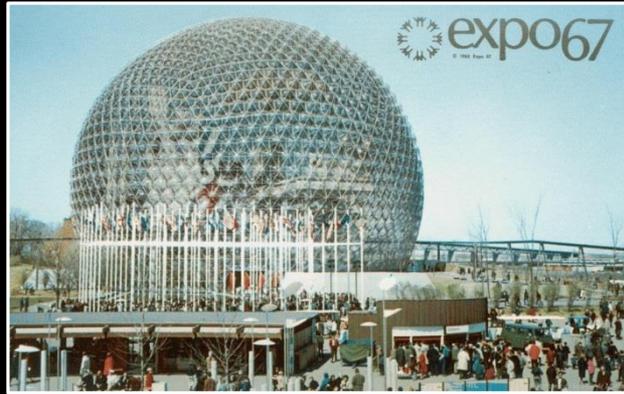


Chapter 3

1945-1980: The Modernization of Quebec & the Quiet Revolution

Section 4: Quebec Society under the Lévesque Government (1976-1980)



Pages that correspond to this presentation

**Quebec Society under the
Lévesque Government (1976-
1980): Pages 266-271**

The Election of the Parti Québécois in 1976

- 1976 Quebec provincial election → The **Parti Québécois is elected** as Quebec's majority party
- They held 71 of 110 seats in the Quebec National Assembly (41.4% of the vote)
- This is a massive jump from the 1970 results
- The results of this election were significant because the PQ's **platform** included a plan for **Quebec sovereignty**
- Platform = what a political party's ideas and goals are

The Election of the Parti Québécois in 1976

- The leader of the PQ during the 1976 election until 1985 was René Lévesque
- Lévesque was part of the Lesage Liberal Party during the Quiet Revolution (1960s)
- Before Politics → Lévesque was a war correspondent with the United States Armed Force during WW2
- Lévesque also worked for Radio-Canada before entering politics in 1960

The Election of the Parti Québécois in 1976

Rene Levesque and some PQ MNAs –

November 15th, 1976 – the day the PQ won the Quebec provincial election



The Election of the Parti Québécois in 1976

Rene Levesque as a war correspondent during the Korean War- 1951



Source: Recitus Quebec.<<http://primaire.recitus.qc.ca/sujets/13/personnages-marquants/3966>>

The Election of the Parti Québécois in 1976

- As mentioned, the PQ wanted Quebec independence from Canada
- Lévesque would use a form of **public consultation** before doing so
- This consultation would be a **REFERENDUM**
- Referendum = a public vote in which the general public (of voting age) expresses its opinion on a specific question

*We will talk more about referendums in chapter 4

The Election of the Parti Québécois in 1976

- However, the PQ understood that they would need to **prove** that they were capable of running a province before they asked to separate Quebec and make it an independent nation
- The PQ thought this strategy would help once a referendum was called
- The PQ would **implement laws** that they felt were necessary before calling a referendum

Immigration and Multiculturalism

- **1971** → The Trudeau federal government established the first **multiculturalism policy**
- The goal was to encourage equality amongst different cultures within Canada
- In addition, the Trudeau government wanted to make sure both official languages were respected and that Indigenous rights were also respected

Immigration and Multiculturalism

- **1976** → The Trudeau federal government established a **new Canadian immigration Act**
- The Act was simply called: “*The Immigration Act, 1976*”
- This Act would change the way Canada accepted immigrants once again (the previous change was in 1967)
- The government created **3 ‘classes’ of immigrants:**
 - Independent immigrants
 - A ‘family class’ of immigrants
 - Refugees

Immigration and Multiculturalism

- Independent immigrants
 - Immigrants with **no family connections in Canada**
 - These individuals had 'points' awarded to them based on skills, languages, education, financial stability, etc.
 - a certain number of **points** would allow one to apply for permanent residency
- A 'family class' of immigrants
 - Immigrants **who had immediate family members** who were already permanent residents or Canadian citizens
- Refugees
 - Individuals who **left their country of origin** due to certain factors that may be **harmful or dangerous**: discrimination, war, genocide, etc.

Immigration and Multiculturalism

New arrivals and the case of refugees

In 1951, the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defined who could be considered a refugee and set out their rights to protection and assistance from the countries that had signed the Convention.

