No Couillard Marois transition meeting yet

By Martin Ouellet
The Canadian Press

Quebec premier-designate Philippe Couillard will have to wait at least a few more days before discussing the transition of power with his predecessor, Pauline Marois.

The symbolic but important post-election meeting signifying the change typically takes place a few days after a provincial election.

Interim Parti Quebecois Leader Stephane Bedard said Friday a face-to-face encounter should occur sometime early this week but he did not specify the day.

It’s not expected before Tuesday.

In the meantime, members of the Liberal transition team have been meeting behind the scenes with their PQ counterparts.

In September 2012, outgoing Liberal premier Jean Charest met with Marois just 48 hours after his party’s election loss. There was still no official word from Marois’s camp on Friday, four days after last Monday’s general election which saw the Liberals snag 70 of the 125 seats in the legislature to form a majority government.

The PQ was left with 30 seats.

The final PQ caucus meeting should be held next week while the incoming premier intends to form his own cabinet the following week, after Easter.

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Former finance minister Jim Flaherty to get state funeral this week

By Bruce Cheadle
The Canadian Press

Jim Flaherty, eulogized as an Irish lion after his sudden and unexpected death last week, is going the way of Thomas D’Arcy McGee.

A state funeral will be held for Flaherty this Wednesday in Toronto, the Prime Minister’s Office announced Friday, a formal government send-off for the man who shepherded Canada’s finances for the past eight years.

Flaherty, who died at age 64 Thursday of a reported heart attack, revelled in his Irish ancestry and was known for his ever-present green neck ties.

He’ll become the latest in a tradition of Canadian state funerals that began in 1868 with McGee, an Ireland-born nationalist who became a member of Parliament and was assassinated on the streets of Ottawa after a late night of debate in the Commons.

Flaherty was only a month removed from stepping down as finance minister, a portfolio he had held since the Conservatives came to power in early 2006.

A book of condolences has been made available Friday to the public in the Hall of Honour on Parliament Hill, and will be open to public expressions of remembrance until late today. In Toronto, the CN Tower is to be lit up in green Wednesday.

The Liberals, and government departments have opened their doors, he said.

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Potton salutes its volunteers

A group photo of volunteers representing some 40 organizations in Potton who were recognized by the Municipality of Potton and the Volunteer Centre (CAB) on Saturday as part of Volunteer Week.

Potton Mayor, Louis Vellion posed with Eastern Star member Mary Bailey.