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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 13 January 2009 — No. 1**

*(Extraordinary Sitting)*

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

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**QUÉBEC**



*Extraordinary Sitting*

The Members were called to order at 2.16 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

The Secretary General, Mr. François Côté, tabled the following:

A letter, addressed to Mr. François Gendron, President, from Mr. Jean Charest, Premier, dated 19 December 2008, asking that he take the necessary measures for the National Assembly to meet as a matter of urgency beginning at 2.00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, 13 January 2009, according to the calendar and timetable which shall be established by the Assembly, to elect the President and the Vice-Presidents, followed by the Lieutenant-Governor's address, to allow the Minister of Finance to deliver an economic statement that will be followed by a debate and to permit the introduction and all stages in the consideration of a bill respecting supplemental pension plans. The Assembly may also appoint the Office of the National Assembly as well as the standing committees.

(Sessional Paper No. 1-20090113)

Today being the day appointed for the opening of the First Session of the Thirty-ninth Legislature of the Province of Québec for the despatch of business, the Members attending, having taken and subscribed the oaths required by law, took their seats in the National Assembly.

The Secretary General, Mr. François Côté, tabled the following:

The list of Members declared duly elected following the general election held on 8 December 2008. These documents, received on 15, 16 and 17 December 2008, were forwarded to him by Mr. Marcel Blanchet, Chief Electoral Officer, in accordance with section 380 of the *Election Act* (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3).

(Sessional Paper No. 2-20090113)

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LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Electoral division	Candidate elected	Party affiliation
Abitibi-Est	Pierre Corbeil	Québec Liberal Party
Abitibi-Ouest	François Gendron	Parti Québécois
Acadie	Christine St-Pierre	Québec Liberal Party
Anjou	Lise Thériault	Québec Liberal Party
Argenteuil	David Whissell	Québec Liberal Party
Arthabaska	Claude Bachand	Québec Liberal Party
Beauce-Nord	Janvier Grondin	Action démocratique du Québec
Beauce-Sud	Robert Dutil	Québec Liberal Party
Beauharnois	Guy Leclerc	Parti Québécois
Bellechasse	Dominique Vien	Québec Liberal Party
Berthier	André Villeneuve	Parti Québécois
Bertrand	Claude Cousineau	Parti Québécois
Blainville	Daniel Rathé	Parti Québécois
Bonaventure	Nathalie Normandeau	Québec Liberal Party
Borduas	Pierre Curzi	Parti Québécois
Bourassa-Sauvé	Line Beauchamp	Québec Liberal Party
Bourget	Maka Kotto	Parti Québécois
Brome-Missisquoi	Pierre Paradis	Québec Liberal Party
Chambly	Bertrand St-Arnaud	Parti Québécois
Champlain	Noëlla Champagne	Parti Québécois
Chapleau	Marc Carrière	Québec Liberal Party
Charlesbourg	Michel Pigeon	Québec Liberal Party
Charlevoix	Pauline Marois	Parti Québécois
Châteauguay	Pierre Moreau	Québec Liberal Party
Chauveau	Gérard Deltell	Action démocratique du Québec
Chicoutimi	Stéphane Bédard	Parti Québécois
Chomedey	Guy Ouellette	Québec Liberal Party
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	Marc Picard	Action démocratique du Québec
Crémazie	Lisette Lapointe	Parti Québécois
D'Arcy-McGee	Lawrence S. Bergman	Québec Liberal Party
Deux-Montagnes	Benoit Charette	Parti Québécois
Drummond	Yves-François Blanchet	Parti Québécois
Dubuc	Serge Simard	Québec Liberal Party
Duplessis	Lorraine Richard	Parti Québécois
Fabre	Michelle Courchesne	Québec Liberal Party
Frontenac	Laurent Lessard	Québec Liberal Party
Gaspé	Georges Mamelonet	Québec Liberal Party