Under the Convention, a refugee is someone who has “a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

While Canada received refugees during the 1950s, it did not sign this convention until 1969. However, prior to 1969, in response to public pressure, Canada admitted several groups of refugees to the country and facilitated their transportation. This was the case, among others, of people fleeing communist countries during the Cold War. During the 1970s, other waves of refugees came to Canada, including over 7000 Ugandan Asian refugees in 1973, and some 1200 Chileans in 1975.



Source: Library and Archives Canada, e011052346.

Immigration and Multiculturalism

- The new Immigration Act also allowed the federal government to **deny immigration applications** based on:
 - Health
 - **Public safety**
 - **Criminal background**
 - Violent behavior or possibility of violent behavior
 - **Fraudulent immigration applications** (lying, etc.)
- To see more on Canadian immigration laws through the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, click [HERE](#)

Immigration and Multiculturalism

- **1978** → Quebec and the federal government signed an agreement to allow Quebec to have even more control over which immigrants can come to Quebec and how many
- **French** continued to be a **determining factor** for immigrants allowed to settle in Quebec → regardless of cultural factors
- Examples of immigrants arriving in Quebec:
 - **Haitians** → leaving Haiti because of Jean Claude Duvalier's dictatorship
 - **Vietnamese** (8000 in 1979) → escaping a communist regime after the Vietnam War → see an interview with a CBC journalist about escaping Vietnam [HERE](#)

Immigration and Multiculturalism



(Courtesy of the Archives du CIDIHCA)

Édouard Anglade, the first Haitian policeman in Montréal, 1974

Having arrived in Québec in 1964, Édouard Anglade became the first Haitian policeman on the Montréal police force. Haitians settled in Montréal in large numbers during the 1960s and 1970s. They were among the Francophone immigrants prioritized by the provincial government.

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

- Despite the influx of French speaking immigrants, there were still **many allophone immigrants** arriving in Quebec who integrated into English communities
- In addition → **influence of English media** and the **migration of Francophone to the suburbs** (which pushed them to speak more English) → added to the **'Anglicization'** of Quebec
- Many French speaking Quebecois felt as though "The Official Languages Act" or **Bill 22** from 1974 **did not do enough** to protect the French language in Quebec

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

- **1977** → René Lévesque and the PQ introduced the “**Charter of the French Language**” (originally Bill 1 → but it is now known as **Bill 101**) → click [HERE](#) to see the charter
- This law went much further than Bill 22 in order to make sure French remained the language used in many areas of society in Quebec
- It affected:
 - **Education**
 - **Commerce**
 - **Workplace communication**
 - **Media**

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

Camille Laurin (1922–1999)

Born in Charlemagne, Camille Laurin studied medicine and specialized in psychiatry. In 1967, he participated in the founding of the *Mouvement souveraineté-association* (MSA), and, in 1970, was elected as a Parti Québécois member. He was minister of state for cultural development for the Lévesque government. René Lévesque gave him the mandate to develop a law to enhance Bill 22, adopted in 1974 and deemed insufficient by Québec's Francophones. Camille Laurin, who believed that language was the foundation of a people's identity, wanted to ensure the dominance of French in Québec. In 1977, he created the *Charter of the French Language*, whose provisions satisfied Francophones but worried Anglophones and allophones. Camille Laurin is known as the "Father of Bill 101."



Source: CP Photo.

Camille Laurin (left) and René Lévesque (right), during the referendum campaign on sovereignty-association

