Abstract
Historically, Canada has experienced continuous national and constitutional conflict. This national discord is evident within the province of Quebec, which is arguably the most culturally unique region in North America. The cultural uniqueness of Quebec has been the foundation of a movement within the province to separate from Canada and become a sovereign state. This paper explores some of the factors underlying the separatist sentiment in Quebec.

For the most part, separatist sentiment in Quebec has emphasized its cultural arguments more passionately than its legal ones. The separatist movement is based on both historical and present-day influences. The nation-state appears to be the attractive solution to separatist sentiment in Quebec because it allows the Quebecois to transform from being the minority in Canada to becoming the majority in their own state. For minorities, the option of the nation-state inherently protects their rights.

However, Quebec’s claim to sovereignty has been met with numerous challenges concerning its control over culture, the legality of secession, and the current political climate. There are additional concerns relating to Quebec’s intentions for handling diversity and its claim to territory.