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Gatineau	Stéphanie Vallée	Québec Liberal Party
Gouin	Nicolas Girard	Parti Québécois
Groulx	René Gauvreau	Parti Québécois
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	Carole Poirier	Parti Québécois
Hull	Maryse Gaudreault	Québec Liberal Party
Huntingdon	Stéphane Billette	Québec Liberal Party
Iberville	Marie Bouillé	Parti Québécois
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Germain Chevarie	Québec Liberal Party
Jacques-Cartier	Geoffrey Kelley	Québec Liberal Party
Jean-Lesage	André Drolet	Québec Liberal Party
Jeanne-Mance—Viger	Filomena Rotiroti	Québec Liberal Party
Jean-Talon	Yves Bolduc	Québec Liberal Party
Johnson	Étienne-Alexis Boucher	Parti Québécois
Joliette	Véronique Hivon	Parti Québécois
Jonquière	Sylvain Gaudreault	Parti Québécois
Kamouraska- Témiscouata	Claude Béchard	Québec Liberal Party
Labelle	Sylvain Pagé	Parti Québécois
Lac-Saint-Jean	Alexandre Cloutier	Parti Québécois
LaFontaine	Tony Tomassi	Québec Liberal Party
La Peltre	Éric Caire	Action démocratique du Québec
La Pinière	Fatima Houda-Pepin	Québec Liberal Party
Laporte	Nicole Ménard	Québec Liberal Party
La Prairie	François Rebello	Parti Québécois
L'Assomption	Scott McKay	Parti Québécois
Laurier-Dorion	Gerry Sklavounos	Québec Liberal Party
Laval-des-Rapides	Alain Paquet	Québec Liberal Party
Laviolette	Julie Boulet	Québec Liberal Party
Lévis	Gilles Lehouillier	Québec Liberal Party
Lotbinière	Sylvie Roy	Action démocratique du Québec
Louis-Hébert	Sam Hamad	Québec Liberal Party
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	Monique Jérôme-Forget	Québec Liberal Party
Marguerite-D'Youville	Monique Richard	Parti Québécois
Marie-Victorin	Bernard Drainville	Parti Québécois
Marquette	François Ouimet	Québec Liberal Party
Maskinongé	Jean-Paul Diamond	Québec Liberal Party
Masson	Guillaume Tremblay	Parti Québécois
Matane	Pascal Bérubé	Parti Québécois
Matapédia	Danielle Doyer	Parti Québécois
Mégantic-Compton	Johanne Gonthier	Québec Liberal Party
Mercier	Amir Khadir	Québec Solidaire
Mille-Îles	Francine Charbonneau	Québec Liberal Party

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Mirabel	Denise Beaudoin	Parti Québécois
Montmagny-L'Islet	Norbert Morin	Québec Liberal Party
Montmorency	Raymond Bernier	Québec Liberal Party
Mont-Royal	Pierre Arcand	Québec Liberal Party
Nelligan	Yolande James	Québec Liberal Party
Nicolet-Yamaska	Jean-Martin Aussant	Parti Québécois
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	Kathleen Weil	Québec Liberal Party
Orford	Pierre Reid	Québec Liberal Party
Outremont	Raymond Bachand	Québec Liberal Party
Papineau	Norman MacMillan	Québec Liberal Party
Pointe-aux-Trembles	Nicole Léger	Parti Québécois
Pontiac	Charlotte L'Écuyer	Québec Liberal Party
Portneuf	Michel Matte	Québec Liberal Party
Prévost	Gilles Robert	Parti Québécois
René-Lévesque	Marjolain Dufour	Parti Québécois
Richelieu	Sylvain Simard	Parti Québécois
Richmond	Yvon Vallières	Québec Liberal Party
Rimouski	Irvin Pelletier	Parti Québécois
Rivière-du-Loup	Mario Dumont	Action démocratique du Québec
Robert-Baldwin	Pierre Marsan	Québec Liberal Party
Roberval	Denis Trottier	Parti Québécois
Rosemont	Louise Beaudoin	Parti Québécois
Rousseau	François Legault	Parti Québécois
Rouyn-Noranda— Témiscamingue	Daniel Bernard	Québec Liberal Party
Saint-François	Monique Gagnon- Tremblay	Québec Liberal Party
Saint-Henri— Sainte-Anne	Marguerite Blais	Québec Liberal Party
Saint-Hyacinthe	Émilien Pelletier	Parti Québécois
Saint-Jean	Dave Turcotte	Parti Québécois
Saint-Laurent	Jacques P. Dupuis	Québec Liberal Party
Sainte-Marie— Saint-Jacques	Martin Lemay	Parti Québécois
Saint-Maurice	Claude Pinard	Parti Québécois
Shefford	François Bonnardel	Action démocratique du Québec
Sherbrooke	Jean Charest	Québec Liberal Party
Soulanges	Lucie Charlebois	Québec Liberal Party
Taillon	Marie Malavoy	Parti Québécois
Taschereau	Agnès Maltais	Parti Québécois
Terrebonne	Mathieu Traversy	Parti Québécois
Trois-Rivières	Danielle St-Amand	Québec Liberal Party

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Ungava	Luc Ferland	Parti Québécois
Vachon	Camil Bouchard	Parti Québécois
Vanier	Patrick Huot	Québec Liberal Party
Vaudreuil	Yvon Marcoux	Québec Liberal Party
Verchères	Stéphane Bergeron	Parti Québécois
Verdun	Henri-François Gauthrin	Québec Liberal Party
Viau	Emmanuel Dubourg	Québec Liberal Party
Vimont	Vincent Auclair	Québec Liberal Party
Westmount— Saint-Louis	Jacques Chagnon	Québec Liberal Party

