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43rd Legislature of the Quebec National Assembly Agenda of the Legault Government



Rally outside opening of Quebec National Assembly, November 29, 2022, rejects monarchy and oath of allegiance to the King of England.

- **Legault Government's Allegiance to Private Interests of McKinsey & Co.**
– *Pierre Soublière* –

43rd Legislature of the Quebec National Assembly Agenda of the Legault Government

The first session of the 43rd legislature of the Quebec National Assembly opened on November 29.

On November 20, the Marxist-Leninist Party of Quebec (PMLQ) held a second national meeting to discuss and exchange views on the Quebec election results and the Legault government's agenda.

The very informative meeting covered a range of concerns of interest to the working class and

people of Quebec who are fighting for their rights and the restoration of social programs, and against state violence and discrimination against Indigenous peoples, immigrants, migrant workers and refugees, as well as Canada's pro-war and anti-Haiti policies, amongst other things.



The refusal of Parti Québécois Members of the National Assembly to swear the oath of allegiance to King Charles III of England as a condition to taking their seats in the National Assembly was also addressed.

Concerning the agenda of Premier François Legault, PMLQ director Christine Dandenault noted the nature of his avowed nationalism, pointing out that nationalism without social content and without vesting the decision-making power in the people is unacceptable. Her introductory remarks to the meeting also set the Legault agenda for Quebec in the context of developments in Quebec, Canada, the United States and the world today.

The neo-liberal anti-social offensive is in profound crisis with the seizure of state powers by narrow private supranational interests. Supranational private interests such as McKinsey & Company, amongst others, are managing government spending, and the intelligence agencies and U.S. military are dictating policy and infrastructure needs based on an economy which serves U.S. war production and the U.S. striving for domination everywhere. Oligopolies acting as cartels and coalitions have taken over decision-making. Legislatures have lost their purpose as representatives of any national sovereignty whatsoever, which for all intents and purposes no longer exists.

Over the course of the meeting, information was presented that elaborated the pay-the-rich schemes and methods used to destroy education and privatize health care systems as well as sell out Quebec's resources and pay the rich for infrastructure. There was information too on the measures being put in place so that the U.S. military can take control of Canadian and Quebec mines and factories in the name of securing supply chains, transportation, communications, energy and security corridors. To do this, governments are arming themselves with unlimited police powers which are all part of what is called "the King's democracy," enshrined in the *Constitution Act 1867* and the *Constitution Act 1982*.

What is happening in the country and around the world is truly alarming, Christine pointed out in her introduction. But, she emphasized, the most important thing is not to lose sight of the role the working class and people play when they fight for the affirmation of their just claims on society. "Our future lies in fighting for the rights of all, not placing false hope in corrupt politicians and anachronistic political institutions, all of which serve alien class and anti-national interests," she said, highlighting once again that the people must depend on their own wisdom, creativity and ability to bring new forms into being which serve them.

The PMLQ representative then addressed the nationalism of François Legault, pointing out that it is centred on narrow business interests, devoid of social content. It is based on using police powers to impose decisions taken by the narrow supranational private interests which have seized the political power and the intelligence agencies in the service of the U.S. striving for hegemony all over the world. It is an agenda which fraudulently claims it upholds human rights and women's rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples but works to preserve racist colonial values and institutions based

on "white man's burden," the U.S. as "indispensable nation" and the superiority of the no-longer-functioning Anglo-American allegedly democratic institutions.

According to the new normal of governments of police powers, people are things to be used and thrown away. Any memory of national construction is ignored, forgotten and abandoned. Quebec nationalism without social content and without representation of the people by vesting the decision-making power in them is unacceptable, Christine pointed out.

The thesis put forward by the PMLQ is that, today, the working class must constitute the nation and vest sovereignty in the people, Christine said. She presented a brief overview of how the national question has posed itself at both the federal and Quebec levels of government in the past to illustrate the bankruptcy of the so-called nationalist position of the Legault government today. The review highlights how the struggle of the people for rights has posed itself at each turning point and that rights are not an abstraction based on a false rendering of colonial values as eternal. Today the fight for the rights of all is a matter of affirming the human right to be.

Following this introduction, speakers representing the working class of Quebec made presentations which illustrate the agenda the Legault government is pursuing. *TML Daily* is publishing these presentations in the coming days to bring to readers' attention where the Legault government is taking Quebec. The need is to change the direction of the economy and uphold the rights of all by fighting for democratic renewal and a constitutional order which puts human beings at the centre of its concerns.



Legault Government's Allegiance to Private Interests of McKinsey & Co.

– Pierre Soublière –

McKinsey & Company management consulting firm is back in the news, this time with regards to Hydro-Québec. It has already been given free rein to manage Quebec's public institutions. This time round, the firm is said to be "managing hydro-electric dams."