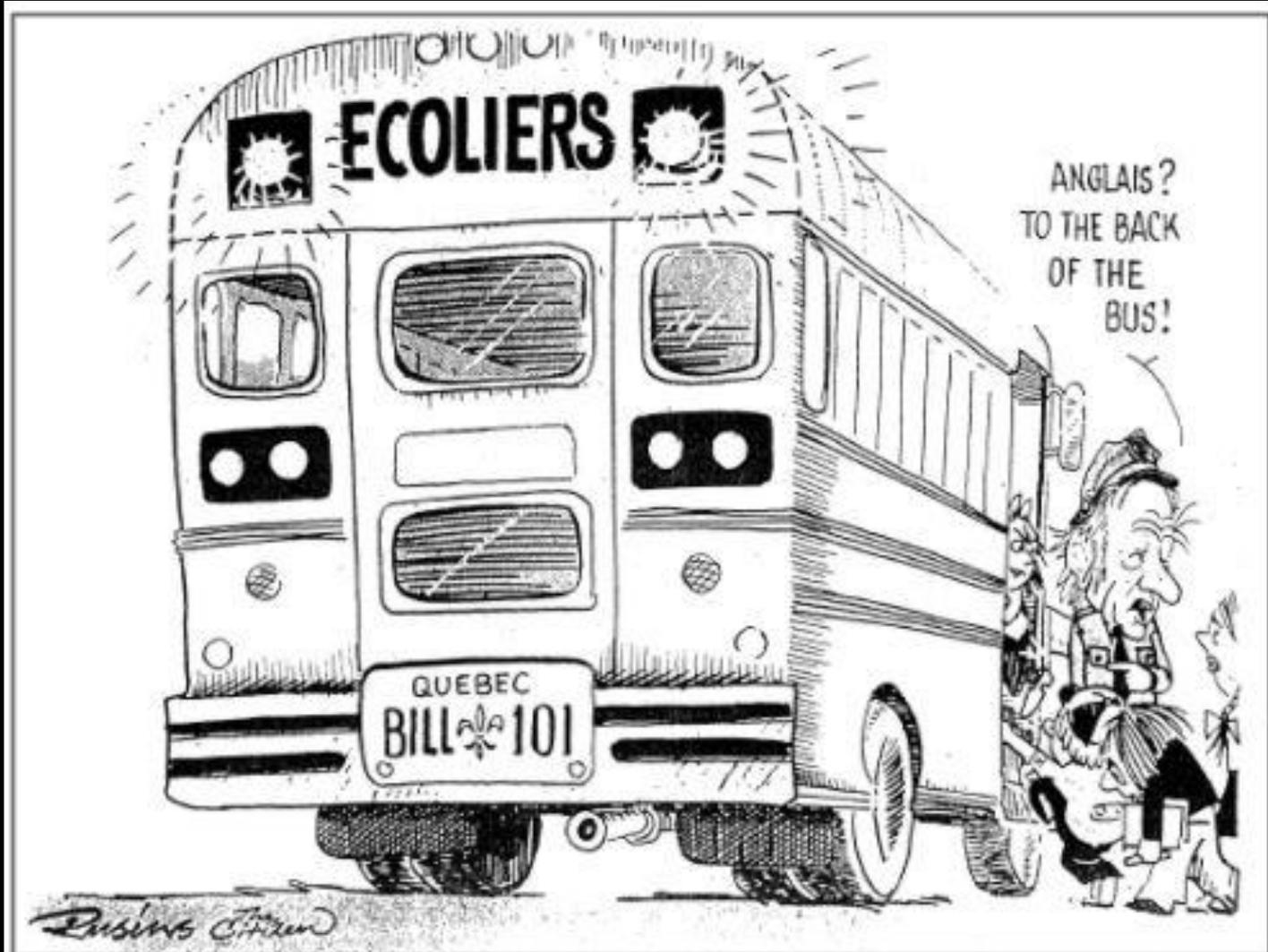
Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

Cartoon commenting on Bill 101 and its impact on Quebec



Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

Cartoon commenting on Bill 101's effects on schooling



Kaufmanis Rusins, *The Ottawa Citizen*, 7 September 1977

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

- Many **English Quebeckers** or “Anglo-Quebeckers” had strong feelings about Bill 101 (and still do)
- Many Anglos in Quebec decided that this law was **restrictive** and **infringed** on their rights → they did not feel like they belonged in Quebec anymore
- Many **Anglos left Quebec** to settle in other parts of Canada → Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver are good examples → Anglophone **EXODUS**
- According to your textbook → 90,000 English Quebeckers left the province to go elsewhere after the PQ were elected → click [HERE](#) a CBC Bill 101 article
- See a set of videos referring to The PQ election in 1976 and an interview with Rene Lévesque [HERE](#)

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

- Click [HERE](#) to see a CBC news report on the implementation of Bill 101 → August 26th, 1977 → the day Bill 101 was implemented in Quebec
- Click [HERE](#) to see a CBC news report on Bill 101 one year after it is implemented
- Click [HERE](#) to see a 1978 commercial from the Office de la Langue Française promoting the use of French in Quebec
- Click [HERE](#) to see a contemporary commercial from the Ministry of Culture & Communications of Quebec promoting using French in Quebec
- Click [HERE](#) to see the Montreal Gazette's issue the day after Bill 101 was established
- Click [HERE](#) to see a short article summarizing an old article regarding Bill 101 and restaurants in Montreal.

