

# CHAPTER 3

**1939 TO PRESENT-DAY**  
*Modernization of Québec,*  
*Quiet Revolution*  
*& Contemporary Québec*

# PART 6

## *Quiet Revolution*

# Quiet Revolution

After the death of Maurice Duplessis in 1959, Québec experienced what is known as the **Quiet Revolution**.

What was **revolutionary** about this period?



# Quiet Revolution

- *A rapid and far-reaching process of social, economic, and political reform in the province of Québec.*
- *These were radical changes both for individuals and within the government of Québec.*



# Progressive

➤ *Related to a policy aimed at **social progress**.*



# Progressive economic and social measures

In 1960, the Liberal Party took power in Québec:

- This new government began a **series of major reforms** that contrasted sharply with the conservatism of Duplessis and the *Union nationale*.
- This was the beginning of the **welfare state** in Québec.



*Jean Lesage,  
premier of QC  
1960-1966  
Liberal Party*

# Maurice Duplessis



As little government intervention as possible in the economic and social systems of QC

# Jean Lesage



The government should intervene to improve QC's economic and social development (welfare state)

# Welfare state

- *The government must **intervene to protect its citizens** from social risks and **provide for their needs***
  - *with laws*
  - *with regulations*
  - *with funding*

*e.g. Hospitalization insurance.*





# Progressive economic and social measures



- The **nationalist slogans** of the Liberal Party – "Masters in our own home" and "It's time for a change" – suggested that **the government was prepared to take hold of the province's economic and social development.**

# Jean Lesage's election campaign truck (1960)



# Creation of ministries and government-owned corporations

Jean Lesage's dynamic team (Thunder Team) quickly began making big changes:

- The Church was no longer responsible for health care, education and social affairs (secularization).
- 1960: Adoption of an act concerning **hospitalization insurance**
  - Lay workers gradually replaced nuns in the hospitals.
- 1963: **Nationalization** of almost all private electricity companies
  - **Hydro-Québec** became one of the largest government-owned corporations in North America.

# Crown corporation

- *An organization created by the government to manage, sell or exploit certain resources, or provide services (government-owned corporation).*



# Creation of ministries and government-owned corporations

Jean Lesage's dynamic team (Thunder Team) quickly began making big changes:

- 1964: Creation of the **Ministry of Education**
  - **Education became the responsibility of the government**
  - The level of instruction rose considerably
  - A network of free educational institutions was created: comprehensive high schools (*polyvalentes*), CEGEPs (*collège d'enseignement général et professionnel*) and universities.



***Paul Gérin-Lajoie,***  
*first Minister of*  
*Education*  
*1964-1966*

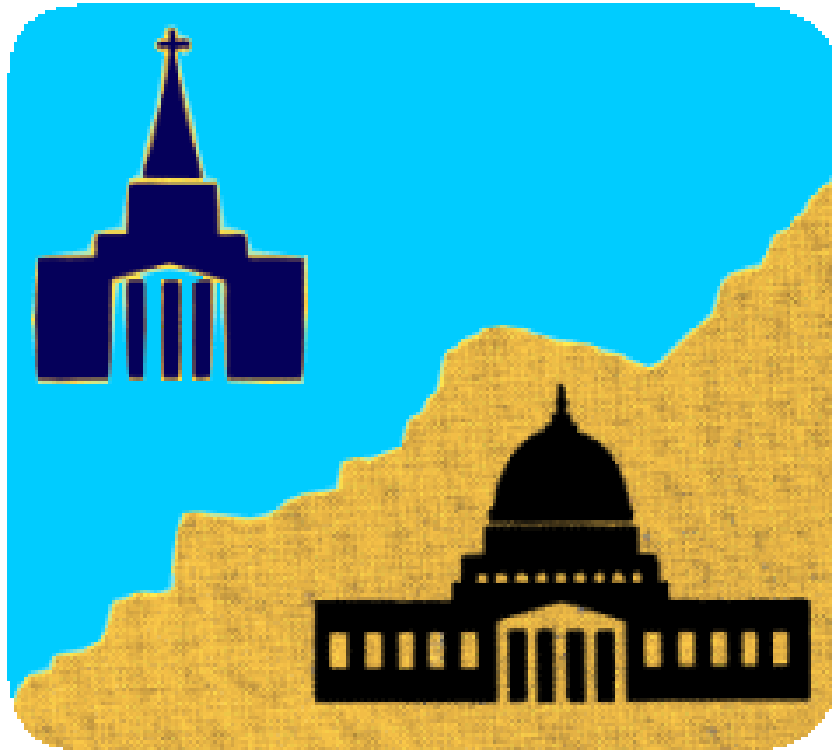
# Creation of ministries and government-owned corporations

Jean Lesage's dynamic team (Thunder Team) quickly began making big changes:

- 1964: Creation of the **Québec Pension Plan**
  - Workers pay into the plan during their active working life and are entitled to a pension when they retire.
- 1964: Creation of the **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec**
  - Its purpose is to make pension funds yield a profit, while contributing to the economic development of Québec through the financing of organizations and companies. It manages billions of dollars in assets.

