Quebec Voters Expected to Elect Separatist Government

By Gerard Roe

Quebec voters Monday were expected to elect a separatist government pledged to leading the French-speaking province out of Canada. Most of the last five provincial elections have given the separatist Parti Quebecois, out of power since 1985, a five- to 10-point edge over the incumbent party, the pro-united Quebec Liberals. The polls indicated that separatist candidates would prevail in 80 or more of Quebec’s 125 electoral districts — that is, in virtually all but the pre-emptory districts.

If Quebec’s nearly 5 million voters prove the polls accurate, Parti Quebecois leader Parti Quebecois will be the first ethnic-political leader ever to head a separate government for his people. Quebec, now a province within Canada, is to vote on sovereignty next year, and to begin negotiating with the federal government and writing a Quebec constitution.

The vote is seen as a milestone opportunity since 1980 to vote on a question that has bedeviled Canadian politics for more than a generation. In 1980, they turned down the Parti Quebecois’ plan for “sovereignty-association” with Canada by a vote of 60 percent to 40 percent.

Cancer-Causing Gene Mutations Accumulate with Age

A researcher has provided the first direct evidence that cancer-causing mutations of genes accumulate with age, thereby raising the risk of cancer.

It is an article of faith for many researchers that these mutations, caused by a breakdown of the body’s normal repair mechanisms, are responsible for the high incidence of cancer among the elderly. But, until now, there has been little experimental support for the idea. Until now, that is, except for the molecular biologist Gino Corteo and colleagues at the University of Southern California, who found that a gene called BCL2, which plays a major role in the development of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes that strikes 45,000 Americans each year, killing about 21,000.

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