

# Services for Indigenous communities

Roadmap – December 2025

Élections Québec's mandate is to ensure the smooth operation of provincial elections and contribute to the vitality of Québec democracy. We are committed to providing all the information necessary for electors to exercise their right to vote. We are constantly striving to improve the electoral process to make it as accessible and efficient as possible.

## Adapting to better meet the needs of electors

Over the years, we have introduced a variety of voting options to better meet the needs of certain electors.

- Voting in educational institutions allows students to exercise their right to vote on campus, since they are often away from their domicile for their studies.
- Voting teams travel to various residential facilities, such as private seniors' residences, so that residents can vote on site.
- Electors temporarily outside Québec during an election can vote by mail.

**These measures are designed to reduce voting-related obstacles and encourage the participation of people with special needs.**

The last provincial general election demonstrated the need to better respond to the needs of Indigenous communities. For example, we know that electors in certain communities face particular challenges when comes the time to register on the list of electors and to identify themselves at the polls.

In 2023, Élections Québec set up a committee on Indigenous voter turnout. Its mandate is to identify obstacles to electoral participation among Indigenous communities in Québec, propose solutions adapted to their needs and make recommendations to the institution's authorities.

## Taking action for Indigenous communities

Québec is home to 11 Indigenous nations. Each one is unique, with its own history and realities. We need to know these stories and understand these realities in order to better meet the needs of Indigenous communities. We know that the challenges faced by communities located in remote regions differ greatly from those faced by

communities located nearby urban centres. To get to know these communities better, we need to meet them and listen to their concerns.

We know that the stakes are many and varied. First, to optimize our efforts, we will be focusing on remote communities, particularly those facing significant obstacles that have an impact on voter turnout. We want to offer services tailored to the needs of Indigenous electors who want to vote in a way that respects their culture and reality.

**Our work is based on three pillars.**

## **1. Develop relationships**

### **Build trust with Indigenous communities**

We want to build strong, lasting relationships with Indigenous communities, particularly those in remote regions. We hope to develop a relationship of mutual trust.

- Whenever possible, we prefer to meet face-to-face. Our teams will visit certain communities with their agreement.

### **Recruit local members of Indigenous communities**

We aim to strengthen our ties with communities by recruiting local election officers from these communities. This will enable us to better support our actions in the field and adapt them to local realities.

- We would like to recruit one person in each community located in remote regions.

## **2. Adapt our services**

### **Take Indigenous realities into account**

We want to better meet the needs of Indigenous communities by adapting our services to their realities while respecting the terms and conditions set out by the *Election Act*.

- We will be paying particular attention to issues related to the entry on the list of electors and the identification of electors at the poll.

## **Improve access to electoral information for Indigenous electors**

We will adapt our communication strategies over time to reach Indigenous electors more effectively.

- We aim to ensure that all voters have the information they need to exercise their right to vote.

## **Raising awareness of the electoral process, particularly among young people**

We want to better inform Indigenous communities about the electoral process. We will be placing particular emphasis on raising awareness among young people.

- We could adapt our democracy education programs and activities to the realities of Indigenous communities, with their support, if they wish.

## **3. Enhancing our knowledge**

### **Continuing our research on Indigenous voter turnout**

We want to learn more about voter turnout of Indigenous communities in order to adapt our actions accordingly.

- We will use our research to better understand Indigenous voting realities.

### **Raising our teams' awareness of Indigenous realities**

We want Élections Québec staff to be able to enrich their understanding of Indigenous realities.

- This objective could be achieved through training sessions or conferences.

### **Exchange with other Canadian electoral administrations**

We want to continue our exchanges with other Canadian electoral administrations to learn more about the practices and services offered to Indigenous communities elsewhere in the country.

- We will draw inspiration from best practices and participate in events and committees that bring together partners from outside Québec.

This roadmap is part of a long-term perspective. Every step forward counts and every election is an opportunity to take action to reach these goals. The involvement of communities is essential, because it's by working with them that we can truly meet their needs. This roadmap is a first step towards concrete and sustainable changes.