



The Future of Politics in Quebec and what this means for Canada

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Former Government House Leader and Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie

February 15, 2019

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

On February 15, join Honourable Jean-Marc Fournier, former Government House Leader and Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie, to discuss the future of politics in Quebec and what it means for politics in the rest of the country as well.

In this workshop, participants will discuss and try to make sense of the meaning of the result of the Quebec election last October 2018. One thing is for sure, the idea of Quebec independence has not disappeared from the electoral agenda entirely and, due to the ongoing presence of underlying factors, is likely to resurface again in the future. What are some of the short-term options facing provincial political parties? And what do the political realities in this province mean for the rest of Canada? How will they play out at the next federal election and are parties ready to tackle the challenges?

Canadian society is always changing and the space for convergence of identities may be continuously shrinking as a result. In this workshop, Mr. Fournier will also paint a portrait of some of the perceptions and misunderstandings of Quebec and Canadian identities, their regional differences and similarities, and the new polarizations in Canadian society that continue to emerge. How do we tackle these differences and open up space for discussion and common ground? What are some of the challenges we need to overcome and can we engage academics and the media to help open up this space for convergence?





Outline

1. The 2018 election and the challenge of independence
 - a. The results of the Quebec election 2018 – what happened?
 - b. Potential challenges for the CAQ moving forward
 - c. The question of independence
2. What future for the political parties? And the new identity question
 - a. Important concerns
 - b. The first 100 days and the Echo effect
 - c. Where does identity fit in?
3. Issues and challenges for the 2019 federal election
 - a. What are the issues?
 - b. The identity question in Quebec and Canada – what it means for federal parties
 - c. Polarization and misunderstanding
4. Looking at the world: from misunderstanding to inclusion
 - a. Misunderstanding identity
 - b. Effects of polarization
 - c. Proposals for change, inclusion, and convergence

Required Readings*

Journal de Montréal “Actualité Élections 2018” : <https://www.journaldemontreal.com/2018/10/01/elections-quebec-2018-les-resultats-du-vote-en-direct>

Laframboise, Kalina. 2018. “Quebec 2018 Year in Review: Wave of Change Sweeps the Province”. *Global News*, December 27. <https://globalnews.ca/news/4794999/quebec-top-stories-of-2018/>

Montpetit, Jonathan. 2018. “Undecided and Interchangeable: An Election in Search of an Identity in Quebec”. *CBC News*, August 23. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-election-2018-1.4795440>

Please also familiarize yourself with the following :

Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes. 2017. *Quebecers, Our Way of Being Canadians*. Policy on Québec Affirmation and Canadian Relations. Québec: Gouvernement du Québec : <https://www.saic.gouv.qc.ca/documents/relations-canadiennes/politique-affirmation-en.pdf>

Additional Resources

Quebec Policy on Immigration, Participation and Inclusion. 2015. Ministère de l’Immigration, de la Diversité et de l’Inclusion:

http://www.midi.gouv.qc.ca/publications/fr/dossiers/Politique_ImmigrationParticipationInclusion_EN.pdf

Taylor, Charles and Guy Laforest, ed. 1992. *Rapprocher les solitudes: écrits sur le fédéralisme et le nationalisme au Canada*. Sainte-Foy: Presses de l’Université Laval.

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