



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 25 March 2009 — No. 11

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Yvon Vallières**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.03 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly entered upon the debate on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Legault (Rousseau) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for having presented a 2009-2010 budget without a recovery plan to limit the effects of the economic crisis on Québec, particularly the lack of major measures to counter dropping out of school, to adequately fund postsecondary education, to increase the productivity of businesses and minimize the number of jobs lost and to come in aid to moderate-income individuals.

At 10.53 o'clock a.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 11.01 o'clock a.m.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the allocation of speaking time for the 13 hours and 30 minutes provided for in the first part of this debate had been determined as follows: a period of 6 hours and 6 minutes is set aside for the group forming the Government, including the Budget Speech; a period of 6 hours and 16 minutes is set aside for the group forming the Official Opposition, including the comments made by the representative of this group on 19 March 2009, and his address today; 53 minutes are allotted to the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec; and 15 minutes are allotted to the Member for Mercier. Within this framework, any time not used by a group will be transferred to the other group; any time not used by the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec will be transferred to the Member for Mercier, while any time not used by the Member for Mercier will be transferred to the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec; any time not used by the independent Members as a whole will be redistributed equally among the parliamentary groups; and individual addresses will not be limited.

The debate continued on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau).

At the end of his speech, Mr. Khadir (Mercier) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for having presented a budget that will have effects that are totally contrary to the revolution of sustainable development announced by the Premier just two weeks ago.

The debate continued on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier).

At 11.57 o'clock a.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.08 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 11 An Act to amend the Acts establishing Capital régional et coopératif Desjardins, Fondation and the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec (F.T.Q.)

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 11 was introduced in the Assembly.

Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 28 An Act respecting the boundaries of the waters in the domain of the State and the protection of wetlands along part of the Richelieu River

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, tabled the following:

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The plans concerning the boundaries of water property in the domain of the State and the protection of wetlands along part of the Rivière Richelieu, in French and English.

(Sessional Paper No. 109-20090325)

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 28 was introduced in the Assembly.

Mr. MacMillan, Minister for Transport, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

30 An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 30 was introduced in the Assembly.

Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bills:

190 An Act to provide a framework for appointments to certain senior positions

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 190 was introduced in the Assembly.

191 An Act to amend the Auditor General Act

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 191 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

202 An Act respecting Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 110-20090325)

Mrs. Vallée (Gatineau) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 202, An Act respecting Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 202 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance and that the Minister of Finance be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

This motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, tabled the following:

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Council of the Atikamekw Nation of Opitciwan, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and the Government of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 111-20090325)

Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec (Télé-Québec), for the fiscal year ended 31 August 2008;

(Sessional Paper No. 112-20090325)

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The annual management report of the Office québécois de la langue française, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 113-20090325)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The report from the Québec Chief Electoral Officer on the official results of the general election held on 8 December 2008, pursuant to section 381 of the *Election Act* (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3).

(Sessional Paper No. 114-20090325)

Presenting Petitions

The abstracts of two petitions respecting financial support to community projects in non profit community-owned housing were tabled:

– the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 14 residents of the Office municipal d’habitation de Grande-Vallée in the riding of Gaspé, by Mr. Mamelonet (Gaspé);

(Sessional Paper No. 115-20090325)

– the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 58 citizens of Beauharnois, by Mr. Leclair (Beauharnois).

(Sessional Paper No. 116-20090325)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting financial support to community projects in non profit community-owned housing, and signed by 105 citizens of Saint-Bruno.

(Sessional Paper No. 117-20090325)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Bédard, Official Opposition House Leader, twice withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Corbeil, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Bouchard (Vachon), Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly extend its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Judge Jean Dutil;

THAT it pay him a final tribute by recognizing his outstanding contribution in the field of Québec justice, particularly for his role at the head of the Commission of Inquiry on Organized Crime and for his contribution to the Native communities of Northern Québec.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion), Mr. Bouchard (Vachon), Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

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THAT on this day, 25 March, the National Assembly underline Greek Independence Day and salute the Hellenic community of Québec.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Bérubé (Matane), Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, and Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly support the steps taken and supported by the population of Québec in order that Montreal Canadians management retire the sweater of Émile "Butch" Bouchard, eminent defenceman from 1941 to 1956 and captain of the this team for 18 years.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bachand, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, Mr. Rathé (Blainville) and Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec underline the 100th anniversary of the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec and invite business and political stakeholders to take part in the organized activities.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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Pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 4, An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food hold special consultations and public hearings on 7 and 8 April 2009 and that, for this purpose, it hear the following groups:

- Association des abattoirs inspectés du Québec
- Abattoir Campbell Inc.
- Fédération des producteurs d'agneaux et moutons du Québec
- Fédération des éleveurs de grands gibiers du Québec
- Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs
- Syndicat des producteurs de lapins du Québec
- Union des municipalités du Québec
- Union des consommateurs

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in opposition;

The presentation by each group shall not last more than 10 minutes and the exchange with the members of the Committee shall not last more than 35 minutes, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in opposition;

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in opposition;

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 6, An Act to establish a seniors caregiver support fund;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 25, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier).

At the end of his speech, Mr. Simard (Richelieu) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Premier as well as the Chair of the Conseil du trésor for their mismanagement of the public expenditure before the crisis that led to a structural deficit of close to 4 billion dollars and who announce major cuts in services to citizens in the coming years as well as drastic tariff increases.

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The debate continued on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Khadir (Mercier) and Mr. Simard (Richelieu).

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings continued beyond 6.00 o'clock p.m.

At 6.05 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 26 March 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Wednesday, 25 March 2009, at 4.04 o'clock p.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mrs. Mignolet, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Paul-Arthur Gendreau, Administrator of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bill:

29 Appropriation Act No. 1, 2009-2010

YVON VALLIÈRES

President