

THE IQRDJ PRESENTS

THE GRAND ASSEMBLY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

MARCH 19TH, 2021 – 9 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

THEME 1

LEGAL CULTURE

The theme of **legal culture** refers to knowledge of the law and justice in Quebec society.

This theme raises issues surrounding the collective aspects related to the acquisition and transmission of legal knowledge among the population and even among juristes.

It resolves mainly around legal information and legal services.



PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1

It is first proposed that the IQRDJ, so as to facilitate access to legal information both in schools and in society, list existing models of dissemination of legal information and create a round table bringing together the stakeholders : citizens, non-profit organizations, professional orders, magistrates, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, etc.

PROPOSAL 2

It is then proposed that the IQRDJ examine the strategies and means used by legal intermediaries, whether they be jurists or from other professions (nurses, social workers, etc.), to transmit to the population legal information adapted to each concrete situation.

PROPOSAL 3

It is finally proposed that the IQRDJ explore the modes of social intervention that make it possible to approach legal questions from a transversal perspective, in particular by promoting multidisciplinary and interprofessional management of the realities experienced by citizens.

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THEME 2

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The theme of *citizen participation* addresses the general population's involvement in legal and justice reforms in Quebec.

This theme raises issues surrounding democratic forms and the ways in which citizens participate in the law-making process.

It revolves mainly around legislative activity.



PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1

It is first proposed that the IQRDJ take stock of the forms of participation already experienced in Quebec and abroad, the principles on which they are based, and their potential to allow citizens to contribute concretely in the development of laws.

PROPOSAL 2

It is then proposed that the IQRDJ promote the development of a culture of participation in matters of law and justice, promote consultation among organizations involved in citizen participation, and elicit openness in the political and legal world to this participation.

PROPOSAL 3

It is finally proposed that the IQRDJ experiment with a system of legislative consultation and follow-up recommendations which promotes the inclusion of citizens from all social backgrounds, notably by exploring the possibilities offered by digital technologies.

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THEME 3

THE DESIGN OF LAWS

The theme of *the design of laws* concerns the shaping of Quebec and Canadian legislation.

This theme raises issues surrounding the understanding and ownership of legislative texts by citizens.

It revolves mainly around the formation of the law and the format of the law.



PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1

It is first proposed that the IQRDJ establish an overview of the programs intended to train the drafters of laws (elected officials, civil servants and legislative drafters), in particular with regard to the contents which must appear in each legislative text, and to the ways to clearly communicate the objectives of the law to citizens.

PROPOSAL 2

It is then proposed that the IQRDJ analyze the medium which would make the presentation of legal texts more intelligible to citizens, especially by prioritizing the organization of information, the use of digital technologies and production of accompanying documents.

PROPOSAL 3

It is finally proposed that the IQRDJ launch a pilot project inviting members of parliament, legislative drafters, jurists and citizens to rewrite a law already in force in a clearer form, serving as the basis for a bill on the rewriting of legislative texts most directly intended for citizens.

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THEME 4

LEGISLATIVE INNOVATION

The theme of **legislative innovation** concerns putting on the agenda bills adapted to contemporary Quebec society.

This theme raises issues surrounding public problems that require legislation over the next few years based on a long-term vision.

It revolves mainly around the adoption of new laws and the adaptation of laws already in force.



PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1

It is first proposed that the IQRDJ draw up a portrait of the legislative options which would make it possible to strengthen the protection of the environment, ensure food self-sufficiency and implement the internationally-recognized economic, social and cultural rights.

PROPOSAL 2

It is then proposed that the IQRDJ list the legal mechanisms likely to make public institutions accountable for compliance with the laws and regulations in force, in particular by protecting their implementation from conflicts of interests and well-established interests.

PROPOSAL 3

It is finally proposed that the IQRDJ target in particular vulnerable groups, regional populations and indigenous communities in any project aiming at better access to the law, whether this access be limited by illiteracy, by digital incompetence, by linguistic difficulties, or by geographical isolation, particularly by diversifying the role of jurists working in legal clinics and non-profit organizations.

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THEME 5

THE « TRANSITION » OF JUSTICE

The theme of *the « transition » of Justice* announces a desirable transformation in the ways of resolving conflicts in Quebec society.

This theme raises issues surrounding changes to be made in the near future to consolidate public confidence in the judiciary.

It revolves mainly around justice institutions, professional practices and civil skills.



PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1

It is first proposed that the IQRDJ take stock of the innovations introduced in recent years in the justice system, including in the area of alternative justice, to identify the progress made and the gaps to be filled.

PROPOSAL 2

It is then proposed that the IQRDJ study contemporary legal practices with a view to making these services affordable and proportionate to the real and diverse needs of citizens, as well as the effective mechanisms for controlling these practices.

PROPOSAL 3

It is finally proposed that the IQRDJ identify the means promoting the coordination of local entities, activities and resources engaged in the field of justice : information platforms, non-profit organizations, local justice centers, legal aid offices, courts and registries of all jurisdictions, etc.