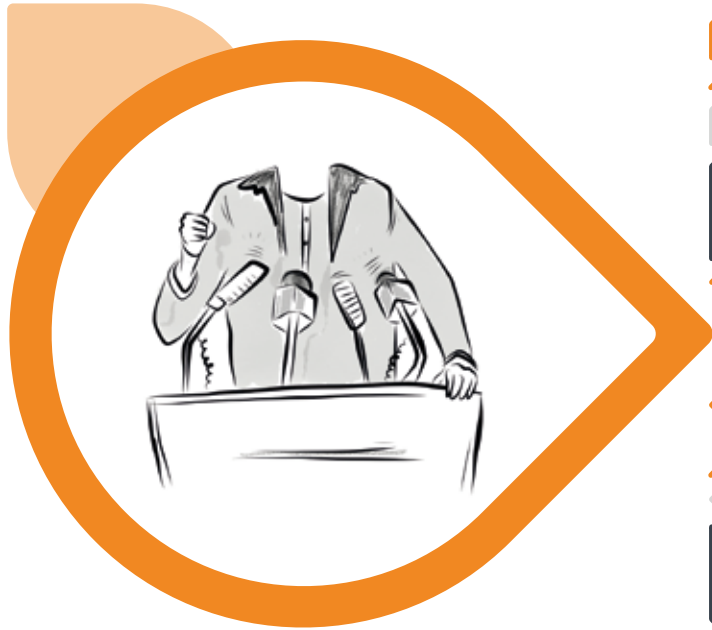




*I want to go
into politics!*





Band Councillor and Band Chief

Decide - Communicate
Represent

EDUCATION

No special training

JOB PROSPECTS

Limited



ROLE

Each community is run by a band council.

The band council is made up of councillors. They decide issues affecting the community.

The **band chief** is head of the band council and represents the community in its relationships with governments and other First Nations.

Important! Other traditional institutions have an important political role in some communities (e.g., longhouses). Contact your community's representatives to learn how to get involved.

DUTIES

- **Manage** the community's health and social service programs.
- **Develop and carry out community projects.**
- **Make bylaws** on issues affecting the community, such as wildlife protection and the health and residence of band members.
- **Represent the community** in its relationships with government.

TRAINING



There is no specific training for becoming a band chief or councillor. They must be elected according to band custom.

Band chiefs are elected for a few years at a time and must be re-elected to continue serving.

SALARY



Band chiefs earned \$33,000 to \$138,000 in 2017, depending on the territory they covered and the Indigenous nation they represent.

Councillors' salaries can be \$4,200 to \$104,000 a year, depending on the band. Councillors holding positions on the council can earn more.

SKILLS



- Interest in Indigenous **political and cultural issues**
- **Excellent interpersonal skills** to earn the community's trust
- **Good communication skills**
- **Strong writing skills**
- **Ability to handle pressure and stress**

ENVIRONMENT



Band chiefs and band councillors work in their community's offices. There can be a lot of pressure from the community and they must be available after office hours.

Band chiefs sometimes travel outside their communities.





Member of the National Assembly / Member of Parliament

Debate - Communicate
Cooperate

EDUCATION

No special training

JOB PROSPECTS

Limited



ROLE

Members of the national assembly (MNAs) and members of parliament (MPs) debate various issues and vote on new laws. They represent the people of their ridings in government and protect their interests.

MNAs are elected to the provincial government, and MPs to the federal government. Candidates usually run for office in the government responsible for issues they are interested in. They usually belong to a political party, but they can also be independent.

Some are appointed as ministers responsible for specific matters, such as Indigenous affairs, health or education.

DUTIES

- **Study, analyse and vote on** proposed laws.
- **Watch over the government's actions**, for example, by asking questions during parliamentary debates.
- **Represent the government** at regional, national and international meetings and conferences.
- **Defend the interests of people they represent** in government.

TRAINING



MPs and MNAs don't need special training. But they must meet some requirements to run for office.

To win an election, candidates must convince voters that they are the best ones to represent them. Their professional experience and community involvement can help.

Requirements for MPs:

- Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years old

Additional requirements for MNAs:

- Quebec resident for at least six months
- not under curatorship
- allowed to vote

The job is not guaranteed for life. Elections are held at least every five years, and they must be re-elected to keep their positions.

SALARY



In 2023, the base salary of MNAs was about \$132,000. They can earn more depending on their responsibilities and position in Quebec's National Assembly, for example, a minister.

In 2023, the base salary of MPs was \$172,000. They can earn more depending on their responsibilities and position in the House of Commons, for example, a minister or leader of the opposition.

SKILLS



- **Communicate effectively in public** and be comfortable speaking to journalists.
- **Community and political involvement.**
- **Good interpersonal skills.** They must earn the public's trust.
- **Team player.** They must work with other MNAs or MPs.



ENVIRONMENT



MNAs work at Quebec's National Assembly in Quebec City. When the National Assembly is not in session, they work in their riding offices, dealing with the concerns of the people they represent.

MPs work at the House of Commons in Ottawa. They also have riding offices and are intermediaries between government and the people in their ridings.

They work very long hours, sometimes on weekends.

LEARN MORE



- Guide to the Canadian House of Commons
- Par ici la démocratie (French only)

I want to go into politics!

*Member of the National Assembly /
Member of Parliament*

