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Dear Quebeckers,

We've been plunged into an election campaign because Stephen Harper has written off Québec. Conservatives have definitely turned their backs on Québec, by denying our aspirations, being blind to our interests and opposing our values.

Stephen Harper is seeking to obtain a majority and the risk that he will succeed is all too real. Should he be successful, Conservatives will have no obstacles in their path and will be free to impose their ideological policies, which are harmful and inimical to the interests and values of Quebeckers. This is a clear and present threat to Québec.

The Conservatives have a full agenda: a belligerent foreign policy, billions of dollars in additional military expenditures, protecting the interests of big oil companies, unabashed favouritism for industry in Ontario, ever more prisons and guns, as well as relentless assaults on the environment, the distribution of wealth, gender equality, science, truth and democracy.

A Conservative majority is the very antithesis of everything we are and synonymous with new assaults against the French language and Québec culture. It means that our economic interests will be completely ignored and our regions will be even more neglected.

In Québec, only the Bloc Québécois can stop the Conservatives in their tracks.

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Fortunately, this can be prevented. All Quebecers who are cognizant of this danger can stand in the way of Stephen Harper by joining forces. In Québec, only the Bloc Québécois can stop the Conservatives in their tracks.

The Bloc Québécois is also the sole Québec-only federal political party. And the only way for Quebecers to succeed in Ottawa is to focus on Québec, its needs and its reality, and to stand proudly. Incidentally, the 2011 election platform is the work of no less than a thousand individuals across Québec who wanted it to echo what they are, live and think.

In Ottawa, Québec and its distinctness are upsetting the applecart. Canadian parties would like us to be just another province and the Québec nation to fall in line. MPs of the other parties would like Québec to be subject to policies that are suited to Canada but inappropriate for the Québec nation, while MPs of those same parties from Québec take it lying down and saying nothing.

Only the Bloc can fight this. What sets us apart from the other parties is that they focus on Canada while we focus on Québec. They have a presence in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Newfoundland. The Bloc has a presence in all cities and towns across Québec.

They defend Canada's interests. We defend Québec's interests and Quebecers' interests. They defend Canadian values. We defend Québec values, our identity, our language and our culture.

That is no reason for not siding with the other parties in order to advance Québec's cause, as we have done on numerous occasions in the past, most notably when the anti-Harper coalition was formed. The Bloc's actions are not based on foolish partisan considerations.

I am calling on everyone who has Québec's values at heart to join forces with the women and men who carry the banner of the Bloc Québécois, honest sovereigntists who work at the grassroots level, respect democracy and speak the truth.

We need the support of the women and men across Québec who work each day to ensure our nation's economic prosperity, so that we can aggressively promote the economic interests of our regions, our cities and our nation.

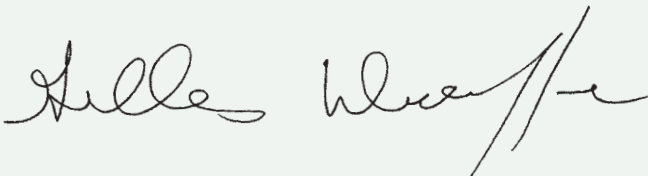
Québec will only truly be free once it has decided to create a sovereign nation.

In the meantime, we must maintain as strong a presence as possible in Ottawa. We must fight the Conservative threat head-on by forming a united bloc. Together, we will be able to stop the Conservatives in their tracks and protect our identity, our values and our interests.

For the Bloc Québécois, the focus is on **PARLONS Qc.**

We defend Québec values,
our identity, our language
and our culture.

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Gilles Duceppe
LEADER OF THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS



To Canadian political parties, Québec is just another region of Canada. To the Bloc Québécois, Québec is a nation composed of 17 regions located along both shores of the majestic St. Lawrence River. Our Québec extends from Percé to Gatineau to Coaticook to Ungava Bay.

Conservative policies are dictated by an ideology that is foreign to Québec and, after establishing their dominance of the West, the Conservatives are seeking to butter up Ontario in order to obtain a majority and implement their policies. The Liberal and NDP positions do not respect Québec's distinctness and its desire for autonomy. MPs of the Canadian parties who represent Québec must yield to those pan-Canadian policies, shut up and keep quiet.

