

2007 Quebec Provincial Election

Answers by candidates in the Outaouais to questions asked by CRAPO



Jocelyn Dumais, Action démocratique, Chapleau

<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>We are Canadians and shall remain Canadians.</p> <p>Our party is against separation and recognizes the results of the 1995 referendum. The PQ is suggesting that jobs would be protected and that federal public service would find employment in a Quebec public service. Those concerned would have to leave the region because all provincial departments are in Quebec city. In addition, unless some departments were moved to the Outaouais, it would be impossible to guarantee jobs for federal public servants in the Outaouais.</p>
<p>2- What does your party intend to do to eliminate poverty in Quebec? Give us some concrete examples.</p>	<p>The best way of eliminating poverty in Quebec is to make employment accessible to all. This does not mean that we would cut social back on services and welfare. We intend to improve benefits for those who really need them, people unable to work and the handicapped, for example.</p> <p>For persons able to work, employability measures would be implemented to make it easier for them to return to the labour force.</p> <p>These measures should reduce the rate of poverty in Quebec.</p>
<p>3- What does your party intend to do to counter the harmful consequences of climate change?</p>	<p>Our party is clear on this issue -- we must achieve the objectives of the Kyoto accord. However we must establish programs to develop new technology, thereby reducing the amount of garbage we generate and accelerate recycling.</p> <p>The Department of the Environment must be given teeth; it must be proactive and not reactive.</p> <p>As the MP for Chapleau, I intend to propose the implementation of an environmental research center which would bring together the main stakeholders and scientists in the field. Our intention is to make the Outaouais a leader in environmental protection.</p>

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<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>For one-time tasks, I believe that we should use subcontracting. This would save the governments money. However, reducing the size of the public service merely to engage in an accounting exercise is out of the question.</p> <p>It is important to evaluate various tasks to identify areas that could be streamlined and whether certain tasks are relevant. No one can deny that governments tend to keep performing tasks merely to hang onto operating budgets. As a result, the remaining workers end up being overworked.</p> <p>We have an excellent public service that will continue to provide citizens with quality services. However, the time has come to streamline the bureaucracy and regulations that have become too unwieldy.</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>We will fund all of the required needs of the Rapibus to ensure that it comes on stream. This combined with park-and-rides and measures favoring the use of public transit should significantly improve the traffic situation in our region.</p>

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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?

We attended the *Outaouais à l'urgence* presentation at the beginning of the campaign, and using figures from the Quebec Department of Health, they clearly showed that our region is underfunded.

It is difficult for me to understand why Benoît Pelletier, the minister responsible for the Outaouais, has allowed the situation to deteriorate to this extent. During this campaign, emergency wards reached occupancy rates of 250% on average. Orthopedic services were interrupted twice. In spite of this, he stubbornly continued analyzing the Health Department figures presented to us.

It is clear that the Liberals and its minister responsible, Benoît Pelletier, failed the health test. As a result, the Gatineau Hospital is ranked the worst hospital in the entire province of Quebec.

To address this health care deficit, I intend to propose an amendment to Bill 43 which improves the salaries and working conditions of health care workers so that we can end up with salaries and working conditions that are competitive with those in Ottawa. Once again, the Liberal MPs have been unable to address the needs of the people in the Outaouais.

These amendments should make it possible for us to bring back the doctors and our nursing staff who are working in Ontario along with the clientele that is receiving health care in Ontario. This could recoup some \$30-\$50 million.

ADQ shall guarantee that care be dispensed within medically acceptable time frames. When the waiting period exceeds this medically acceptable timeframe, the patient will be able to get treatment in the institution of his/her choice, at public expense, whether it is a public or a private institution or a health care cooperative.

To improve the quality of health care, the ADQ intends to plan and supervise the transition from a public health care monopoly to a truly two-tiered system. In order to maintain the public and universal plan, doctors will only be authorized to exercise their profession in the private sector once delivery has been established in the public system.

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<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>CPEs are good institutions and meet a need. We do not intend to change anything to this effect. However, 200,000 families are being left out by the current system. Some CPEs are even asking for ultrasonography pictures before names can be added to the waiting list. This is unacceptable. All families are entitled to receive the same services from the government. The families choose to take care of their children instead of entrusting them to a day care center, that is their right. However, it is our duty to ensure that this family receives the same benefits as those who use day care centers. Consequently, by paying \$100 per week per child tax free, we will help improve the quality of life of 200,000 children in Quebec.</p>
<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>Primary school as my main concern. Before we even think about university education, we must ensure that we give our children all possible imaginable tools to ensure that they are successful in life. This means reinvesting in our schools to produce the professionals that our children need.</p> <p>As far as university studies are concerned, the point was made in a previous debate that tuition fees have been frozen since 1994 but that accessibility continues to go down. Why?</p> <p>It is clear that the funding of university education is in need of fiscal reform that will enable parents to provide more support for their children during their education.</p>

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<p>9- What is your party's position on the deconfessionalization 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 ADQ has a project to define Quebec citizenship and define its boundaries to ensure that all immigrants have a clear understanding of the common values that bind Quebec's society.</p> <p>We cannot deny our Christian and French origins. That is the glue that binds our society. All immigrants must understand the host society. This, in no way, means that we reject what they can bring to us. Canada is a country founded on immigration, and our social fabric is rich because all of these communities take part. However the ways and customs of our society must be respected.</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, deconfessionalization, etc.) when it reviews requests for accommodation in the public sector.</p>	<p>Both the Canadian and the Quebec Charters of Rights and Freedoms are clear with respect to the equality of all. I subscribe to those values.</p> <p>As far as reasonable accommodation is concerned, that is a personal matter which must be achieved and respect the majority.</p>