

THANKFULLY, here, it's the Bloc



ABSTRACT OF THE ELECTORAL PLATFORM

A FEW WORDS FROM GILLES DUCEPPE

Dear electors,

The sponsorship scandal, the fiscal imbalance and the Clarity Act are the answers given over the last few years by the federal government to the aspirations of the people of Québec. This contemptuous reaction towards Québec illustrates very well that there isn't a federalist project that takes into account Québec's difference. The only way of the future for Québec is sovereignty.

The Bloc Québécois considers that Québec must keep on progressing so that it is ready to achieve sovereignty when the time comes. As the only defender of Québec's interest in Ottawa, the Bloc Québécois proposes in its electoral platform answers to the main challenges that face Québec as well as a precise and rigorous financial framework. Herein lies an abstract of it.

I invite you to read it and make yourself familiar with our electoral platform

on our website. It will convince you that here, in Québec, it is the Bloc Québécois that is better suited to represent you.

Enjoy your reading!

Gilles Duceppe
Leader of the Bloc Québécois

DEMOCRACY

Because here in Québec, the people of Québec decide

In a democracy, the people decide. In Québec, the Québécois must make decisions concerning their own future and on topics such as education, healthcare and family. The federal government, however, continually intrudes everywhere. It strangles Québec financially with the fiscal imbalance and refuses any place for it on the international scene. With the sponsorship scandal, Paul Martin's Liberal Party has once more violated the rules of democracy and the laws of

Québec. All of this precludes Québécois from making their own decisions.

TO PROTECT THE QUÉBÉCOIS DEMOCRACY, THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS COMMITTS TO:

- Supporting in Ottawa any unanimous decision taken by the National Assembly of Québec
- Fighting against the fiscal imbalance, federal intrusions and demand a right of withdrawal with full compensation in all spheres relevant to its jurisdiction
- Demanding that the federal government gives Québec a place in

international forums relevant to its jurisdictions such as culture, education or healthcare

- Making sure that the federal government respects the rules of democracy, the laws of Québec and governmental integrity to avoid another sponsorship scandal

**Sovereignty will ensure
that the people of Québec
can make their own
decisions**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Because here in Québec we want development that is both harmonious and sustainable

The challenges that must be met by Québec are opportunities to progress if we take decisions allowing for development of today's Québec without compromising our children's future. Québec has all the assets necessary to achieve this.

IN LIGHT OF THIS, THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS COMMITTS TO:

- Demanding a raise of federal transfers for post-secondary education (college and university) and social programs of 2.75 billion \$ over three years for Québec
- Making sure that the federal government enforces the Kyoto Protocol in a fair and just way, without having Québec pay for Alberta's oil industry or Ontario's automobile industry
- Demanding a surtax on the profits of major oil companies

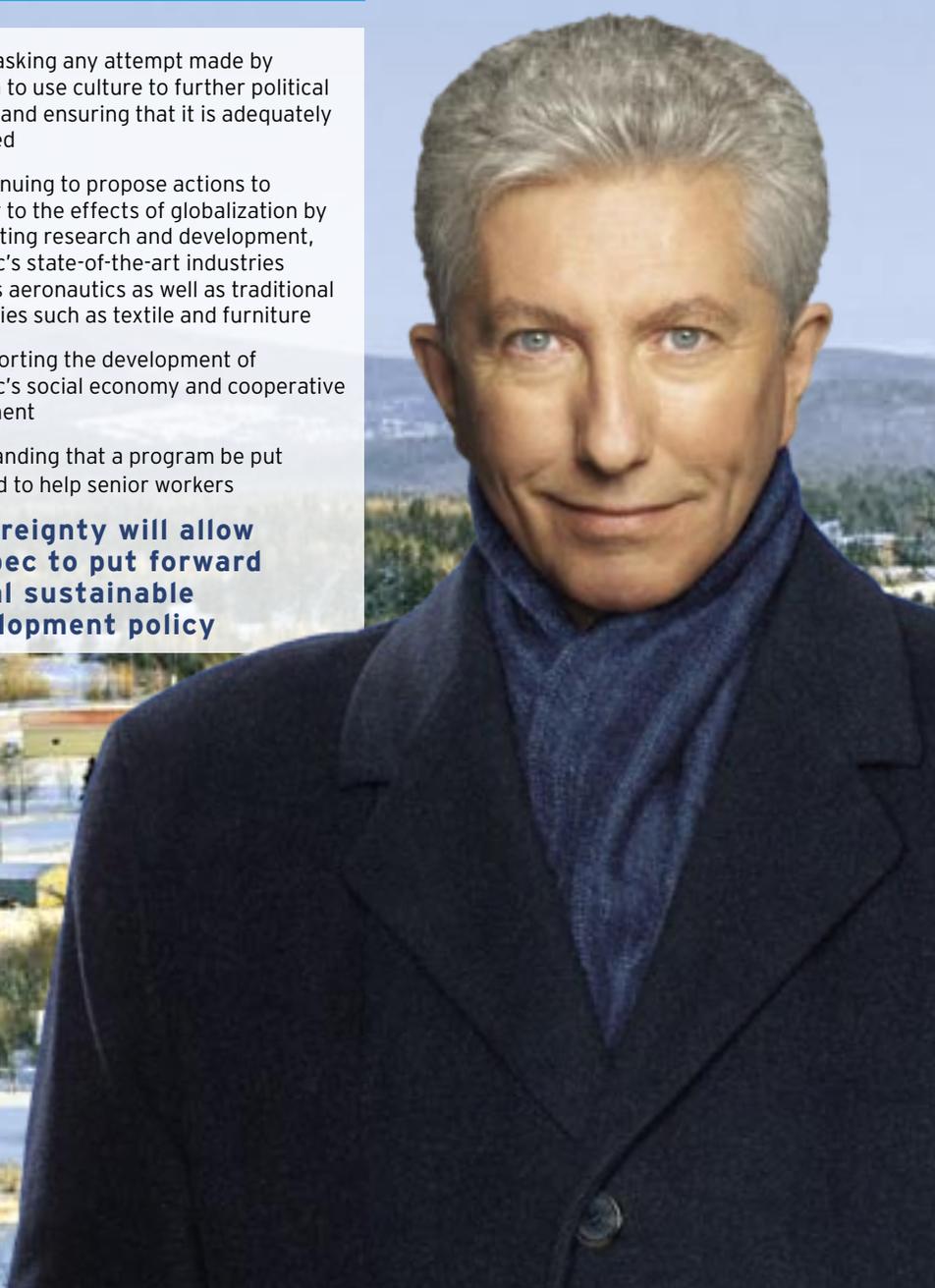
- Unmasking any attempt made by Ottawa to use culture to further political means and ensuring that it is adequately financed