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

Canadian veteran protesting against Bill 101 - 1982



Source: CBC. <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-bill-101-40th-anniversary-1.4263253>>

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

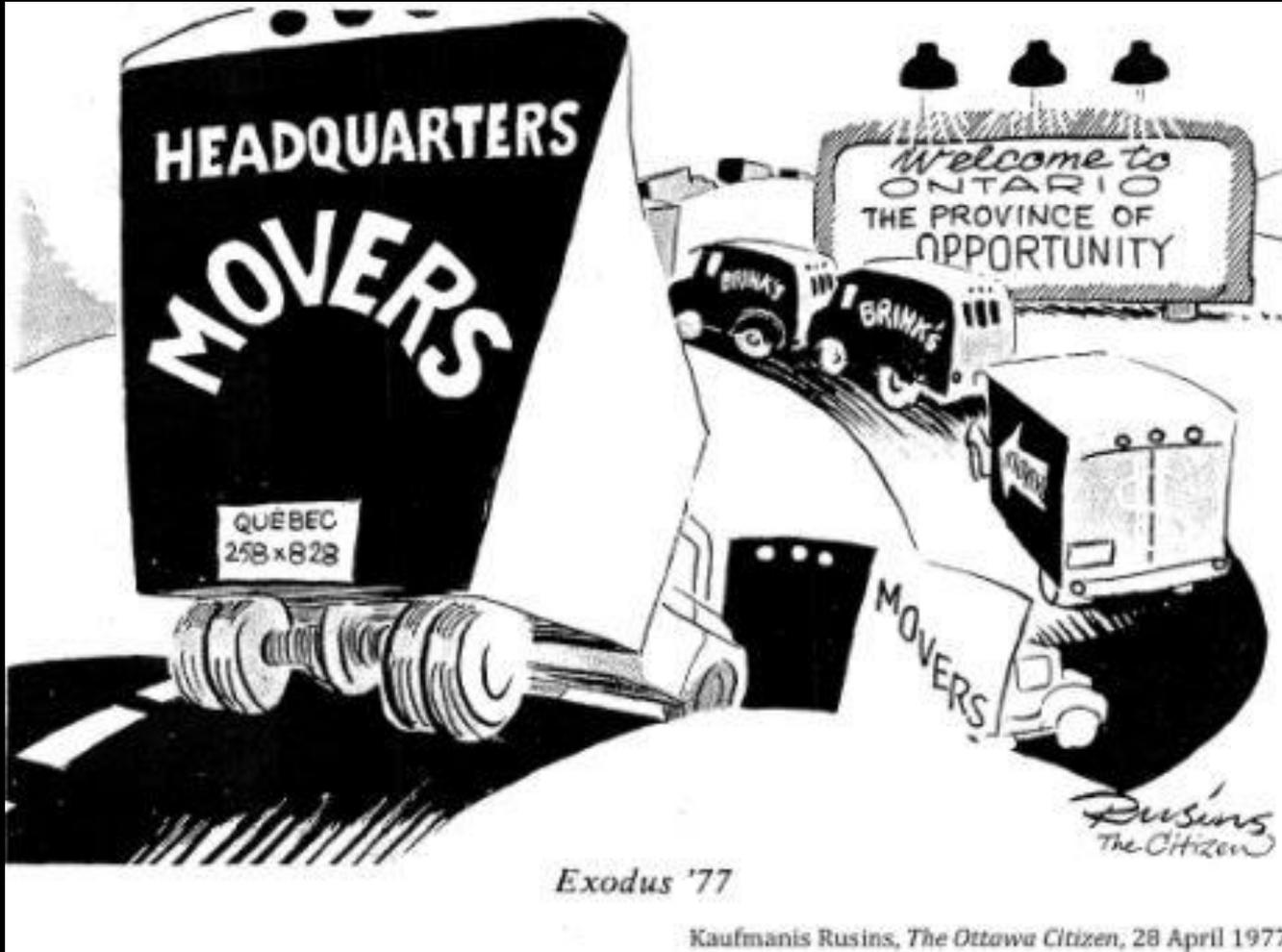
Pro bill 101 supporters in 1977



Source: The Montreal Gazette. <<http://montrealgazette.com/opinion/opinion-bill-101s-track-record-is-one-of-quiet-evolution>>

