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**DOCUMENT 37**

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**Guidelines from the government of Québec regarding Canadian intergovernmental relations, December 4, 1997.**

[Translation]

**Guidelines from the government of Québec  
regarding Canadian  
intergovernmental relations**

1. The government shall reiterate in all circumstances the basis and the legitimacy of the Québec people's right to freely dispose of their political future, a right that is exercised on the basis of an eminently democratic process as illustrated in the precedents of 1980 and 1995.

2. It shall take requisite measures for defending the democratic institutions of Québec through which this right is exercised.

3. It shall watch over the maintenance and respect of Québec's territorial integrity.

4. Québec shall demand respect for its constitutional jurisdictions and shall lay claim to the fullest exercising of them.

- it shall continue to denounce encroachments by the federal government and

- it shall demand full financial compensation in the form of tax points, especially within the framework of any new federal agreement or initiative in a sector coming under Québec's jurisdiction.

5. In the case of federal disengagement from other sectors, it shall demand, as the case may be, that the transferring of jurisdictions to Québec be accompanied with fair compensation.

6. It shall present in any matter where Québec deems it has been treated unfairly a financial claim to obtain from the federal government equitable compensation or reparation.

7. It shall participate in federal-provincial conferences, with the exception of any constitutional conference, to ensure the defence of Québec's social, cultural, economic and financial interests on the basis of the following parameters:

- ensuring respect for its jurisdictions and its responsibilities on the basis of its historic claims;

- obtaining its fair share of federal expenditures financed, for nearly one quarter, by Québec's taxes and duties.

8. The government of Québec shall actively participate in intergovernmental discussions on issues involving the revision of financial arrangements within the federation. Within the framework of these discussions, the government's objective shall not only be to preserve, but also to increase Québec's fiscal autonomy.

9. The government intends to work towards the reinforcement of the Québec-Canada economic space by pursuing efforts for implementing the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) while privileging the making of bilateral economic agreements such as those entered into with Ontario and New Brunswick.

10. The government intends to continue issuing messages that illustrate the realities of Québec in order to correct the often negative and unfounded perceptions of Québec in English Canada. This means, among other things, making reminders of the democratic and responsible nature of the government's actions regarding its collective project.