- Continuing to propose actions to answer to the effects of globalization by supporting research and development, Québec's state-of-the-art industries such as aeronautics as well as traditional industries such as textile and furniture

- Supporting the development of Québec's social economy and cooperative movement

- Demanding that a program be put forward to help senior workers

**Sovereignty will allow
Québec to put forward
a real sustainable
development policy**



QUÉBEC'S POPULATION

Because here in Québec, we are different

A nation's main richness lies in its citizenry. In Québec, we have a demographical challenge to face and the issues of family and immigration are crucial but the federal government impedes Québec's efforts. In the same light, seniors, first nations' people and all of the people of Québec must benefit from accessible healthcare, decent housing and employment insurance when they lose their job as well as an adequate judiciary system including fiscal justice.

THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS THEREFORE COMMITS TO:

- Demanding of the federal government that it transfers to the government of Québec the amount it saves off of its taxation from the Québécois low contribution day-care centers

- Laying out a new bill to abolish GST on diapers and products for newborns
- Demanding the establishment of the Appeal Section for refugees as it was laid out in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act passed in June 2002
- Maintaining its efforts aiming at insuring that seniors that are entitled to it receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement and that the government refunds the 3.2 Billion \$ it has taken from them over the past years;
- Maintaining its action alongside the First Nations to help them obtain governmental autonomy
- Proposing many modifications to the Employment Insurance system in order to address the situation of seasonal workers and to allow a genuine access for women and youths

- Asking for the federal government's gradual reinvestment in social housing in order to reach an objective of almost 2 Billion \$ in investments per year in affordable and social housing
- Ensuring that any legislative measure pertaining to terrorism respects a balance between security and freedom
- Continuing to demand the abolition of loopholes in the income tax system allowing Canadian businesses to pay less than they should by settling in Barbados, a tax haven.

Sovereignty will enable Québec to take care of everyone, without exception

QUÉBEC'S TERRITORY

Because here, in Québec, we stand together

Here, when a region does poorly, the whole of Québec suffers. The Bloc Québécois maintains that living in a region isn't a privilege: it's a right. It maintains that it is essential to stimulate economic development across the territory, to put forward a real transport policy and to put a stop to the exodus of youths towards the big centers by offering an appealing quality of life for everyone, everywhere.

REGARDING THIS, THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS COMMITS TO:

- Considering the Saint Lawrence River as a major political and parliamentary action issue

- Continuing to consult and inform the population of Québec's regions on ways to counter the ill effects of globalization
- Stimulating second and third transformation in resource regions by proposing many specific fiscal measures
- Insisting that Québec's regions receive a larger part of the structured investments of the federal government
- Becoming the relay to the federal government of the initiatives coming from within that are common ground in Québec's regions
- Proposing many measures aiming at improving the Saint Lawrence River's competitiveness, to stimulate regional aerial and railway transport

- Supporting the timber industry, the mining sector and the new generation agriculture, protecting the supply management system and demand that the federal government puts forward a sustainable fishing policy

Sovereignty will ensure a development and an appealing quality of life for everyone, everywhere on the territory

GLOBALISATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Because here in Québec, we are open to the world

Québec is very open to the world. Its achievements on the international scene are numerous economically, culturally, scientifically and athletically. Unfortunately, today's Québec cannot count on a Québécois foreign policy put forward by a diplomatic apparatus serving the values and interests of Québec. In the meantime, the Bloc Québécois defends the interests and values of Québec in Ottawa and abroad.

IN THIS CONTEXT, THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS COMMITS TO:

- Proposing that the federal government puts forward a more realistic plan regarding international

aid so that it reaches the target set by the UN of 0.7 % of the GNP by 2015

- Coming back with the agenda of democratizing the process of adopting international treaties and elaborating foreign policy
- Maintaining pressure on the federal government so that it campaigns for the quick ratification by other countries of UNESCO's Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions
- Continuing to demand of the federal government that it takes every possible measure to counter the worst aspects of globalization such as tax havens and flags of convenience and, conversely, that it supports the initiatives of equitable commerce and responsible investment

- Demanding that the federal government files for study by the Standing Committee on National Defense for any purchase proposition of military equipment exceeding 100 million \$ before going forward
- Also demanding that it allows for a real consultation on the purpose of the army before going forward with huge spending
- Supporting the troops and veterans that are victims of post-traumatic stress disorder and of the use of Agent Orange

Sovereignty will ensure that Québec will take its true place in the world

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