The Bloc Québécois' policies reflect the Québec reality because they are supported by a team of women and men from all regions of Québec. Our national capital is Québec City, not Ottawa!

Our regions need quality infrastructure and efficient transportation networks to develop. They need a Québec government that has sufficient resources to provide quality services right across Québec. They need to retain and attract youth and immigrants. They need a strong economic base. They need support for their workers in order to be able stop an exodus at the first sign of economic difficulty.

If there's a problem with the forest in Lac Saint-Jean, agriculture in the Lower St. Lawrence, energy on the North Shore, mines in Abitibi, cultural and sport infrastructure in Québec City, leading-edge

Let's talk the Québec reality,
proximity and regions;
let's talk National Capital.
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research in Montréal, the manufacturing industry in Estrie, erosion along the Lower St. Lawrence shoreline and in Gaspésie or fairness in the Federal Public Service in the Outaouais, the Bloc will bring it up.

These are the needs that the Bloc Québécois team is promoting in Ottawa, unlike the Conservatives, who are attempting to pit one region against another in order to weaken Québec, and the Liberals and NDP whose centralizing policies do not take account of Québec's regions.

In Québec, the Bloc Québécois is the only team that is large enough, determined enough, courageous enough and strong enough to effectively promote Québec's interests. The Bloc Québécois is the only party that represents all of Québec's regions and that is a true reflection of the reality of Québec. Québec's regions matter to the Bloc Québécois!



Bloc Québécois demands:

- » that federal policies promote the development of industries that have a strong presence in Québec's regions:
 - a policy to support and develop the forestry sector;
 - continued agricultural supply management and enhanced farm income support policies;
 - improved measures to support fishermen affected by the crisis;
 - a tax credit for young graduates who decide to work in a rural region.
- » that all federal programs be assessed for their impacts on regions.
- » that regions have access to quality infrastructure:
 - a harbour repair program and St. Lawrence icebreaking fees covered by Ottawa to promote maritime and intermodal transport;
 - enhanced airport facilities and abolition of the regional air transportation tax;
 - the reversal of border crossing closures;
 - a greater federal contribution to infrastructure funding. **Let's talk regions.**



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- » that Québec City be treated as the national capital that it is, and that includes federal support for major infrastructure worthy of a capital. **Let's talk National Capital.**
- » that Montréal's role as an economic, financial and cultural centre be supported. **Let's talk Montréal.**
- » that the St. Lawrence River, the lifeline of Québec, be managed on an integrated basis such that greater economic development does not mean the destruction of its unique ecosystems. This can only be achieved if Ottawa stops deciding everything unilaterally. **PARLONS QUÉBEC.**



PHOTO : GUY F. RAYMOND

Quebeckers want honest political leaders who put the common good ahead of the friends of the regime.

Forthright leaders who say what they think and do what they say.

Competent, determined, courageous leaders.

Proud leaders who care about Québec and who do not hesitate to stand up, against all odds, to represent Quebeckers with dignity, while respecting their language, culture and rights.

Stephen Harper, who is prepared to conceal the truth and stifle debate in order to impose an ideology on Québec, is not what Quebeckers expect in a political leader.

Michael Ignatieff, who is unable to make up his mind and entangled in Canadian multicultural ideology, is not what Quebeckers expect in a political leader.

Jack Layton, who puts forward policies designed by and for Ottawa and has a team that is unable to represent our nation effectively, is not what Quebeckers expect in a political leader either.

Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Québécois, is the only leader who proudly represents Québec and who is powerful enough to prevent Stephen Harper from imposing his ideological agenda.

Let's talk honesty,
competence and determination.
Let's talk leadership.

