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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 90  
(2025, chapter 3)

**An Act to recognize ice hockey as  
the national sport of Québec and  
concerning national cultural  
references**

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**Introduced 6 February 2025  
Passed in principle 19 February 2025  
Passed 27 February 2025  
Assented to 28 February 2025**

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

*This Act recognizes ice hockey as the national sport of Québec. It makes the first Saturday in February National Ice Hockey Day.*

*The Act amends the Cultural Heritage Act to include the notion of “national cultural reference”. The Act defines the notion, specifying in particular that such a reference must be recognized by law. In addition, the Act gives the Minister the power to grant subsidies and enter into agreements to promote the knowledge or enhancement of national cultural references.*

*Lastly, the Act recognizes ice hockey as a national cultural reference.*

## **LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS ACT:**

– Cultural Heritage Act (chapter P-9.002).

## **Bill 90**

### **AN ACT TO RECOGNIZE ICE HOCKEY AS THE NATIONAL SPORT OF QUÉBEC AND CONCERNING NATIONAL CULTURAL REFERENCES**

AS it was in Québec that modern ice hockey emerged in the 1870s and the first official game in the history of the sport was played on 3 March 1875;

AS modern ice hockey is a major Québec contribution to the world history of sport;

AS the prowess of ice hockey players from Québec or playing for its teams have made many generations of Quebecers proud;

AS ice hockey is an integral part of Québec culture given that it is the subject of many works, that it is reflected in traditions and customs and that many popular expressions refer to it;

AS it is expedient to assert the value of national cultural references that are part of the cultural heritage, strengthen ties between individuals in society and characterize the Québec cultural identity;

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

**1.** Ice hockey is the national sport of Québec.

It is a national cultural reference within the meaning of the Cultural Heritage Act (chapter P-9.002).

**2.** The first Saturday in February is National Ice Hockey Day.

AMENDING AND FINAL PROVISIONS

CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

**3.** Section 1 of the Cultural Heritage Act (chapter P-9.002) is amended by replacing “and intangible heritage” in the third paragraph by “intangible heritage and national cultural references”.

**4.** Section 2 of the Act is amended by inserting the following definition in alphabetical order:

““national cultural reference”: an element of Québec culture forged in tradition that uniquely characterizes and evokes an aspect of the Québec cultural identity, is a touchstone widely shared by individuals in society and strengthens ties between them, and that is recognized as such by law;”.

**5.** Section 78 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph 5:

“(5.1) grant subsidies to promote the knowledge or enhancement of national cultural references;”;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph 7:

“(7.1) enter into agreements with any person or group to promote the knowledge or enhancement of national cultural references;”.

**6.** This Act comes into force on 28 February 2025.