

Step 4: Final establishment of the new electoral map

In the ten days that follow the debate at the National Assembly, the CRE establishes the final boundaries of the electoral divisions and assigns names to them. The new list of electoral divisions is then published in the Gazette officielle du Québec. It is only upon dissolution of the National Assembly that the new electoral map comes into force.

Electoral maps of municipalities and school boards

Under the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and the Act respecting school elections, municipalities that are required to divide their territory into electoral districts and Québec school boards must establish an electoral map in preparation for the holding of an election on their territory.

The CRE steps into the division process if a municipality or a school board fails to respect certain criteria stipulated by law or when electors are opposed to the proposed divisions. In such cases, the CRE holds a public hearing under the terms of which it can draw up the electoral map or maintain the divisions proposed by the municipality or the school board.

The contact information of the Commission de la représentation électorale is provided below :

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The deaf or hard of hearing can dial the following toll-free number: 1-800-537-0644.

Une version française de ce document est disponible sur demande.

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THE ELECTORAL MAP

A REFLECTION OF QUÉBEC



Commission de la représentation
électorale du Québec

What is the Commission de la représentation électorale?

The Commission de la représentation électorale (CRE) is an independent and impartial body. It is made up of the Chief Electoral Officer, who is its chairman ex officio, and two commissioners appointed by the National Assembly of Québec.

The mission of the CRE is to divide the territory into electoral divisions taking into account the criteria found in the Election Act. The delimitation of electoral divisions must be reviewed after every two general elections.

A mandate based on a balanced approach

The CRE aims to ensure the fair and just representation of citizens at the National Assembly. It bases its work on the principle of effective representation of electors.

An essential precondition for effective representation is the equality of the votes of electors, meaning that each elected member must represent about the same number of electors in his electoral division. It is, however, a relative equality since a set of criteria must be considered when a territory is divided into electoral divisions.

Criteria governing the division of the territory

Numerical criterion

For each electoral division, the number of electors may not deviate by more than 25% from the average number of electors per electoral division. To obtain this average, the CRE divides the total number of electors entered on the permanent list of electors by the total number of electoral divisions.

Sociodemographical and geographical criteria

Electoral divisions must represent natural communities. To achieve this objective, the CRE must take into account specific characteristics of the population, such as its density, its growth, etc. The CRE must also consider the natural boundaries of a given area and the municipal boundaries.

The delimitation of electoral divisions: four key steps

The neutrality and impartiality of the CRE allow it to assume the delicate role of establishing the boundaries of electoral divisions. Invested with a decision-making power, the CRE establishes the final boundaries of electoral divisions, while respecting the steps provided by the Election Act.

Step 1: Preparation of a proposal and tabling of a preliminary report

At the very beginning of the process, the CRE makes an analysis of all the data in its possession; this analysis results in an electoral division boundary proposal. The CRE presents this proposal in a preliminary report, which is submitted to the President or Secretary of the National Assembly.

Step 2: Public consultation

As soon as the preliminary report has been tabled in the National Assembly, it is made public. Indeed, the CRE ensures the best possible diffusion of the report. In the six months following the tabling of this report, the CRE holds public hearings in the various regions of Québec. Their purpose is to hear the representations of elected members (MNAs), citizens and organizations wishing to express their views on the proposed delimitation. The preliminary report is afterwards submitted for review by the Commission de l'Assemblée nationale.

Step 3: Preparation of a second report

At the end of the public hearings, the CRE analyzes the representations made by MNAs, citizens and organizations. Endeavoring to take these new data into account with the criteria governing the division of the territory, the CRE prepares a second report, which it then tables in the National Assembly. This new report is the subject of a debate in the National Assembly within five days from its tabling.