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As Leader of the Bloc
Québécois, Gilles Duceppe is
committed to:

- » faithfully speaking on behalf of the values and interests of Québec and all of its regions in Ottawa. **Let's talk competence and honesty.**
- » bringing positions to Ottawa on which there is consensus in Québec, particularly those supported unanimously by the Québec National Assembly. **Let's talk determination.**
- » using his team's cohesion and strength to promote projects with a lasting effect for our regions and block any federal initiative that would have an adverse effect on Québec. **Let's talk leadership. PARLONS QUÉBEC.**





All Quebecers without exception form a nation. Canadian parties recognize this in theory; however, in reality, they do not think about the Québec nation when taking positions in Ottawa. Only the Bloc Québécois stands for the Québec nation.

No one in Canada's political parties has the desire to raise the issue of Québec identity. Their nation is Canada. Twenty years after the demise of the Meech Lake Accord, Canada is more than ever unable to meet the needs and aspirations of the Québec nation.

Our nation has a national language – French – and Québec's language laws must be enforced right across Québec, and that includes companies under federal jurisdiction. The Bloc Québécois is clear: Québec operates in French!

Our nation's unique culture is at the very heart of our identity, and the bond between Québec and its creators goes far beyond a simple love of the arts. The Bloc Québécois says loudly and clearly: hands off Québec culture!

Our nation has the right to freely develop an integration policy that is best suited to it. The Bloc Québécois is not reluctant to say: Québec must opt out of Canada's multiculturalism policy, which does not promote the harmonious integration of newcomers into our society.

Let's talk culture, French, nation.
Let's talk identity.

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Our nation, like all other nations, has the right to decide on its future and to organize its affairs as it sees fit. The Bloc Québécois is uncompromising: hands off Québec's rights, freedoms and powers!

The Bloc Québécois is committed to:

- » tabling a new bill to ensure that Bill 101, which affirms the right of all Québec workers to work in French, applies to companies of federal jurisdiction. **Let's talk French.**
- » ensuring that the French language is respected in all federal institutions.
- » ensuring that the federal government increases its support for our culture and contributes to its development. **Let's talk culture.**
- » proposing the necessary measures so that the Canadian Multiculturalism Act does not apply to Québec. **Let's talk identity.**
- » fighting tooth and nail so that Québec's rights are respected, particularly by fighting any and all federal interference in our fields of jurisdiction.
- » opposing any decrease in the political clout of the Québec nation. **Let's talk nation. PARLONS QUÉBEC.**



Beyond partisan differences, countries ultimately practice politics based on their interests. It's true for Canada and for Québec. For federalist and sovereigntist Quebecers, Québec comes first. Such a position simply cannot be taken within a Canadian party whose homeland is Canada. Québec's interests often differ from Canada's interests.

Québec has a modern manufacturing economy that is based on renewable resources like forests and clean energy, and its culture is a truly dynamic economic driver.

Canadian parties are quick to approve billions of dollars for the automotive industry, but give only a few crumbs to the forestry industry. They refuse to fight for Québec's financial sector so as not to offend Toronto. They hem and haw when it comes to promoting clean energy and electric cars so as not to offend Calgary. They are not too keen on supporting research and development because leading-edge research centres are concentrated in Québec.

The Bloc Québécois will always be there to represent Québec's interests, support the development of sectors that dominate its economy, such as forestry, manufacturing, financial decision centres, cutting-edge companies and research, and demand fair treatment by Ottawa.

Let's talk economy,
sustainable development,
solidarity and fairness.
Let's talk Québec interests.

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Our true government is in Québec City, not in Ottawa. Only the Bloc Québécois believes it is important that Québec be treated fairly, whether it's education transfers, equalization or compensation for harmonizing our sales tax. Québec is owed \$5 billion and we want it!

Québec wants its fair share. Not more, but definitely not less! The Bloc Québécois has no trouble saying so.



The Bloc Québécois is committed to:

- » presenting supportive policies for Québec's strong economic sectors:
 - a policy to modernize Québec's industrial base that emphasizes productivity and energy conservation;
 - a policy to support and develop the forestry sector;
 - an aerospace policy;
 - a supportive policy for industry research and development, particularly for leading-edge sectors like the environmental industry and the pharmaceutical sector;
 - withdrawal of the federal project to create a pan-Canadian securities commission, which would weaken Montréal's role as a financial centre. **Let's talk economy.**
- » proposing measures to reduce Québec's dependence on oil:
 - tax incentives to help families convert their home heating system and undertake energy efficiency retrofits in their homes;
 - measures to promote electric cars;
 - support for the development of biofuels from agricultural, household and forestry waste;
 - renewable energy development assistance;
 - support for companies that switch to more energy-efficient patterns of production. **Let's talk sustainable development.**



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- » ensuring that everyone contributes their fair to federal tax revenue:
 - eliminate tax havens;
 - impose a surtax on very high incomes and bonuses for corporate executives;
 - abolish tax give-aways for oil companies.

