

# 2022 QUEBEC ELECTION SUMMARY

OCTOBER 4, 2022

**On October 3, incumbent Premier François Legault's Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) were re-elected, securing a stronger majority in their second mandate.**

The election results validated what pollsters had predicted since the start of the writ, as the CAQ maintained a significant lead in the polls throughout the race. While Legault's government had been praised for their early handling of COVID-19 pandemic, many Quebecers' opinions soured as the government brought in the longest-lasting and strictest restrictions in the country. However, none of the opposition party leaders managed were able to capitalize on any lingering discontent enough to erode the CAQ's majority.

In his victory speech, Legault told those listening that he would be "the Premier for all Quebecers", repeating the line again in English for effect. Appealing for unity, Legault implored Quebecers to overlook the divisive nature of elections to come together as a "great people." Legault also noted that the CAQ had elected the most women to Quebec's National Assembly in the province's history.

Legault's promised Quebecers that his second term priorities would include education, safeguarding the province's economy against inflation and high interest rates, climate, healthcare, and protecting and promoting the French language, as well as Indigenous truth and reconciliation.

The CAQ secured 90 of 125 seats, increasing their majority by 14 but falling short of some pollster's predictions of a 100+ seat CAQ majority. The Quebec Liberal Party (PLQ) were able to hold onto status as Official Opposition, despite losing a third of their seats as much of their support collapsed outside of West Montreal. Quebec Solidaire (QS) maintained their third-party status, shoring off losses by flipping some PLQ seats in Montreal and narrowly beating out the PLQ for the second highest share of the vote.

Despite securing 12.9% of the popular vote, the Quebec Conservative Party (PCQ) failed to win a single seat, while the Parti Québécois held on to three seats, in the face of polls predicting similarly grim results.

## ELECTION OUTCOME

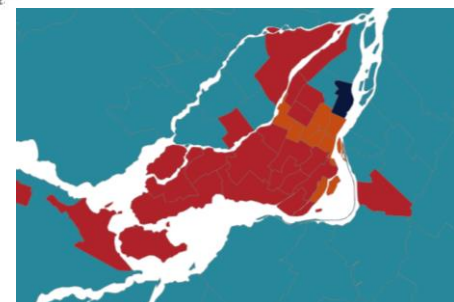
**63 SEATS NEEDED FOR A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT**

PARTY	'22 SEATS	VOTE SHARE	SEATS AT DISSOLUTION
<b>CAQ</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>PLQ</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>QS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PQ</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PCQ</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>1</b>



Quebec City Region

Greater Montreal



Source: Elections Quebec, 2022 seat count as of 10:00AM, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## OUR PERSPECTIVE

“ After the polls closed, it took a mere 11 minutes until networks announced that incumbent premier Francois Legault has been re-elected in Québec to a second majority government. Such was the dominance of the CAQ and their victory.

The CAQ was founded in 2011 by Legault as an attempt to rally like-minded Quebecers across political divides. His coalition has turned into a political movement that, more than anything, has capitalized on long-simmering anxieties about Quebec's identity within an English speaking, and increasingly multicultural, North America.

The final results, with the CAQ winning 90 seats (+13 seats over the 2018 results) the Québec Liberals with 21 seats (-8), socialist Québec Solidaire 11 seats (+1), and the separatist Parti Québécois 3 seats (-6) gives Premier Legault a massive mandate for the next four years. With increasing economic storm clouds, a rising societal tensions, Québec is lead by an experienced strongman with powerful leverage to become more confrontational with the federal government as Premier Legault pursues a more autonomous Québec nation.

HON. JAMES MOORE, P.C., SENIOR ADVISOR, EGA CANADA,  
FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY



“ Coalition Avenir Quebec's election slogan was “Continuons” and continue it will. With 90 seats out of 125, François Legault's party remains popular everywhere in Québec, except in Montréal, where - notably - his attacks on immigration and denials of the existence of systemic racism have been unequivocally rejected.

Dominique Anglade's historic presence in the race was punctuated by her re-election as the leader of the official opposition party though her Liberal Party Of Québec only managed to have 21 candidates elected, with 14.37% of the popular vote.

Media darling Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois and his Québec Solidaire remain popular with younger voters while Parti Québécois continues to lose popularity though its leader, Pierre Saint-Paul Plamondon, defied the odds by winning his riding and becoming a Member of the National Assembly, for the first time.

