

# HIS 262S: #19

## Quebec in Confederation



and the Struggle for Sovereignty

Professor Heidi Bohaker

# Quebec today

- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> most populated province, ~ 8 million.
- ▶ 80% urban
- ▶ 80% French-as-mother-tongue
- ▶ 75% identify Catholic
- ▶ Lowest marriage rates in the country



## Quebec is also the only province:

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- ▶ To have a civil code instead of the common law. (1774)
- ▶ To have a guarantee of three justices on the Supreme Court (1949)
- ▶ To have its own pension plan (1966)
- ▶ To have had two Referenda on leaving Confederation (1980, 1995)
- ▶ to not be a signatory to the Canada Act of 1982
- ▶ To have its own immigration controls (Ministère de l'immigration et des communautés culturelles (MICC))





"Two nations warring in the bosom of a  
single state"



Lord Durham, 1830s

# Quebec on Confederation

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“As a distinct and separate nationality,  
we form a state within a state. We enjoy the full  
exercise of our rights and the formal recognition of  
our national independence.”

– *La Minerve*, 1 July 1867



# Tensions in French/English Relations

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- ▶ Rebellions of 1870 and 1885,  
and 1885 execution of Louis  
Riel
- ▶ Equal Rights Association
- ▶ Manitoba Schools Crisis
- ▶ Ontario Regulation 17



# Religious Revival in Quebec

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## Early 20<sup>th</sup> century

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- ▶ From compact of provinces to compact of nationalities, Henry Bourassa
- ▶ 2 Nation concept – protection of francophone minorities.
- ▶ Conscription crisis, 1917
- ▶ Retreat from bilingual/bicultural vision

Henri Bourassa, 1868-1952



# Towards Conservative Nationalism

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- ▶ Canon Lionel-Adolphe Groulx/ Action française
- ▶ Imagining rural, traditional nation of French Canadians
- ▶ Impact of Great Depression
  - ▶ Especially on Middle Class
- ▶ Union Nationale Party (Conservative Nationalism)
- ▶ A second Conscription Crisis in WWII: "conscription if necessary, but not necessarily conscription." Mackenzie King



# 1949 Asbestos Strike

Premier Maurice Duplessis, Union Nationale



# Rising Quebec Nationalism/ Maître Chez Nous

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- ▶ Impact of the proposed Post World War II welfare state.
- ▶ The Quiet Revolution
  - ▶ Jean Lesage (Liberal), 1950
  - ▶ 1964 nationalization of private hydro companies (Hydro-Quebec)
  - ▶ Mailbox bombings, 1963
  - ▶ Special status for Quebec
- ▶ Federal responses
  - ▶ Full participation of Francophones, official bilingualism
  - ▶ 1969 Official Languages Act



# October Crisis 1970



► <https://youtu.be/XfUq9b1XTa0>

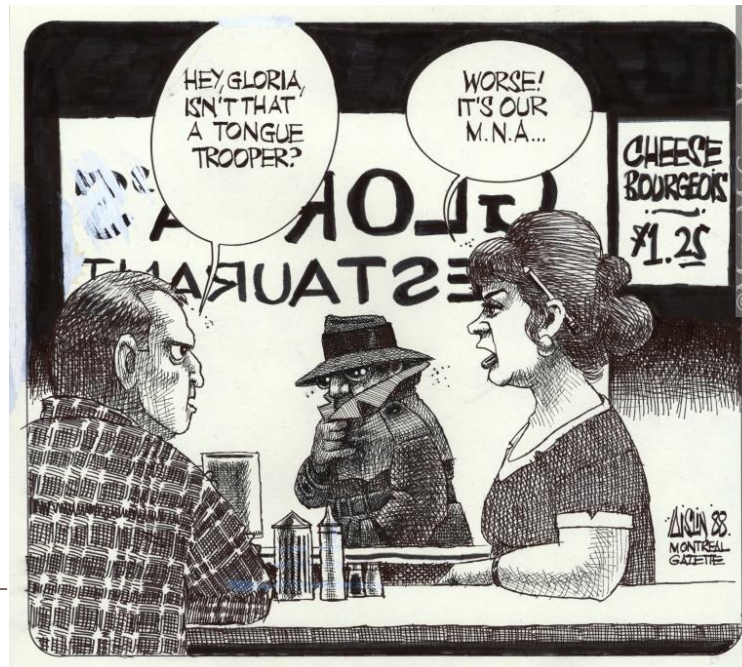


# The Language Debates and Bill 101 (1977)

Bill 63 (1969) – English minority schools still needed French.

Bill 22 (1974) – French official language of Quebec.