According to an article in *Le Devoir*, Hydro-Québec has confirmed that McKinsey is working on "strategic mandates, problems of supply and innovations." This jargon, typical of consulting firms, explains nothing about what McKinsey is actually doing. Why is the Legault government so cozy with McKinsey with which it is clearly having an ongoing, hush-hush "affair?"



Even though McKinsey's trademark is secrecy, confidentiality, non-disclosure and the like, there is still enough out there to demystify the narrative of a firm whose sole mission is giving multi-million-dollar advice. The fact is that Hydro-Québec's expertise is world-renowned. What expertise does it need from McKinsey which is touted as the most powerful and most influential private institution on the planet?

A CNBC documentary provides information that in the 1950s McKinsey assisted the White House with staffing organization leading to the creation of the role of Chief of Staff. Today, this intimate access to and involvement in U.S. government affairs is explicit on McKinsey's website. In one instance, a McKinsey employee who is a former U.S. military officer explains how, along with a "group of partners," he works within the U.S. Federal Government. He speaks of his commitment to making the U.S. Federal Government "the best government in the world." He serves various agencies from the Defence Department to Veteran Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency, putting the best experts and resources of the firm at their disposal. They are referred to as a "SWAT team of analysts." SWAT stands for Special Weapons And Tactics.

Former McKinsey alumni include Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google, James Gorman, CEO of Morgan Stanley, Jorgen Vig Knudstorp, Chairman and former CEO of The Lego Group, Sheryl Sandberg, former chief operating officer of Facebook, as well as Susan Rice, director of the Biden administration's Domestic Policy Council and former national security advisor under the Obama presidency. The firm is involved with 90 of the Fortune top 100 companies worldwide. In a CNBC documentary, Duff MacDonal, author of *The Firm: the story of McKinsey and its secret influence on American business*, points out: "McKinsey is everywhere. They have built a machine in which the alumni interaction with the current firm sort of feeds itself in a constant virtuous circle of fees and engagements. It's kind of stunning to behold."

McKinsey runs a multi-billion-dollar hedge fund that, according to the *New York Times*, may have a stake in the outcome of some of the corporate restructurings the company consults on, including their involvement in trying to "turn around" Puerto Rico's public finances.

A June 22, 2020, *Balkan Insight* item, entitled "Asylum outsourced: McKinsey's secret role in Europe's refugee crisis," points out that in 2016-2017, McKinsey was "at the heart of the efforts in Europe to accelerate the processing of asylum applications on over-crowded Greek islands and salvage a controversial deal with Turkey, raising concerns over outsourcing of public policy on refugees."

In September 2016, McKinsey made a proposal to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) entitled Supporting the European Commission through integrated refugee management. The driving logic of McKinsey's intervention was "maximum productivity," that is, getting as many asylum cases processed as quickly as possible, whether they resulted in transfers to the Greek mainland, in the case of approved applications, or the deportation of "returnable migrants" to Turkey. During those years people were fleeing countries which the U.S. imperialists had either destabilized,

attacked, occupied or destroyed -- all four in some cases -- mainly Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The pact that ensued was deeply controversial. Human rights groups said it put at risk the very right to seek refuge. Also controversial was the previously unknown extent of McKinsey's influence over the implementation of the refugee accords and the lengths some European Union bodies went to conceal that role.

In October 2017, the EU's ombudsman, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) launched a probe into the EASO which dealt directly with McKinsey, chiefly concerning "irregularities and wrongdoings" ranging from breaches of procurement to staff harassment. According to *Balkan Insight*, OLAF's 1,500-page report sheds light on the role of a major private consultancy firm in what has traditionally been the realm of public policy -- the right to asylum.

Some also point out that McKinsey played a major role in the rebuilding of Afghanistan, or rather, in looking for opportunities for U.S. companies as billions of dollars were being handed out supposedly for reconstruction purposes. In past years, a report was sponsored by the Pentagon's Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) whereby McKinsey was called upon, among other things, to "identify potential projects in priority provinces and define TFBSO's strategic focus for Afghanistan."



In light of the above, Quebeckers are rightly concerned about the role and influence of McKinsey in taking over the functions of the Quebec state. It is a great cost borne by the people that reveals more than ever the urgent need for Quebeckers to provide themselves with a modern constitution which enshrines a *raison d'état* -- a reason of state -- which favours them. The Legault government has already announced that it intends to increase the number of hydro-electric projects to cater to the needs of foreign companies, mainly American, for cheap electricity in the name of "clean energy." It has well-known plans to make Quebec a hub for the extraction and refining of critical minerals and for lithium and EV battery production as part of the U.S. National Security Strategy and U.S.

"vital interests." This directly means U.S. war production and its striving for world hegemony.

As the new session of the National Assembly begins under a majority Legault government, it is more than relevant to know what exactly McKinsey is up to, and the extent of decision-making away from and opposed to the economic, political and environmental concerns of Quebec workers and the Quebec people. The Legault government must be made accountable for its backroom deals and for giving private interests such a privileged place in Quebec's public sphere and political affairs.

