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The bookstore also has obligations

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- keep his/her bookstore open year-round;
- have at his/her disposal up-to-date, complete bibliographic equipment;
- fill all book orders within a reasonable lapse of time;
- promptly inform customers of any delay in filling their orders; and
- broaden and enhance, as need be, his/her services, the number of qualified employees, and the range of inventory.

A collective responsibility

By ensuring access to all books, both new publications and basic works, the bookstore guarantees the diversity of books and their renewal. Without bookstores there are no publishers; without publishers, there are no authors; and without authors, there is no national or international literature. The Quebec government wishes to guarantee that all Quebeckers, regardless of where they reside, have free, ready access to books and reading and to this end has sought to establish a network of professional bookstores throughout Quebec. It is incumbent upon each one of us to ensure that the network is maintained.

For more information, contact:

Guylaine Lévesque
Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine
225, Grande Allée Est, Bloc C, rez-de-chaussée
Québec (Québec) G1R 5G5
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Since 1981, the Act respecting the development of Québec firms in the book industry has required institutional buyers such as libraries, schools, colleges, government departments, and municipal corporations to purchase books from accredited bookstores in their administrative regions.

The Act was adopted to
- make books more affordable and widely available by - keeping prices stable or limiting increases (affordability) and - implementing a network of bookstores in all regions of Québec (wide availability); and
- develop a thriving and competitive book industry.

These objectives can be achieved and maintained in two ways: by acknowledging the basic role that bookstores play in the development of reading and the consolidation of the publishing industry and by seeking to make all stakeholders in the industry, from publishers to buyers, partners in this development.

In your capacity as an institutional purchaser, you are a partner and are subject to the Act.

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Accredited bookstores
- are found throughout Quebec;
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- offer throughout Quebec:
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What are institutional buyers?

Institutional buyers are agencies of the Quebec government, or its mandataries as well as any organization listed in the schedule of the Act:
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The Regulation respecting the acquisition of books by certain persons from accredited bookstores spells out the obligations that apply to you. Essentially, you have three obligations under the Regulation.

1. To buy books from at least three accredited bookstores in your region (sections 5 to 13)
2. To buy books at list price (sections 14 to 20)
3. To send a report within three months of each fiscal year to Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine or the government department to which you report; detailing
   - subsidies received or allocated for the acquisition of books,
   - the number of books purchased, and
   - the names of suppliers and the breakdown of acquisitions among these suppliers.

What books are covered by the Act?

The Act covers all books purchased by the institution, except school manuals, which are defined as all printed documents designed to achieve the objectives of preschool, elementary, and secondary curricula, including ancillary material, exercise books, and the usual dictionaries used for these levels of instruction and included on Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport lists, which are available at www3.mels.gouv.qc.ca/bamd/menu.asp.

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BUYING BOOKS FROM ACCREDITED BOOKSTORES shows responsibility

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