The Secretary General then tabled the following:

The report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the implementation of section 490 of the *Election Act* within the framework of the general election held on 8 December 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 3-20090113)

The Secretary General communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table seven letters he had received from Mr. Jean Charest, Premier, dated 18 December 2008, informing him of the following appointments:

- Mr. Jacques P. Dupuis, Member for Saint-Laurent, as Government House Leader, effective 18 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 4-20090113)
- Mrs. Line Beauchamp, Member for Bourassa-Sauvé, as Deputy Government House Leader, effective 18 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 5-20090113)
- Mr. Henri-François Gauthrin, Member for Verdun, as Deputy Government House Leader, effective 18 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 6-20090113)
- Mr. Pierre Moreau, Member for Châteauguay, as Chief Government Whip, effective 18 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 7-20090113)
- Mr. Vincent Auclair, Member for Vimont, as Deputy Government Whip, effective 18 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 8-20090113)

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- Mrs. Lucie Charlebois, Member for Soulanges, as Deputy Government Whip, effective 18 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 9-20090113)
- Mr. Lawrence S. Bergman, Member for D'Arcy-McGee, as Government Caucus Chairman, effective 18 December 2008.  
(Sessional Paper No. 10-20090113)

The Secretary General then communicated to the Assembly and laid upon the Table five letters he had received from Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, three dated 16 December 2008 and two dated 18 December 2008, informing him of the following appointments:

- Mr. Stéphane Bédard, Member for Chicoutimi, as Official Opposition House Leader, effective 16 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 11-20090113)
- Mrs. Agnès Maltais, Member for Taschereau, as Deputy Opposition House Leader, effective 16 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 12-20090113)
- Mrs. Nicole Léger, Member for Pointe-aux-Trembles, as Chief Opposition Whip, effective 16 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 13-20090113)
- Mr. Marjolain Dufour, Member for René-Lévesque, as Deputy Opposition Whip, effective 16 December 2008;  
(Sessional Paper No. 14-20090113)
- Mr. Martin Lemay, Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques, as Official Opposition Caucus Chairman, effective 16 December 2008.  
(Sessional Paper No. 15-20090113)

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Mr. Charest, Premier, informed the Secretary General that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor requested that the Members of the National Assembly elect a President.



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The Secretary General then invited the most senior Member of the Assembly, Mr. Paradis, Member for Brome-Missisquoi, to preside at the election of a President of the National Assembly.

The most senior Member obtained the consent of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 5 to 8 respecting the election of the President of the National Assembly, in compliance with a document he then tabled, entitled:

"Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure respecting the Election of the President of the National Assembly by Secret Ballot".

(Sessional Paper No. 16-20090113)

He then communicated to the Assembly and tabled the following:

The list of Members standing as candidates for the office of President of the National Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 17-20090113)

LIST OF MEMBERS STANDING AS CANDIDATES FOR THE  
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- Mr. Yvon Vallières (Richmond)

In compliance with the rules, the presiding officer declared the Member for Richmond, Mr. Yvon Vallières, elected as President of the National Assembly.

Consequently, the presiding officer left the Chair.

Mr. Charest, Premier, Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) then accompanied Mr. Vallières to the Chair.

The Mace was then laid upon the Table and, consequently, the sitting opened.

Mr. President then delivered a speech.

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Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the National Assembly ratify the special procedure for the election of the President contained in the document entitled "Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure respecting the Election of the President of the National Assembly by Secret Ballot" that was tabled earlier by the most senior Member of the Assembly, the Member for Brome-Missisquoi, and, accordingly, that the Assembly give effect to the results of the vote held in pursuance of this procedure.

The motion was carried.

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Mr. President then invited the Assembly to elect the First Vice-President.

Mr. Charest, Premier, moved:

THAT Mrs. Fatima Houda-Pepin, Member for La Pinière, be elected First Vice-President of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President declared Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) elected as First Vice-President of the Assembly.

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Mr. President then invited the Assembly to elect the Second Vice-President.

Mr. Charest, Premier, moved:

THAT Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis, be elected Second Vice-President of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried.

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Mr. President declared Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) elected as Second Vice-President of the Assembly.

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Mr. President then invited the Assembly to elect the Third Vice-President.

Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved:

THAT Mr. François Gendron, Member for Abitibi-Ouest, be elected Third Vice-President of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President declared Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest) elected as Third Vice-President of the Assembly.

Mr. Charest, Premier, Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) then took the floor.

