

**EXCERPT FROM QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT ORDER IN COUNCIL
95-2007**

CONCERNING the establishment of the
Consultation Commission on
Accommodation Practices
Related to Cultural Differences

WHEREAS Québec society is attached to core values such as equality between women and men, the separation of church and State, the primacy of the French language, the protection of rights and freedoms, justice and the rule of law, the protection of minorities, and the rejection of discrimination and racism;

WHEREAS Québec society has chosen to be an open society;

WHEREAS accommodation practices related to cultural differences stem from choices made by society reflected, in particular, in the *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* (R.S.Q., c. C-12), the *Charter of the French language* (R.S.Q., c. C-11), government policy respecting equality between women and men, and regulations and programs concerning immigration and integration;

WHEREAS certain accommodation practices related to cultural differences might call into question the fair balance between the rights of the majority and the rights of minorities;

WHEREAS the government deems the integration and full participation by citizens in collective life to be a priority;

WHEREAS there is good reason to take stock of accommodation practices related to cultural differences and conduct a consultation among individuals and organizations wishing to express themselves in this respect;

IT IS HEREBY DECREED, on the recommendation of the Premier:

THAT a consultation commission on accommodation practices related to cultural differences be established;

THAT this commission be autonomous and independent;

THAT the commission be given the mandate to:

- accurately take stock of accommodation practices related to cultural differences and analyse the attendant issues bearing in mind, in particular, experience outside Québec;
- conduct an extensive consultation among individuals and organizations that wish to intervene in respect of the question of accommodation practices related to cultural differences;
- formulate recommendations to the government aimed at ensuring that accommodation practices related to cultural differences conform to Québec society's values as a pluralistic, democratic, egalitarian society. [OUR TRANSLATION]