

Comparative analysis of the political parties - Québec elections 2012

CAQ – Coalition Avenir du Québec

PLQ – Parti libéral du Québec

PQ – Parti Québécois

QS – Québec Solidaire

(Report card, 0 – 10, evaluated on the basis of workers' and citizens' rights, public services, and unions, as well as resolution 90/11 (1990).)

Question	CAQ	PLQ	PQ	QS
1. What is your Party's position on sovereignty?	0	5	9	7
2. What is your Party's position on the Anglophone minority?	2	7	9	7
3. What is your Party's position on contracting out public services?	2	7	10	9
4. What is your position on immigrants?	5	6	9	8
5. How do you see health services in the region?	5	7	8	8
6. Le Plan Nord (mining policy)	5	6	8	8
7. What is your position on poverty?	5	7	9	7
8. What is your position on the criminal justice system?	5	7	9	8
Total	29	52	71	63
Average	3.6	6.5	8.9	7.8

Answers:

1. What is your Party's position on sovereignty?

PQ - Commission Bélanger-Campeau; the PQ's position is that the new public service would be combined from the current provincial and the former federal governments. Federal employees would be offered an equivalent position in the Québec civil service.

CAQ – There will be no constitutional issue for 10 years.

QS – We will propose a constituent assembly which is more complicated than a yes or no question. There would be a process of popular consultation. Contrary to the PQ we believe that sovereignty must be decided by the people of Québec. QS has not studied

the issue very closely. Diversification is a priority.

Libéral – We are the only committed federalist party. Stability and economic development are key. Alliances with the federal are the priority. The Bélanger-Campeau report refers to great turbulence that could follow the vote on sovereignty.

2. What is your Party's position on the Anglophone minority?

Libéral – There is no segregation between Anglos and Francos in Québec. You need not fear for your job with the Liberal Party.

QS – We are closer to the Liberal Party's position – we need more jobs in small businesses. Anglophones need not fear but Allophones must learn French.

CAQ – We are concentrating on economic issues.

PQ – Québec citizenship will not exclude Anglophones. One should be francophile. Anglophones will be completely integrated into the public service.

3. What is your Party's position on contracting out public services?

PQ – We are against contracting out; the Public Service must offer services through public servants. We will adopt 2 measures : an anti-scab bill and an anti-privatization bill.

CAQ – We are paying too much for services we wish to find efficiencies and cut public structures. We will find savings through cuts and bring services closer to citizens.

QS - Services are a right and not a good. The state must guarantee services. Not just any job. Contracting out creates precarious jobs. The private sector is already too present (through sponsorships of health and education services), as well as private daycare, etc. Public services are better!

Libéral – The Public Service is competent and we established the Human Resources Strategy for pensioners, for retention and attracting personnel; an historic agreement was reached between the Liberal government and government unions. More engineers and better stability between public services and maintaining outside services. Specialized training will be offered to the labour force.

4. What is your position on immigrants?

Libéral - In Gatineau we hear many people talking about language as well as foreign ethnicities. All this is part of our values and priorities, to include all people in society.

QS - 3% of the population is from outside Québec. Immigrants must be integrated and their skills and foreign credentials especially must be recognized. A misunderstood reality is that assimilation is an major issue.

CAQ – Learning French is a priority starting in childhood. Québeckers have a role to play in integrating immigrants.

PQ – All people should be integrated. We want gender equality, band a lay charter. We wish to build a Québec on the solid foundation of integration which has mainly been accomplished. The richness of Québec is found in its diversity.

5. How do you see health services in the region?

PQ – The Outaouais is an underfunded region lacking in resources. There is a lack of all kinds of professionals in the region. A health commissioner would be appointed as soon as the PQ is elected and there will be subcommissioners to assist, visiting all regions throughout Québec. Communities will be an integral part of restructuring services in the region.

CAQ – This is a priority in the Outaouais. Any visit to hospitals shows there are gaps. Major investments are required using some of the funds that are currently being paid to Ontario.

QS – This is a resourcing problem. Our region gets less. Québec has as many doctors per capita as in other provinces but they are concentrated in some regions to the detriment of others. We need a better pharmaceutical regime. We need to reinforce LCSCs as well as homecare. We need to act!

Libéral – We are putting the stones in place, one at a time. Over the past years we invested in infrastructure and it has paid off. 99% of cancer patients are seen and treated within 4 weeks of diagnosis. A plan is being put in place to offer services in rural areas. Maniwaki now has a dialysis treatment centre.

6. Le Plan Nord (mining policies)

PQ – The PQ established a northern development plan in the past but it was put aside by Mr. Charest. Yes we will develop the north but we will take care of the people in the north and who stay behind when the companies leave. Resources must be well managed and not sold to the highest bidder. Quebeckers must profit. The north will be developed with respect for populations involved.

CAQ - We don't wish to develop the north through corruption and Québeckers must

benefit, not just multinationals. Royalties must be used exclusively to pay down the public debt.

QS – A different vision, a green plan. Extraction is a thing of the past. Green technologies and a knowledge economy, not a banana republic. This cannot be the base of our economy. Raw material transformation must occur in Québec. Royalties must be paid on sales and not profits!

Libéral – This is a great project for society. We must get the 80 billion in benefits that will be invested in health and education. Many regions lack jobs. We have developed plans for private regional services that will be delivered in the north. Royalties in Québec are among the highest in North America.

7. What is your position on poverty?

Libéral – Since 2003 the government put in place several measures to attack poverty and many major investments were made. Tax credits for family support and solidarity. Many social housing units were built and minimum wage increased by 35%. Creating jobs for the 25 – 34 year age group. We need economic investments.

QS - 1996 was the year elimination of poverty was announced. There are much riches in Québec and it is scandalous that too many still live in poverty. Liberals and PQ made choices that impoverished the people. The poor have lost 30% of their revenues. Ms. Gaudreault said that there are not enough funds to build the 50,000 housing units.

CAQ – Long terms solutions are the priority. Starting with education. 1 boy out of 4 flunk high school. We want to create jobs between \$30 and \$40/hour.

PQ – Oblige real estate developers to contribute to a social housing fund. Integrate persons with disabilities into the job market. Support community credit cooperatives. Fund community organizations to deliver direct services to the population. Fund daycare. Tax fairness, and tax mining companies properly.

8 – What is your position on the criminal justice system?

PQ – Modernize criminal justice to make justice more accessible, including legal aid. Women must have the right to decide on their pregnancy.

CAQ – No reform at this point regarding prisons, and as far as the CAQ is concerned the abortion debate is ended in Québec.

QS – Justice is available to the rich but not the poor. A person under the poverty line should not have to pay legal fees. Convicted criminals should be rehabilitated and

integrated back into society. QS is a feminist party and is opposed to any actions against a woman's right to choose.

Libéral – Unanimous adoption of a resolution at the National Assembly on abortion. Access to justice is improved for collecting child support (no longer required to have a lawyer apply the provisions of the settlement). Legal aid has been improved.