# Secularization

- *The process of removing religious influence from institutions.*



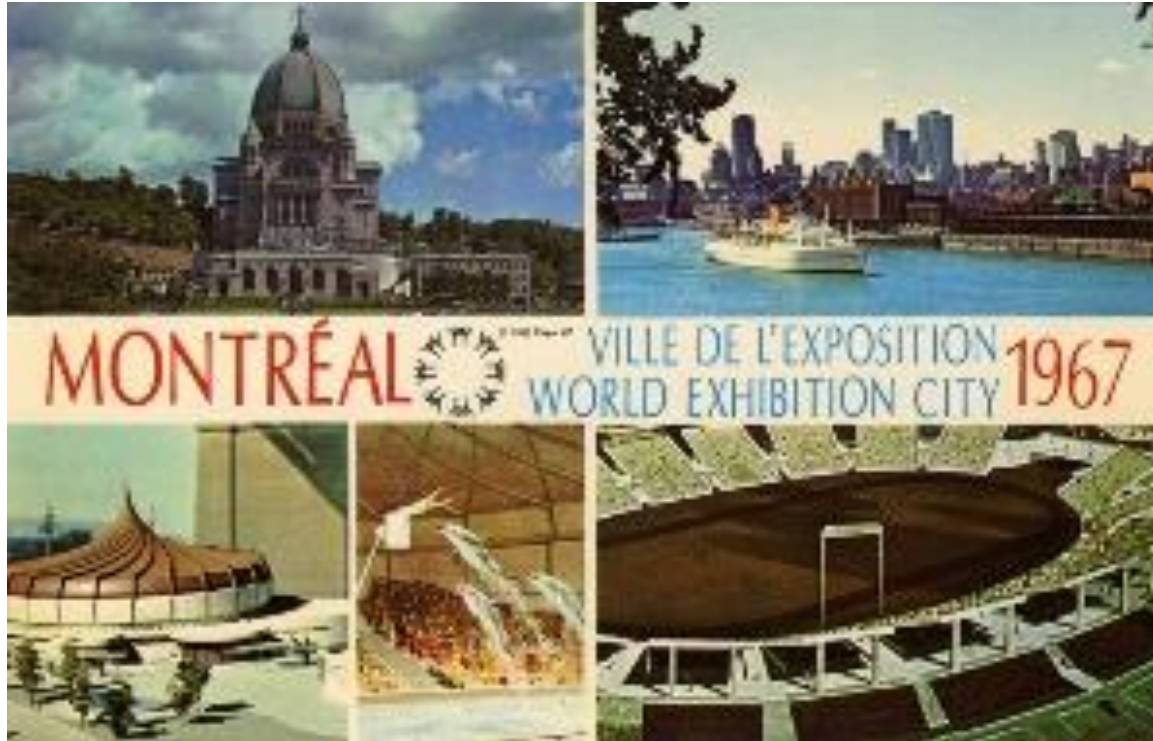
# Secularization

In the 1960s, the Catholic Church started to experience a drastic decline:

