure that they are accessible to the largest possible number of Quebecers. To this end, Québec solidaire pledges to build within the first 1000 days of its first mandate 8000 social housing units (4000 social housing units if the feds do not contribute any funding), progressively increase minimum wage to \$10 an hour and harmonize social assistance benefits paid to claimants with severe employment restrictions. Any cost-of-living indexation of benefits will also be part of this social assistance reform.</p> <p>In order to wage this battle against poverty and meet its other commitments, Québec solidaire believes it is necessary to increase the government's additional revenue, in particular, through the implementation of Pharma-Quebec and the nationalization of wind energy by creating Éole-Quebec. Moreover, Québec solidaire wants to increase its taxation levels so that those who are better off contribute more to the public treasury, and the party will also ask companies to pay their fair share of income tax. That way, it will be possible to protect public services and reduce poverty.</p>

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO

Bill Clennett, Québec solidaire, Hull



3- What does your party intend to do to counter the harmful consequences of climate change?

To counter the harmful effects of climate change, Québec solidaire is essentially focusing on energy efficiency and massive investments in public transit. Energy efficiency requires that we reduce waste. This can and must be done in several areas. Here are but a few examples taken from a long list: improved insulation in private and public buildings, power distribution underground rather than above ground, economic incentives for more energy efficient sources of light, etc. Merely recovering the huge amount of energy wasted will enable us to close down, in the medium term, the Bécancour and Tracy thermal power plants.

A consistent policy to develop public transit and alternative transportation networks implemented by a united government will make effective, flexible, comfortable and affordable travel possible, while enabling people to get out of the vicious circle of heavy reliance on the automobile.

Finally, emissions quotas shall be imposed on major industrial polluters which will be able to comply by turning to technology to improve their energy efficiency, resorting to greenhouse gas sequestration technologies, purchasing carbon credits or financing clean development projects (Kyoto clean development mechanism).

As an environmental party, Québec solidaire is proposing concrete measures to participate in the international effort. Our plan to fight climate change will not be limited to the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol, as our aim is to reduce emissions by 30% by 2020 and 60% by 2050.

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO

Bill Clennett, Québec solidaire, Hull



<p>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?</p>	<p>As far as Québec solidaire is concerned, the public nature of services dispensed by the Quebec State is a guarantee to be able to offer quality services to everyone in Quebec in urban centers and in the regions. Maintaining quality public services also makes it possible to extend working conditions to employees of the Quebec State. That is why Quebec's solidarity will rescind all anti-union legislation (7, 8, 30, 31 and 142) passed by the Liberal Government and this will result in true negotiations with the public sector. Bill 142, in particular, imposed by decree working conditions on public sector workers, while prohibiting strikes and all other pressure tactics, with violators subject to drastic penalties. This legislation also enables bosses to refuse leave without pay to attend to union business, even though this is indicated in the collective agreement, the reason being that there is not enough staff.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>All over Quebec, Québec solidaire will create a consistent policy to develop public transit and alternative transportation networks implemented by a Solidarity government will make functional, flexible, comfortable and affordable travel possible, while enabling people to get out of the vicious circle of heavy reliance on the automobile. The development of the public transit and alternative transportation network will pull people of the automobile cult without bringing individual mobility to a grinding halt. As for funding, the party plans on investing an additional \$225 million in public transit within the first 1000 days of its mandate, \$72 million of which will go to funding the Rapibus project.</p>

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO

Bill Clennett, Québec solidaire, Hull



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?

In the Outaouais region, there are major shortcomings with respect to health care services offered to the public. For example, there is a severe shortage of family doctors which deprives thousands of people of medical follow-up. In recent years, annual reports produced by the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais describe just how hard it is for the public in the region to gain access to a family doctor. In Trois-Rivières and the Saguenay, innovative projects by the satellite medical faculties have recently come on stream to address the shortage of doctors. Gatineau, the fourth largest city in Quebec, is grappling with a severe shortage of doctors. A project of this type is needed here.

In addition, Québec solidaire believes it is difficult to have good health when you are poor. The fight against poverty that Québec solidaire intends to wage (see question 2) will enable the most underprivileged to rely less heavily on health care services.

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO

Bill Clennett, Québec solidaire, Hull



<p>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?</p>	<p>The CPE is a social economics business model cited as an example the world over, a local and community development instrument tailored to its surroundings, which acknowledges that childcare is not only an individual but a collective responsibility. For that reason, the State must get involved in their development and funding. This choice is consonant with our core values. It is based on a community vision of service and takes into account local and regional realities. It is democratic because CPEs remain autonomous and are managed by the parents. It is feminist in view of the support CPEs can provide families, the main actors of which are still mothers, and last but not least, they recognize the work done by working women in the family. It is also environmental in terms of the human environment, since it produces settings conducive to child development, an instrument to fight poverty and promote equality.</p> <p>Contrary to the ADQ which is proposing that families receive weekly allowances to select their day care provider, Québec solidaire believes that a universal daycare system must be retained to ensure that all children have access to the same services, regardless of their social class and their parents' income. A universal day care system such as the \$7-a-day model makes it easier to it integrate children from cultural communities and helps break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. This system, which transcends social stratification, creates equal opportunities. An increase in the \$7 charge would clash with the fundamental values of equality and accessibility that Québec solidaire is promoting.</p> <p>As was the case when this network was developed in 1997, it will be up to the communities to determine with their CPEs what their typical daycare requirements are, e.g., their ability and willingness to respond thereto. To achieve this goal, the government will have to review current funding rules which cannot sustain the level of service that people would like to see the CPEs develop.</p> <p>In concrete terms, Québec solidaire will invest \$245 million to improve daycare services, which would include the addition of 35,000 new spots.</p>
<p>8- What measures which are</p>	<p>Québec solidaire will progressively reduce the number of pupils/students per class at all</p>

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO



Bill Clennett, Québec solidaire, Hull

<p>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>levels and will gradually eliminate subsidies to private institutions and tuition fees, and will add additional resources to offer everyone a quality, denomination-free and free public education.</p> <p>In addition, Québec solidaire will hire and place in every school board employees who are specialized in providing adequate services to students experiencing learning and adaptation difficulties.</p> <p>As far as post-secondary education is concerned, Québec solidaire will eliminate student debt and reform the student financial assistance plan in consultation with the student movement so that it meets the needs of students. The party will make the education financial assistance program a fully public system and see to it that students' debts relate back to their individual wealth so that they are covered in the event of personal bankruptcy.</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 and Freedoms is essential to Quebec society. Québec solidaire maintains that it must be used to safeguard the individual and collective rights of all citizens in the Province of Quebec. It must also maintain the denomination-free nature of the Quebec State and its institutions. Québec solidaire profoundly believes in the separation of religion and the state, and any policy that runs counter to this vision must be considered a step backward.</p>
<p>10 – What is your party's current position with respect</p>	<p>Québec solidaire is a political party devoted to promoting and defending the common good, social justice and equality between when women and men; and those the values</p>

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO



Bill Clennett, Québec solidaire, Hull

<p>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>Québec solidaire hopes to use as building blocks for the Quebec of tomorrow. Québec solidaire believes that we must stop distinguishing between “us” and “them”. This debate must not pit Quebeckers of longer standing against those of more recent origin. We must strive to have an inclusive, serene and constructive debate around two expressions of the right to equality, i.e., the inescapable equality of men and women and reasonable accommodation as a means of including equity groups.</p>
--	--