Protection of the French Language and Bill 101

Cartoon commenting on the Anglo-Quebecer exodus



Several head offices of companies left Montreal for other Canadian cities like Toronto → Sun Life Financial in 1979

Labour Relations

- Due to the trouble unions had with the Bourassa Liberal government → The **PQ** became the political party **supported by big unions** in Quebec
- The PQ established measures that unions could support:
 - **1977** → The **Rand Formula** → workers who were unionized must now pay into union dues from their wages → these union dues are used to finance the union
 - **1979** → The PQ government implemented the **Act Respecting Labour Standards**
- See the “Educlaloi” website [HERE](#) → great for information on many legal aspects

Labour Relations

- 1979 → The PQ government implemented the Act Respecting Labour Standards
- This law was implemented to **protect workers from employers** who wanted to take advantage of employees → this law oversaw (and still oversees):
 - The **minimum wage** of workers in Quebec
 - **Breaks** workers get while working
 - **Vacation** time
 - Sick days
 - **Maternity leave** for female employees
 - **Work** performed by people **under 18 years of age**
 - Several other issues

Financing of political parties

- 1977 → the PQ government established a set of rules that dictated how people could donate money to political parties in Quebec → the “Act to Govern the Financing of Political Parties”
- Why? → so large corporations and wealthy citizens could not use their political views to influence financing of political parties
- If one party receives more money → they can create more ads, more signs, etc.
- This law should balance the financial aspects of elections → fair for all political parties

Financing of political parties

- Some **rules** of the 1977 “Act to Govern the Financing of Political Parties”:
 - The government would help pay for election expenses of all parties
 - **ONLY individual citizens** could donate money to political parties → **NOT businesses**, unions, lobby groups, etc.
 - **Individuals** could only donate **\$3000 maximum** to a political party (this has changed to \$200 or more)
 - If a contribution is more than \$100 → the information is published for the public to see
- You can see the public records [HERE](#)

Protecting Agricultural Land

- Late 1970s → urban agglomerations continue to grow
- St. Lawrence Valley (land on both sides of the St. Lawrence River) was the best land for agriculture (fertile)
- This land was also being developed → housing, businesses, etc. → this made agricultural land valuable
- In order to protect agricultural land from being sold → 1978 → The PQ government established the “Act Respecting the Preservation of agricultural Land”
- This law led to the creation of ‘agricultural zones’ in Quebec that were reserved for agriculture only and a commission to oversee the protection of these zones

Economic downturn

- 1979 → another oil crisis struck
- Iran → a major producer of oil was going through its own revolution (not a 'quite' as Quebec in the 1960s)
- This pushed the price of oil up and therefore the price of goods increased → inflation
- In addition → the relocation of manufacturing to developing countries increased → people all over North America who worked in factories were losing their jobs at an alarming rate → unemployment

Economic downturn

- The increase in unemployment in Quebec lead to **less taxes** going to the government
- Less people working = less taxes
- Both the federal government and the Quebec provincial government had to increase tax rates and borrow more money → **debt**
- Many people suggested that the Quebec provincial government **cut services** offered to citizens in order to make up for the smaller amounts of tax revenue it received

The Northeastern Quebec Agreement

- **1978** → This agreement was 'tacked on' to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement
- This agreement expanded the territory that could be exploited by the Quebec government → hydroelectricity and mining
- A third Indigenous group was also compensated → The **Naskapi** people in Northern Quebec

The Automobile Insurance Act of 1977

- This law was established to **compensate victims of automobile accidents**
- A portion of driver's licence fees and car registration fees go to the **Société L'assurance Automobile** → the branch of the government that oversees transportation vehicles
- These fees are used for a number of reasons including the compensation for people injured in vehicle accidents