Bill 101 (1977) - unilingual French



# Sovereignty Association and the Rise of PQ

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- ▶ Quebec Referendum 1980
- ▶ Canada Act, 1982
- ▶ Meech Lake Accord, 1987 “distinct society”
- ▶ Charlottetown Accord, 1992





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Referendum, The Cliff-hanger: 1995 – 50.6%/49.4%



Acceptez-vous que le Québec devienne souverain, après avoir offert formellement au Canada un nouveau partenariat économique et politique, dans le cadre du projet de loi sur l'avenir du Québec et de l'entente signée le 12 juin 1995?

Do you agree that Québec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new Economic and Political Partnership, within the scope of the Bill respecting the future of Québec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995?

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OUI  
YES



NON  
NO



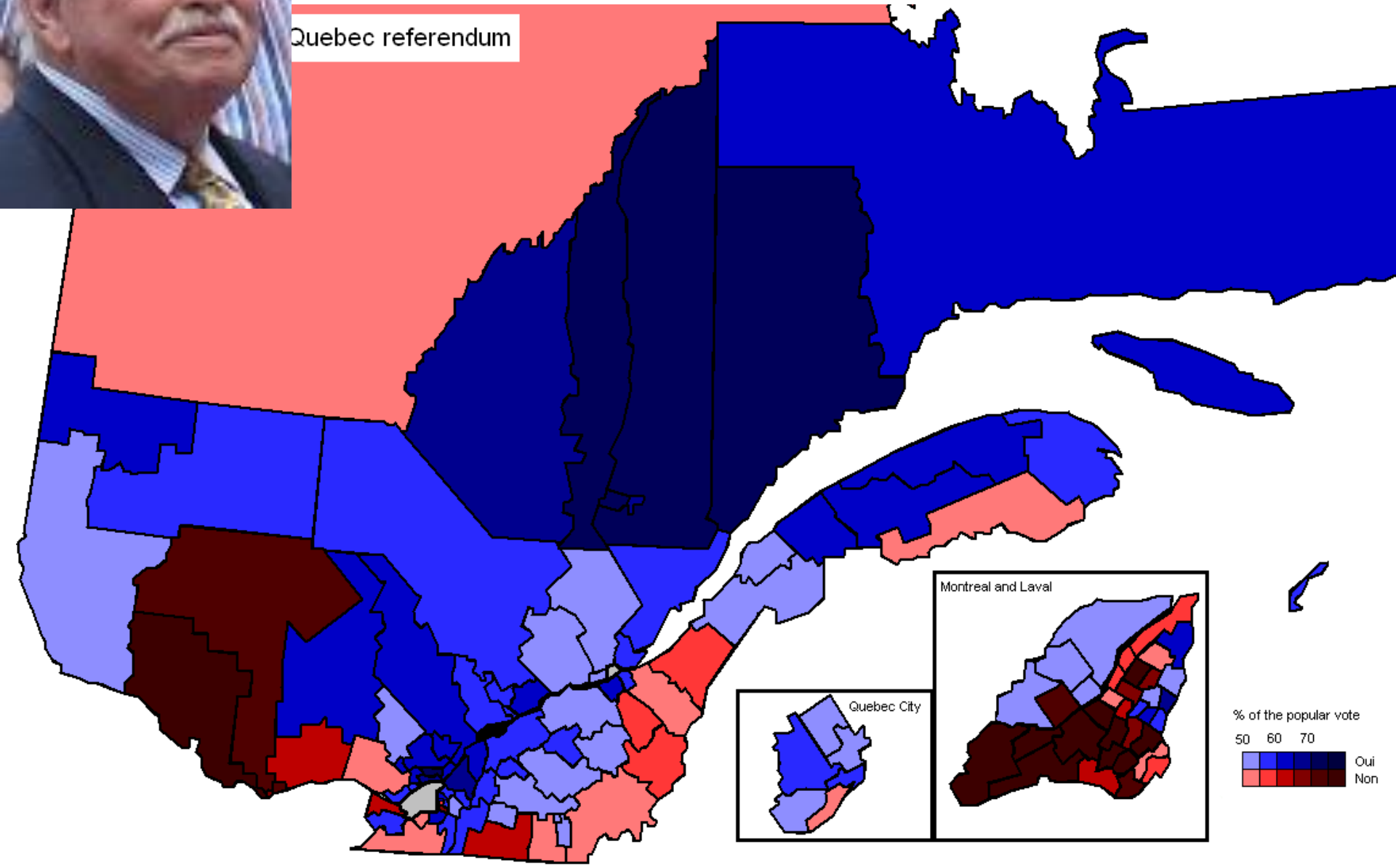
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# 1995 Vote Breakdown

Quebec referendum





# Quebec Today





THAT'S ALL!



*Take a break*

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