

Review - History - Secondary IV - Societal Choices in Contemporary Quebec

Political Status of Quebec

1980	1982	1987 (Conference) 1990 (Failure)	1991	1992	1995
Referendum on Sovereignty-Association 	The Patriation of the Constitution 	Meech Lake Accord 	Allaire Report and Bélanger-Campeau Commission 	Charlottetown Accord 	Referendum on Sovereignty 
Held by the Parti Québécois and its leader, René Lévesque Pierre Elliott Trudeau's federal government for the NO side He promises to negotiate changes to the Canadian constitution Victory for the NO side at 59.56%	Act to the patriate the Constitution of Canada: • Canada can amend its constitution without seeking the agreement of the United Kingdom • Creation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Signed by all provinces except Quebec	Negotiations to include Quebec in the Constitution Act of 1982 Initiated by Brian Mulroney's federal government Proposal to recognize Quebec as a distinct society Rejection of the accord	They recommended a new referendum	New constitutional negotiations leading to the signing of an accord The accord was put to a vote across Canada by referendum Rejected by the majority of Canadians, so it failed	Failure of constitutional negotiations → 2nd referendum Held by Jacques Parizeau's Parti Québécois The NO side won by 50.58% Victory for the NO side in two Quebec referendums 

Post-Referendum Action

After the victory of the NO side in the 2nd referendum, the question of sovereignty in Quebec became less important

2000: Adoption of the Referendum Clarity Act by the Jean Chrétien's federal government

2006: Stephen Harper's federal government recognizes Quebec as a distinct nation





Globalization and Free-Trade



Countries increasingly trade with each other (globalization)

To reduce barriers to trade, they sign free-trade agreements
Creation of new business partners

To increase profits and remain competitive, companies outsource their activities.



1989 - Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
1994 - North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
2020 - Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)

Quebec Inc.



Goal: Create French-speaking companies strong enough to invest abroad and represent Quebec on the world stage

- Factory closures: factories are relocated elsewhere in the world, where operating costs (labour, etc.) are lower
- Job losses in developed countries



Devitalization of Communities

- Plant closures
- Migration to cities
- Aging population
- Fewer people for the next generation of farmers
- Fewer local services
- Declining political weight

Mostly in communities that are far from big cities and in single-industry towns

State Neutrality

The desire for the separation of Church and State has been in place since the Quiet Revolution.

The State becomes secular.
Secular = Not under religious influence, non-religious

New reality in Quebec: highly diversified immigration and discussions about reasonable accommodations

Public consultation (Bouchard-Taylor Commission):
Recommendation to ban the wearing of religious symbols for government employees in positions of authority

Anti-globalization ↘
Opposed to globalization

Denounces the ever-widening wealth gap.
Advocates for better environmental protections.

Rise of the **social economy** in opposition to neoliberal policies

Increase in public debt

Questioning the Welfare State



Implementation of neoliberal policies:

- Privatization of certain companies
- Less state intervention in society and the economy

The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Early 1980s: Intensifying demands on provincial and federal governments to respect Indigenous rights

1982: Constitution Act – Recognition of ancestral and treaty rights

1985: Recognition of Indigenous nations and their ancestral rights

1985: Bill C-31 – gives “Indian” status to First Nations women, their non-Indigenous spouses, and their children

1990: The Oka Crisis – Territorial conflict between the Mohawk community of Kanesatake and the provincial and federal governments; arrest of the Warriors and promise of territorial negotiations

1999: Creation of Nunavut – First time a country has changed its internal borders in response to the demands of Indigenous peoples

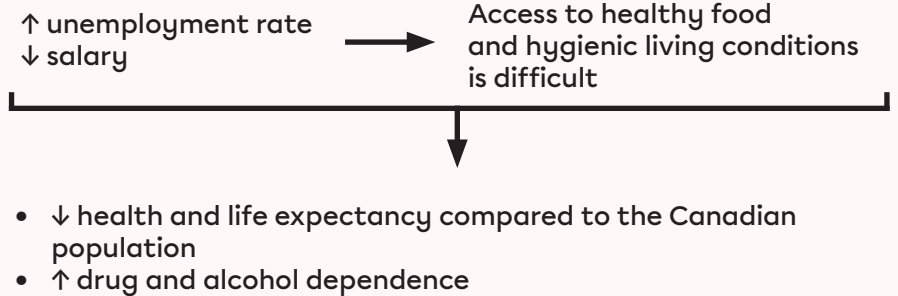
2002: The Peace of the Braves – Agreement between the Cree and the Quebec government and recognition of ancestral rights

2008–2015: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada – Revealing the injustices of residential schools

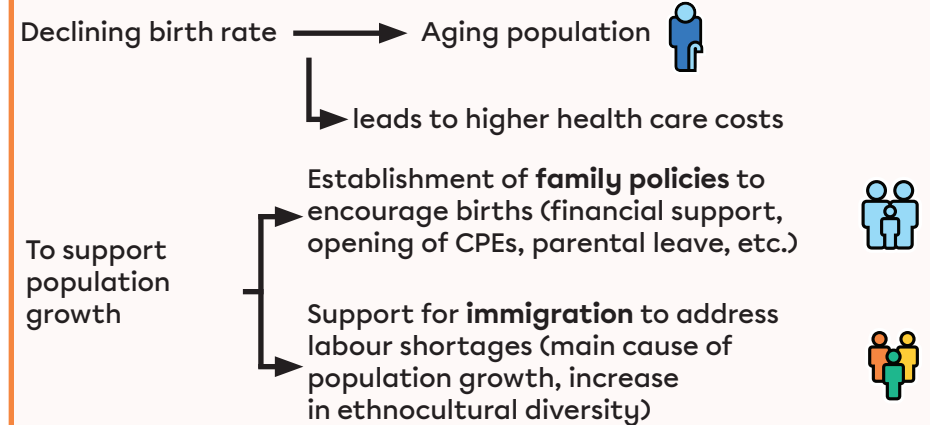
Territory of Nunavut



Living Conditions in Indigenous Communities



Quebec Population



Linguistic Identity and the Cultural Industry



Quebec introduces measures to promote the French language and Quebec culture



Funding Culture



Language laws for signage

Environmental Concerns



Exploitation of natural resources



Finding: Ecosystems around the world are deteriorating



Governments implement measures to tackle climate change and new environmental challenges.



1997: Signing of the Kyoto Protocol
Goal: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide



2006: Quebec adopts the Sustainable Development Act
Goal: to ensure that government actions comply with the principles of sustainable development



2015: Paris Agreement on climate
Goal: to keep global warming below 2°C

Digital Information Age



The rise of digital technologies and the internet

→ Transformation of communications and social relationships

Gender Equality



1996: Pay Equity Act – companies obliged to pay equal wages



2006: Act Respecting the Governance of State-Owned Enterprises – gender parity on boards of directors

Work-family balance



- Subsidized daycare centres

2006: Act Respecting Parental Insurance comes into force: payment of a portion of salary and job security for new mothers

International Relations



Canada's active role in:

- International organizations (like the UN)
- Economic missions (like Global Affairs Canada)
- Army missions (peacekeeping missions as part of the UN peacekeepers and missions in support of NATO countries).