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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 154  
(2001, chapter 39)

**An Act to amend the Agricultural Merit  
Act, the Restauration Merit Act and the  
Fishermen's Merit Act**

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**Introduced 1 November 2000  
Passage in principle 30 November 2000  
Passage 25 October 2001  
Assented to 1 November 2001**

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

*This bill amends the Agricultural Merit Act to change the name of the Order of Agricultural Merit to that of “Ordre national du mérite agricole”. The provisions of the bill enable the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to organize competitions for the purpose of granting awards and rewards for agricultural merit. The Minister may also award medals and honours to recipients who then become members of the Order. The Government is empowered under the bill to award the honour of Special Commander of the Order without a competition.*

*The bill amends the Restauration Merit Act by repealing the provisions concerning the Ordre du mérite de la restauration and authorizing the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to grant awards, honours or rewards following a competition. The Minister is to publish the conditions for the competition in due time. The Government may grant awards, honours or rewards without a competition.*

*Lastly, the bill amends the Fishermen’s Merit Act for the same purposes.*

## **LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL :**

- Agricultural Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-10);
- Restauration Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-10.1);
- Fishermen’s Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-10.2).

## **Bill 154**

### **AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURAL MERIT ACT, THE RESTAURATION MERIT ACT AND THE FISHERMEN'S MERIT ACT**

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS :

**1.** The title of the Agricultural Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-10) is replaced by the following title :

“AN ACT RESPECTING THE ORDRE NATIONAL DU MÉRITE AGRICOLE”.

**2.** Section 1 of the said Act is amended by adding the following paragraph :

“The Minister shall encourage and recognize excellence in agriculture, in particular through the granting of awards or rewards following the holding of agricultural merit competitions.”

**3.** Section 2 of the said Act is amended by replacing “Order of Agricultural Merit of Québec” in the first line by “Ordre national du mérite agricole”.

**4.** Section 3 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

**“3.** The following agricultural merit decorations and honours may be awarded :

(1) the gold medal and the accompanying decoration of Commander of the Ordre national du mérite agricole and diploma ;

(2) the silver medal and the accompanying decoration of Officer of the Ordre national du mérite agricole and diploma ;

(3) the bronze medal and the accompanying decoration of Knight of the Ordre national du mérite agricole and diploma ;

(4) the “merit” diploma ;

(5) the decoration of Special Commander of the Ordre national du mérite agricole and the accompanying diploma.

The Minister may create a division of the Ordre national du mérite agricole for young farm producers or children of farm producers, and award them medals and diplomas conveying no title.”

**5.** Section 5 of the said Act is amended by striking out the second paragraph.

**6.** Section 6 of the said Act is amended by replacing “; from the professors of schools of agriculture” in the third and fourth lines by “, the teachers of agriculture”.

**7.** Section 7 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

“**7.** The Minister may, on the report of the judges, award the agricultural merit decorations and honours provided for in subparagraphs 1 to 4 of the first paragraph and the second paragraph of section 3 to persons participating in a competition organized pursuant to section 4.

The Government may award the agricultural merit decoration provided for in subparagraph 5 of the first paragraph of section 3 to any person who, in a public occupation, in scientific or official missions, through his or her undertaking, through research, works or publications, or through the creation of scholarships or endowments, has contributed outstanding services to agriculture.”

**8.** Section 8 of the said Act is amended

(1) by striking out the first paragraph ;

(2) by replacing “Order of Agricultural Merit” in the second line of the second paragraph by “Ordre national du mérite agricole”.

**9.** The title of the Restauration Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-10.1) is replaced by the following title :

“AN ACT RESPECTING THE *MÉRITE NATIONAL* IN THE RESTAURANT AND FOOD INDUSTRY”.

**10.** Section 1 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

“**1.** The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food may promote and recognize excellence in the restaurant and food industry through the granting of awards, honours or rewards following the holding of competitions.

To that end, the Minister shall organize a *mérite national* competition in the restaurant and food industry for the whole or for part of Québec.”

**11.** Sections 2 and 3 of the said Act are repealed.

**12.** Section 4 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

**“4.** The Minister shall cause the conditions relating to a competition to be published in due time in the manner the Minister considers most appropriate.”

**13.** Section 5 of the said Act is repealed.

**14.** Section 6 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

**“6.** The awards, honours or rewards may be granted

(1) by the Minister to those persons participating in a competition, in accordance with the conditions of the competition ;

(2) by the Government to any person who, in a public occupation, in scientific or official missions, through his or her undertaking in the restaurant or food sectors, through research, works or publications, or through the creation of scholarships or endowments, has promoted in outstanding fashion the use of food products from Québec.”

**15.** Section 7 of the said Act is repealed.

**16.** Section 8 of the said Act is amended by replacing “a medal, a diploma, a decoration or another insignia” in the first and second lines by “an honour or a reward”.

**17.** Section 9 of the said Act is repealed.

**18.** The title of the Fishermen’s Merit Act (R.S.Q., chapter M-10.2) is replaced by the following title :

“AN ACT RESPECTING THE *MÉRITE NATIONAL* IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE”.

**19.** Section 1 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

**“1.** The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food may promote and recognize excellence in fisheries and aquaculture through the granting of awards, honours or rewards following the holding of competitions.

To that end, the Minister shall organize a *mérite national* competition in fisheries and aquaculture for the whole or for part of Québec.”

**20.** Sections 2 and 3 of the said Act are repealed.

**21.** Section 4 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

**“4.** The Minister shall cause the conditions relating to a competition to be published in due time in the manner the Minister considers most appropriate.”

**22.** Section 5 of the said Act is repealed.

**23.** Section 6 of the said Act is replaced by the following section :

“**6.** The awards, honours or rewards may be granted

(1) by the Minister to those persons participating in a competition, in accordance with the conditions of the competition ;

(2) by the Government to any person who, in a public occupation, in scientific or official missions, through his or her fisheries or aquaculture undertaking, through research, works or publications or through the creation of scholarships or endowments, has made an outstanding contribution to fisheries and aquaculture.”

**24.** Section 7 of the said Act is repealed.

**25.** Section 8 of the said Act is amended by replacing “a medal, a diploma, a decoration or another insignia” in the first and second lines by “an honour or a reward”.

**26.** Section 9 of the said Act is repealed.

**27.** This Act comes into force on 1 November 2001.