

**Bill 1 on the Constitution of Quebec  
More than 300 organizations call for its withdrawal**

**Montreal, December 4, 2025** – A broad coalition of Quebec civil society organizations, including the Ligue des droits et libertés (LDL), the Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA), the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI), the Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain CSN (CCMM-CSN), and the Conseil régional FTQ Montréal métropolitain (CRMM-FTQ), denounces Bill 1 - *the Quebec Constitution Act, 2025*. According to these groups, this bill poses a threat to democracy, the rule of law, and Quebec's system for protecting rights and freedoms.

Gathered at a press conference as consultations begin before the Committee on Institutions, they speak for more than 300 organizations\* that have endorsed a joint statement calling for the complete withdrawal of the bill:

"Bill 1, the Quebec Constitutional Act, 2025, is a deliberate attack on democracy and human rights. The process is unilateral and rushed, and does not meet any of the democratic criteria for drafting a legitimate constitution. Furthermore, it perpetuates a colonial mindset by denying Indigenous people's right to self-determination. Instead of addressing the issues that actually concern citizens (health, education, housing, the environment, gender equality, the cost of living, etc.), the government is attacking rights and freedoms, checks and balances, and the rule of law. Consequently, the undersigned groups demand the complete withdrawal of Bill 1."

This coalition denounces the process surrounding the preparation and tabling of this bill, as well as the numerous setbacks that Bill 1 entails in terms of rights and freedoms. Given the legal importance of a constitution, it should have been drafted through an open process, allowing for the full participation of civil society and the entire population. However, in the case of Bill 1, the government chose to act in isolation, without prior public consultation and without taking into account the criteria established in international law, which recommend broad, participatory processes that respect the rights of all. The groups also denounce the fact that this bill was prepared without the participation of indigenous peoples, denying their right to self-determination and overriding the principle of nation-to-nation dialogue.

The coalition calls on the public, social movements, and all groups in society concerned with democracy, the rule of law, and human rights to mobilize and demand that the government withdraw Bill No. 1.

\* The list of organizations is [available here](#).

## **QUOTES**

### **Ligue des droits et libertés**

"For one of the rare times in its long history, the Ligue des droits et libertés has refused to participate in consultations on a bill that threatens rights and freedoms, even though Bill 1 constitutes a deliberate attack on Quebec's human rights protection regime. Through this action, we want to denounce the opaque, authoritarian, and anti-democratic process used by the government to prepare and present its draft constitution. The government has not respected any of the criteria established by the UN for the adoption of a democratic and legitimate constitution. That is why we call on all of Quebec society to reject it outright."

- Paul-Étienne Rainville, Political Affairs Officer, Ligue des droits et libertés (LDL)

### **Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA)**

"Bill 1 significantly reduces democratic space, undermines the independence of social movements, and directly threatens Quebec's model of autonomous community action (ACA), based on the defense of rights, citizen participation, and social transformation. The complete and immediate withdrawal of Bill 1 is the only responsible and reasonable course of action."

- Claudia Fiore-Leduc, Campaigns Officer, Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA).

### **Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE)**

"This constitutional bill is part of a worrying trend toward weakening the rule of law. A constitution can only be legitimate if it is based on the exercise of the right to public participation, which requires a broad participatory process. This is all the more important given that certain provisions weaken essential checks and balances and unduly restrict judicial review."

- Geneviève Paul, Executive Director, Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE)

### **Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI)**

"The draft constitution is part of a series of legislative initiatives that the government is presenting as steps toward national affirmation, such as the model for integration into the Quebec nation, adopted in May 2025. As in the latter case, drastic changes are being proposed that violate human rights and are likely to fuel exclusion, all at the end of a botched consultation process. We refuse to play along with this bad movie."

- Louis-Philippe Jannard, Coordinator, Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes

### **Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain - CSN**

"Bill 1 is a direct attack on the democratic and political rights of the entire population of Quebec. The attacks on unions should not hide the fact that it is civil society as a whole that the government is seeking to weaken. We cannot accept that the Quebec government is shielding itself from potential legal or political challenges. A constitution must not only be drafted by and for the people, it must also aim to protect the population from potential abuses of power by the state, rather than defend the "parliamentary sovereignty" of those in power. Bill 1 is unamendable and must be withdrawn, pure and simple."

- Bertrand Guibord, President, CCMM-CSN

### **Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)**

"To be legitimate, a constitution must be the result of prior consultation with the entire population, including marginalized groups. This type of text must seek to guarantee the fundamental rights of the people and to prevent any attempts to introduce an authoritarian regime. Bill 1 fails on all counts. "

- Anaïs Bussi res McNicoll, Director of the Fundamental Freedoms Program, Canadian Civil Liberties Association

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