Not one candidate of Parti Conservateur du Québec was elected, making it difficult for Éric Duhaime to lead the party without a seat in the Assembly, a fate similarly seen on the federal stage with Maxime Bernier and the People's Party.

MARTINE ST-VICTOR, GENERAL MANAGER, EDELMAN MONTREAL



## ELECTED GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



### Economy & Cost of Living

Legault promised to cut income taxes by a total of 2.5 per cent over 10 years starting in 2023, which would affect the two lowest tax brackets. The CAQ is also promising to issue cheques of up to \$600 to 6.4 million low-income Quebecers to combat inflation. Additionally, the Legault government promised \$1.8 billion for social and affordable housing in its next mandate, as well as \$1.4 billion over five years to subsidize all remaining unsubsidized private daycare spots, adding another 37,000 subsidized spaces to the daycare network.



### Quebec Identity

As in the 2018 election, the CAQ promised to not hold an independence referendum, vowing that the party's plan for Quebec involve the province remains in Canada. Additional promises made include \$40 million toward 20 research chairs in Quebec studies, investing \$40 million to restore and maintain religious buildings across the province, and \$470 million to support and revive local community economies.



### Environment

In its 2030 Plan for a Green Economy, the CAQ outlined its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37.5 per cent below 1990 levels. Legault also announced the government's goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, with a focus on developing hydroelectric projects and by banning the sale of gas-powered vehicles by 2035. The government will also allocate \$650 million to water management.



### Health Care

Legault promised to open two private medical centres by 2025, in Montreal and Quebec City, offering health services entirely subsidized by the public insurance system. Moving away from their 2018 promise that every Quebecer would have a family doctor, the government is promising to introduce the *Guichet d'accès à la première ligne* (GAP) to let those without a doctor consult nurse-practitioners and other professionals.



### Education

As highlighted in his victory speech, Legault promised to invest another \$2 billion over four years to renovate and update schools, in addition to the \$7 billion allocated in the last budget. Legault also promised to invest \$348 million in vocational training to help address the labour shortage, with the goal of graduating 30,000 more people to work in key economic sectors.

## WHAT'S NEXT

### GOVERNMENT TRANSITION

With the CAQ maintaining government, the transition is expected to be quick, with the Premier's transition team and advisors are likely already thinking about the makeup of the new Cabinet. With a considerable number of first-time MNAs elected, many will need to be briefed on the functions of the National Assembly, set up their constituency offices, and hire key support staff over coming months.

### CABINET

Premier Legault is likely to appoint his new Cabinet within the next few weeks. While the increased number of CAQ MNAs is certain to lead to some new additions to Cabinet, many core Cabinet Ministers are likely to remain as not a single sitting Minister lost re-election. Once Cabinet is appointed, Ministers will need time to be briefed on their new portfolios before beginning their work.

### RETURN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly does not yet have a return date, but is expected to sit before the holidays. The first session will begin with the election of the Speaker and three Vice-Presidents, two from the government and one from the Official Opposition. This will be followed by the Lieutenant-Governor's address to and by the Premier's Opening Address. In the opening speech, the Premier lays out his government's legislative agenda for the upcoming mandate.

## NOTABLE WINS AND LOSSES



### CONSERVATIVE LEADER LOSES ÉRIC DUHAIME | CHAUVEAU

Defeated in his own riding, which flipped from CAQ to QS.



### PCQ COMES IN CLOSE SECOND OLIVIER DUMAIS | BEAUCE-NORD

Beauce-Nord was the riding the PCQ came close to winning with a 202-vote difference. The PCQ also came in second in Beauce-Sud.



### QS GAINS IN MONTREAL ALEJANDRA ZAGA MENDEZ | VERDUN

QS managed to take two seats from the PLQ in Montreal. Verdun was a tight race with the QS winning by 461 votes. QS also won the riding of Maurice-Richard.



### CAQ WINS IN LAVAL ALICE ABOU-KHALIL | FABRE

The CAQ flipped a Liberal stronghold in Laval, which had been held by the QLP since 2003. The CAQ also took the riding of Laval-des-Rapides.



### HISTORIC PQ RIDING VOTES CAQ KATERI CHAMPAGNE JOURDAIN | DUPLESSIS

Since 1976, the riding of Duplessis had been represented by the PQ, presenting a historic win for the CAQ.



### QS LOSS IN WESTERN QUEBEC DANIEL BERNARD | ROUYN-NORANDA-TÉMISCAMINGUE

After winning this riding for the first time in 2018, the QS lost this seat to the CAQ.



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