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# ELECTIONS IN QUEBEC ON SEPTEMBER 4

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*Fall semester courses will begin on September 4th in McGill.  
A Quebec general election will take place on September 4th too.*

Since I knew that I would study in Montreal, I have managed to understand better politics in Quebec; that was not too difficult due to news about student protests.

Following posts will be more precise about this election and its context (perhaps I will talk about the impact of *first-past-the-post* voting system... or about the English level of Quebecois political leaders). But now, let's get the main facts:

- ❖ 40<sup>th</sup> Quebec general election will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, after the Labour Day.
- ❖ It is an early election: the National Assembly of Quebec was dissolved on August 1<sup>st</sup> (calling early elections is quite common).
  - If the National Assembly had not been dissolved, election would have taken place in December 2013.
- ❖ 125 seats will be filled in the *National Assembly of Quebec* (in other Canadian provinces the assembly is called *Legislative Assembly*). Voting system is *first-past-the-post* in each uninominal electoral district.
- ❖ There are three main political parties in Quebec:
  - The Liberal Party of Quebec has been governing Quebec for 9 years. Its leader is Jean Charest, who is the current *Premier* of Quebec.
  - The 'Parti Québécois' (Quebecois Party) is the Official Opposition and it has advocated national sovereignty for Quebec. Its leader is Pauline Marois.
  - The 'Coalition Avenir Québec' was founded recently. Its leader is François Legault.

*On the picture, from left to right: Pauline Marois, François Legault and Jean Charest.*



Despite student protests and debates about the Quebecois society, we cannot clearly separate left and right in Quebec.

- ❖ Opinion polls do not indicate whether Liberal Party or Parti Québécois leads.
- ❖ The Cabinet of Quebec is formed by the largest party in the National Assembly, even if this party did not reach an overall majority (it would be a *minority government*). Similarly, the leader of the largest party will become the Premier of Quebec (unless he/she is not elected MNA).

