



# Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets

For immediate release

## PRESS RELEASE

### Provincial election campaign 2018 : FCQGED asks questions to major political parties

**Montréal, July 12, 2018:** A few weeks before the 2018 provincial election, the Front commun Québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets (FCQGED) wants to know the position of the main political parties on some key topics concerning waste management in Quebec.

"Waste management has certainly been one of the most talked about environmental concerns in recent months, and this will not stop with the elections this fall," says Sebastien LeVasseur, president of the organization. "It would be relevant for the main political parties that aspire to power should tell us, now, how they intend to address these key issues," he continues.

The questions on which the FCQGED wishes to hear political parties, address the following topics: the recycling crisis, beverage container deposits, energy recovery, the management of organic materials, the budget of the Ministry of Environment and a tracking system for recyclable materials.

"The next government will have an excellent opportunity to stand out by taking the appropriate steps to implement a genuine "économie circulaire"," says Georges Hébert, president of the Montreal environmental group STOP, a member of the FCQGED. "The *status quo* or half-measures are no longer options, we need concrete and measurable solutions," he continues.

The FCQGED will announce the responses it has received from the political parties in September.

- 30 -

Attachment: List of questions

Source: M. Karel Ménard (FCQGED) : (514) 396-2686 ext. 701; cell phone (514) 647-3438  
Mr. Charles Mallory (STOP) : (514) 900-5314

---

FCQGED  
1431, rue Fullum, bur. 107  
Montréal (Québec) H2K 0B5

tél.: (514) 396-2686  
info@fcqged.org  
www.fcqged.org

## **2018 PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS QUESTIONS FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES**

Over the last 20 years, the field of waste management has undergone considerable change. Laws, regulations and policies now regulate this activity to reduce the disposal of materials and minimize the risks to human health. However, much remains to be done. If you are in power after the October 2018 elections, how will you respond to the following issues?

### **Question 1 :**

In recent years, Quebec has exported 60% of its recyclables, mainly to China. Since that country recently closed its doors to materials with a high contamination rate, several Quebec sorting centres have been left with surplus recovered materials that have difficulty finding takers.

To prevent these materials from ending up in landfills and to avoid another similar crisis in the future, what actions would you take to develop markets in Quebec?

### **Question 2 :**

The deposit program for drink containers has been much discussed for years, but it has not evolved. A decision must be made on whether to extend it to other containers (water and wine bottles in particular) or to raise the deposit to increase return rates. Some people have suggested it would be better to abolish the program pure and simple. What would be your position?

### **Question 3 :**

In the 2011-2015 Quebec Residual Materials Management Policy Action Plan (PQGMR), it was proposed to establish criteria to govern certain recovery activities, notably “valorisation énergétique”. There are still no criteria concerning this activity. What types of energy recovery would you consider for residual materials and under what framework?

### **Question 4 :**

Some municipalities have been slow to implement collections for organic matter while others have been doing so for years. How will you ensure that the treatment of organic matter by biomethanation or composting is a success throughout the province, as set out in the PQGMR action plan?

**Question 5 :**

Despite the social and economic impacts we suffer as a result of the deterioration of our environment, the Ministry of the Environment sees its resources decline year after year. According to an article in *Le Devoir* of March 25, 2015, the share of the state budget devoted to the protection of the environment and sustainable development has even decreased in recent years, from 0.3% to 0.2%.

If you are elected, do you plan to work on increasing the budget of this ministry to at least 1% of the state's spending?

**Question 6 :**

One problem that prevents us from having a reliable portrait of the recovery of our recyclable materials, is that these materials are untraceable once they have been collected at the curb. Accurate and reliable information about losses of recyclable materials along the recovery chain, or how and where these materials are actually used, simply do not exist. The only information comes from sorting centers, which may provide information on a voluntary basis, without verification.

If you were elected, would you implement a tracking system for recyclable materials mandatory and if so, how far would you extend it?