Let's talk solidarity.

- » making sure that Québec is treated fairly by Ottawa and defending Québec's positions in disputes between Québec and Ottawa :
 - demand the \$5 billion owed to Québec for various disputes that have dragged on for far too long, like tax harmonization, equalization and the Ice Storm.

Let's talk fairness.

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To talk about Québec is to defend its residents. At the heart of the Bloc Québécois are Québec's broad overarching values: solidarity, respect and justice. Never in the history of Canada and Québec has the distance between the two been so great.

In the area of social programs, the dynamics of Québec and those of Canada are not the same. On the one hand, Stephen Harper wants to completely disengage the state from social services, leaving the neediest of people to the free market for purely ideological motives. On the other hand, Michael Ignatieff and Jack Layton want to use social issues to strengthen Canadian unity and standardize Canada's social safety net, without regard to Québec's uniqueness.

Neither of these currents is appropriate for Québec. The Bloc Québécois is asking all progressists in Québec to stand up for social progress in their province while advocating generosity in federal issues, such as employment insurance, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the banning of scabs and maintaining affirmative action programs, and respect for Québec so that our nation may have unfettered means to implement its own priorities.

Environmental responsibility and protection are important in Québec. The fight against climate change and shoreline erosion, as well as the protection of the St. Lawrence River and our territory, are important. Unfortunately, Canada draws much of its wealth from dirty oil sands oil and the Canadian parties must continually take that into consideration. While the Conservatives and Liberals advocate "all things oil", the Bloc Québécois is quick to stand up for the environment.

Let's talk equality, environment,
cooperation and respect.
Let's talk values.

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With respect to justice, the Québec nation wants an effective system based on justice rather than on retribution. Quebeckers do not want a repressive society that closes the door to rehabilitation and where guns circulate freely. Demagogic, alarmist and dogmatic positions clash with Québec's positions.

Between Conservative ideology and Liberal and NDP reluctance, as evidenced during recent debates on the Gun Registry and the treatment of young offenders, the Bloc Québécois is the only party that stands up to ensure that justice protects the public and that it does not serve to further an ideology, without being lenient, as seen with the abolition of automatic parole after one-sixth of the sentence has been served.

Quebeckers like respect and dialogue. A belligerent foreign policy, where solidarity gives way to threats and law to force, is against our values. The Bloc Québécois does not hesitate to say: when it comes to justice, Stephen Harper's Canada is downright disquieting and even dangerous.



The Bloc Québécois team is committed to supporting the values of Quebeckers:

- » by ensuring that Québec maintains its ability to provide Quebeckers with a social safety net through enhanced equalization, increased post-secondary education transfers and an end to fiscal imbalance.
Let's talk fairness.
- » by proposing substantial improvements to programs for the neediest of persons, such as the Guaranteed Income Supplement, employment insurance and support for affordable housing.
Let's talk social progress.
- » by proposing changes to the Canada Labour Code to allow the precautionary cessation of work and ban scabs.
Let's talk solidarity.
- » by showing a determination to protect the environment and fight climate change:
 - a credible greenhouse gas reduction plan;
 - increased support for research and development and an end to the Conservatives' severe cuts;
 - a climate change adaptation program to fight shoreline erosion along the St. Lawrence. **Let's talk environment.**
- » by adopting a results-oriented approach to justice rather one focused on an ideology of retribution:
 - oppose the proliferation of guns and the abolition of the Gun Registry;
 - make rehabilitating young offenders and reintegrating them into society a priority;