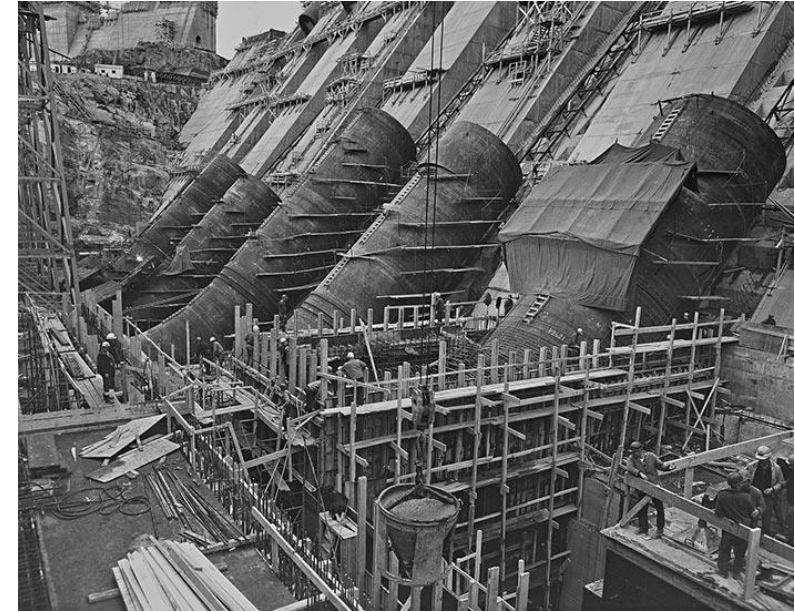
- Unable to adapt to a changing society, the Church remained rigid and traditional.
- Its stance against divorce and contraception were particularly responsible for alienating many followers, especially women.
- The francophone majority was abandoning religious practice.
- Many Catholic nuns and priests were leaving their religious orders.
- **The government took over the administration of education, social services and health care.**
- **From then on, the Church focused on its spiritual functions.**



# Planning and preparation for Expo 67 world fair in Montréal.



Construction of the Montréal Métro system. The subway opened in 1966.

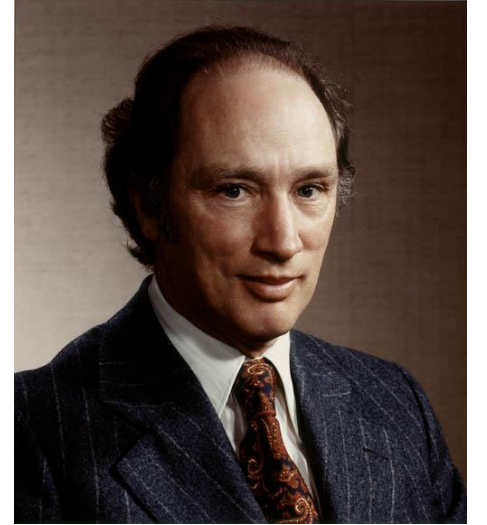


Crémazie station, 1966

# Human rights and freedoms

The *Ligue des droits et libertés* was created during the Quiet Revolution:

- Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Thérèse Casgrain (feminist, suffragette and politician) were among the founders of this movement
- **Thanks to the league's efforts, the Government of Québec adopted the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms in 1975.**



# Human rights and freedoms

- The Québec charter is unlike any other in the world.
- It prohibits all discrimination based on race, language, colour, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age or disability.
- It is the only charter that concerns relations between people:
  - the obligation to assist a person whose life is in danger
  - the obligation of the family of a senior to provide protection and security.



# Protection of the French language

- As the baby boom wound down in the 1960s, the population of Canada continued to grow thanks to **immigration**.
- However, the vast majority of new arrivals chose **English** as their language of integration, including Québec.
- **Francophones worried that they would become a minority in their own province.**



# Protection of the French language

## Francophones wanting to protect their language focused primarily on the education system:

- Immigrants were required to send their children to **French-language schools** (collective rights vs individual rights).
- In 1967, a crisis broke out in Saint-Léonard:
  - School commissioners wanted to make French classes mandatory for the Italian minority.
  - Community members resisted and appealed to the courts and the media. Demonstrations turned into riots.



**3.57** This caricature, which appeared in the conservative English newspaper *The Gazette*, protested the imposition of French classes in Saint-Léonard.

# Protection of the French language

Various laws were passed in an attempt to solve this language issue:

- **Bill 22 (1974):**
  - Premier Robert Bourassa and the Liberal Party passed Bill 22 to make French the official language of Québec.
  - Free choice of language of instruction was limited: only children who passed an English test could attend an English school.
  - Francophones found it too weak whereas anglophones deemed it unjust.



**Robert Bourassa, premier of QC**  
**(1970-1976 + 1985-1994)**  
Liberal Party of Québec

# Protection of the French language

Various laws were passed in an attempt to solve this language issue:

- **Bill 101 (1976):**
  - Premier René Lévesque and the *Parti québécois* passed Bill 101 (Charter of the French Language) to make French the language of the state, education, business and workplace.
  - All children were required to attend a French-language school until the end of high school, unless instruction in English in Canada was already part of the family's history.
  - Public signage and commercial advertising must be in French, or in French and another language as long as French is predominant.





**René Lévesque, premier of QC  
(1976-1985)**  
Parti québécois (PQ)