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By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT today, once this motion is carried, the Assembly adjourn its proceedings until Wednesday, 14 January 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.;

The sitting of 14 January 2009 shall begin with the Lieutenant-Governor's address;

Immediately thereafter, the rules of procedure for the opening of the session shall be suspended in pursuance of Standing Order 25 and the Assembly shall then take Routine Proceedings;

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During Routine Proceedings at the sitting of 14 January 2009, the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity shall be permitted to introduce a bill;

Once the Routine Proceedings have been called, the Minister of Finance shall be permitted to deliver an economic statement that shall last no more than 30 minutes and immediately thereafter, the Official Opposition finance critic shall be granted 5 minutes for his comments;

The Assembly proceedings shall then be suspended until 2.00 o'clock p.m.;

Upon resumption of proceedings, at 2.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly shall hold a limited debate on the economic statement by the Minister of Finance which shall last no more than 4 hours and 30 minutes, including 35 minutes which shall be granted to the independent Members and distributed as follows: 30 minutes to the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec and 5 minutes set aside for the Member for Mercier, 5 minutes set aside for the reply by the Minister of Finance, the remaining time being distributed equally among the parliamentary groups without individual addresses being limited, that any time not used by a parliamentary group will be transferred to the other group, that any time not used by the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec will be transferred to the Member for Mercier and that any time not used by the Member for Mercier be transferred to the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec;

The proceedings of the Assembly shall be suspended from 6.30 o'clock p.m. to 8.00 o'clock p.m.;

Upon the expiry of the limited debate, the Assembly then hold the debate on the passage in principle of the bill introduced by the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity;

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The debate on the passage in principle of the bill shall last no longer than 100 minutes, including 20 minutes granted to the independent Members and distributed as follows: 17 minutes to the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec and 3 minutes for the Member for Mercier, and 5 minutes set aside for a reply by the Minister of Finance, the remaining time being distributed equally among the parliamentary groups without individual addresses being limited;

Upon expiry of the debate on the passage in principle of the bill, the Assembly shall put the question thereon and immediately its principle shall have been passed, the bill shall be automatically referred to a Committee of the Whole for clause-by-clause consideration and the Assembly shall immediately resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for clause-by-clause consideration thereof;

Consideration of the bill in Committee of the Whole shall last no more than 2 hours;

Upon the conclusion of the period set aside for the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill in Committee of the Whole, the Chairman of the Committee shall put the question forthwith as a whole, without debate, without a reading thereof, and without a standing vote, on the amendments that the Committee has not disposed of, including the amendments the Minister presenting the bill may not have moved during consideration but which shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Committee at this time; the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall then put the question forthwith as a whole, without debate, without a reading thereof, and without a standing vote, on the sections of the bill as amended; the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall then put the question forthwith as a whole, without debate, without a reading thereof, and without a standing vote, on the sections of the bill that the Committee has not disposed of; the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall then put the question forthwith as a whole, without debate, without a reading thereof, and without a standing vote, on the title and headings and on the appendices, if need be, amended or not, of the bill; and finally, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall report to the Assembly, without consulting the Committee nor the Assembly, and the question on such report shall be put without recorded division;

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The Assembly shall then adjourn its proceedings until Thursday, 15 January 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.;

Upon the opening of the sitting on 15 January, the Assembly shall take Routine Proceedings;

Immediately the Routine Proceedings have been called, the Assembly shall hold the debate on the passage of the bill which shall last no more than 65 minutes, including 10 minutes granted to the independent Members and distributed as follows: 8 minutes to the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique du Québec and 2 minutes set aside for the Member for Mercier and 5 minutes set aside for a reply by the Minister of Finance, the remaining time being distributed equally among the parliamentary groups without individual addresses being limited;

A Minister or a Deputy Government House Leader may move at any time during the debate on the passage of a bill that the bill be referred to a Committee of the Whole for the consideration of amendments that he indicates; the question on such motion, which requires no notice and may be neither amended nor debated, shall be put forthwith, and a recorded division may not be demanded thereon, and immediately the motion is carried, the Assembly shall automatically resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole; the debate on the amendments in Committee of the Whole shall last not more than 15 minutes; at the end of this period the question shall be put forthwith on the amendments together, without being read by the Chairman and without a standing vote, as well as on the amendments the Minister introducing the bill may not have been able to introduce during consideration; after which the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall report to the Assembly, without consulting the Committee nor the Assembly; the question on such report shall be put forthwith without debate and without recorded division;

The President may suspend the proceedings at any time during the extraordinary sittings at the request of a Minister of a Deputy Government House Leader;

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Any provisions contained in the Standing Orders of the National Assembly that are inconsistent with this motion shall not apply;

Immediately following the vote on the passage of the bill, the Assembly shall then stand adjourned until Tuesday, 10 March 2009, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.;

THAT this agreement become an order of the Assembly.

The motion was carried.

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At 3.19 o'clock p.m., Mr. President adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 14 January 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

**YVON VALLIÈRES**

*President*