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- oppose dogmatic, ineffective measures that turn judges into prison sentence dispensing machines;
 - get tougher on organized crime, street gangs and white collar criminals. **Let's talk justice.**
 - » by advancing a foreign policy that favours cooperation, peaceful conflict resolution and the protection of civilians:
 - implement a credible plan to bring Canada's international development assistance up to the UN target of 0.7% of GDP;
 - give priority to multilateral institutions for international cooperation;
 - include clauses in trade agreements to protect culture, workers' rights and the environment;
 - pull Canadian troops out of Afghanistan. **Let's talk cooperation.**
 - » by defending women from attacks on their rights, such as the right to control their own bodies, by instituting federal pay equity and re-establishing the Equal Opportunities for Women Program and the Court Challenges Program. **Let's talk equality.**
 - » by being a true partner of Aboriginal nations by establishing nation-to-nation relations and providing better support for development initiatives. **Let's talk respect.**
- PARLONS QUÉBEC.**



PHOTO: CUV F. RAYMOND

At the heart of the Bloc Québécois is respect for what matters most to Québec: its culture, its language, its interests, its values and its rights. The Bloc Québécois' weapon to achieve that respect is democracy. It is crucial that democracy function well in Ottawa.

When the Prime Minister decides alone that information is not accessible, when hidden influences short-circuit democratic decisions and when ideological blindness and falsities spread by Conservatives distort debates, democracy is taking a beating.

Respect is the Bloc Québécois' answer to the obscurantism that silences people. Dialogue is important in Québec, and the Bloc Québécois will never allow public debate to be muzzled by mean-spirited threats and ideological funding cuts.

Transparency is the Bloc Québécois' answer to government secrecy. While private interests have corrupted the Liberals and while hidden influences drive the Conservatives to conceal the truth, the Bloc Québécois debates openly and transparently. Quebeckers want transparency.

Openness is the Bloc Québécois' answer to the dogmatism that deafens the government. When Québec reaches a consensus on certain issues, the Bloc Québécois promotes that consensus, unlike the Canadian parties, which attempt to break it and make Québec conform to their ideology. Quebeckers prefer dialogue to sterile confrontation.

Let's talk openness,
consensus and transparency.
Let's talk democracy.

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Honesty is the Bloc Québécois' answer to hyper-partisanship. If it's good for Québec, we support it. If it's bad for Québec, we oppose it. Quebeckers want nothing to do with partisan battles where people oppose good measures put forward by other parties or support bad measures in order to put their partisan interests first. Quebeckers want honest people to represent them.

The Bloc Québécois is committed to:

- » being the watchdog of democracy, transparency and honesty in the management of public funds, namely by proposing improvements to the Access to Information Act. **Let's talk transparency.**
- » continuing to clearly say what it thinks and do what it says, by supporting only those initiatives that are beneficial for Québec, whatever the party – or coalition of parties – that proposes them. **Let's be frank.**
- » fighting against ideological, partisan and antidemocratic leanings in Ottawa. **Let's talk democracy.**



Parlons Québec

Because the Bloc Québécois is the only political party with a strong presence throughout Québec.

Because Gilles Duceppe and his team care about Québec.

Because the Bloc Québécois tirelessly defends Québec culture and the French language.

Because the Bloc Québécois is the only party that keeps Québec top of mind and systematically makes Ottawa aware of the consensus reached in Québec.

Because the Bloc Québécois is uncompromising regarding the iniquity visited upon Québec.

Because the Bloc Québécois adopts a hard line with respect to ethics and democracy.

Because the Bloc Québécois is determined to protect the environment.

Because the Bloc Québécois is reasonable with regards to justice issues.

Because the Bloc Québécois tenaciously advances the economic interests of Québec and its regions.

Because it is the only party that has the fortitude and the determination needed to defend Québec's values, identity and interests.

In Québec, the Bloc Québécois is the only party that can prevent Stephen Harper from obtaining a majority and imposing his ideological agenda. **PARLONS QUÉBEC!**

Should a minority government be elected, the Bloc Québécois will not rule out the possibility of supporting a coalition government if that is in Québec's interest and if Québec's identity, values and rights will be respected. **PARLONS QUÉBEC!**

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