



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 17 October 2006 — No. 46

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Michel Bissonnet**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.02 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which held public hearings within the framework of special consultations with reference to the discussion paper entitled "Road safety in Québec: the use of cell phones while driving, excessive speed, motorcyclists and winter conditions". This report contains 16 recommendations.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: ten minutes shall be set aside for the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the period allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group will be added to that of the other group, while any time not used by the independent Members may be redistributed equally amongst the parliamentary groups, it having been agreed that this apportionment may not be carried out before the time allotted to both parliamentary groups has entirely expired; and individual addresses shall not be limited.

And debate arising;

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings continued beyond 12.00 o'clock p.m.

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

At 12.03 o'clock p.m., Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.05 o'clock p.m.

At the invitation of Mr. President, the Assembly observed a moment of reflection in memory of former parliamentarians who have died since the adjournment of the proceedings last June: Mr. Gaston Lambert, Member for Joliette from 1960 to 1962; Mr. Robert Malouin, Member for Drummond from 1973 to 1976; Mr. Maurice Dupré, Member for Saint-Hyacinthe from 1981 to 1985; and Mrs. Sylvie Lespérance, Member for Joliette from 2002 to 2003.

Mr. President read an excerpt of a letter, dated 21 August 2006, which the Secretary General of the National Assembly, Mr. François Côté, had received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec in relation to the by-elections held on 14 August 2006 in the Electoral Divisions of Pointe-aux-Trembles and Taillon.

He then tabled the following:

The aforementioned letter accompanied by a notice proclaiming Mr. André Boisclair the candidate returned in the Electoral Division of Pointe-aux-Trembles and Mrs. Marie Malavoy the candidate returned in the Electoral Division of Taillon.

(Sessional Paper No. 452-20061017)

At the invitation of Mr. President, Mr. Morin, Chief Opposition Whip, welcomed the new Leader of the Official Opposition and Member for Pointe-aux-Trembles, Mr. Boisclair.

Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, then welcomed the new Member for Taillon, Mrs. Malavoy.

Mrs. Lemieux, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mr. Charest, Premier, made comments.

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Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mrs. Malavoy (Taillon) then took the floor.

Finally, Mr. President welcomed the new Members.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Audet, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

The annual report on management from the Ministry of Finance for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 453-20061017)

The annual report of the Bureau de décision et de révision en valeurs mobilières for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 454-20061017)

The annual report of the Autorité des marchés financiers for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 455-20061017)

The annual report on management from the Institut de la statistique du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 456-20061017)

The activity report from Financement-Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 457-20061017)

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

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The annual report on management from the Ministry of International Relations for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 458-20061017)

The Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement dated 13 December 2005, together with an explanatory note on the content and effects of the said agreement.

(Sessional Paper No. 459-20061017)

She then tabled the following motion:

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly approve the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement dated 13 December 2005.

(Sessional Paper No. 460-20061017)

Mr. Marcoux, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

The annual report on management from the Commission des services juridiques for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 461-20061017)

The 2006-2010 strategic plan of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

(Sessional Paper No. 462-20061017)

Mr. Bergman, Minister of Revenue, tabled the following:

The 2006-2007 action plan for Revenu Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 463-20061017)

An update, dated June 2006, of the information files utilisation plan, including an opinion from the Commission d'accès à l'information.

(Sessional Paper No. 464-20061017)

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Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, tabled the following :

The annual report on management from the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006, including the activity report from the Fonds d'aide à l'action communautaire autonome as well as the annual reports on management from Emploi-Québec, Sécurité du revenu and Centre de recouvrement;

(Sessional Paper No. 465-20061017)

The results for 2006 of the activities carried out under the 2004-2009 government action plan to fight poverty and social exclusion.

(Sessional Paper No. 466-20061017)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The report of the Québec Chief Electoral Officer concerning the official results of the by-elections held on 14 August 2006 in the Electoral Divisions of Pointe-aux-Trembles and Taillon;

(Sessional Paper No. 467-20061017)

The annual report on management from the Québec Chief Electoral Officer for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 468-20061017)

The annual report on management from the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 469-20051017)

The report from the Québec Chief Electoral Officer on the implementation of section 30.8 of the *Act respecting school elections*, within the framework of the by-elections held on 4 June 2006 in District No. 1 of the Commission scolaire des Découvreurs and in District No. 10 of the Commission scolaire de la Capitale and the by-election held on 18 June 2006 in District No. 13 of the Commission scolaire des Samares;

(Sessional Paper No. 470-20061017)

The report of the Québec Chief Electoral Officer on the implementation of section 90.5 of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* within the framework of the by-election held on 4 June 2006 in the municipality of Sainte-Sabine;

(Sessional Paper No. 471-20061017)

The report from the Québec Chief Electoral Officer on the implementation of section 490 of the *Election Act*, within the framework of the by-elections held on 14 August 2006 in the electoral divisions of Pointe-aux-Trembles and Taillon;

(Sessional Paper No. 472-20061017)

A letter, dated 14 July 2006, he had received from Mr. Jacques Saint-Laurent, chairman of the Commission d'accès à l'information, informing him of the appointment of M^e Jean Chartier and M^e Guylaine Henri to the jurisdiction section and that of M^e Christiane Constant and M^e Hélène Grenier to the surveillance section, accompanied by copies of the letters of appointment sent to the commissioners in office on 13 June 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 473-20061017)

The report on its activities and management from the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 474-20061017)

He then tabled the following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly:

Decision 1329 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting payment to a Member or a former Member of an amount paid with respect to a lawsuit or a subpoena (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur le versement à un député ou à un ancien député d'un montant payé à l'occasion d'une poursuite ou d'une citation à comparaître), dated 8 June 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 475-20061017)

Decision 1331 concerning the regulation to amend various regulatory provisions (Règlement modifiant diverses dispositions réglementaires), dated 8 June 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 476-20061017)

Decision 1332 concerning the regulation respecting the conclusion of the proceedings of the Select Committee on the Election Act (Règlement sur la fin des travaux de la Commission spéciale sur la Loi électorale), dated 8 June 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 477-20061017)

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Decision 1335 concerning the regulation respecting the transfer of appropriations from Programme 1 to Programme 2 of the 2006-2007 budget (Règlement concernant le virement de crédits du programme 1 au programme 2 du budget de l'exercice financier 2006-2007), dated 15 June 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 478-20061017)

Decision 1338 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial and administrative management (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative), dated 15 June 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 479-20061017)

Decision 1340 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of the staff of Members holding parliamentary functions at the National Assembly and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel des cabinets de l'Assemblée nationale et sur le paiement des services professionnels), dated 21 August 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 480-20061017)

Finally, he tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 17 Octobre 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 481-20061017)

Copy of the notice of motion by Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, which will be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* for Wednesday, 18 October 2006, under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 482-20061017)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Simard (Richelieu), as chairman, tabled the following:

The report of the Committee on Institutions, which, on 31 May and 19 September 2006, gave clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 2, Legal Time Act. The report contains an amendment to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 483-20061017)

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Mr. Jutras (Drummond), as chairman, tabled the following:

The report of the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which, on 20 and 21 September 2006, examined the 2006-2010 Hydro-Québec strategic plan.
(Sessional Paper No. 484-20061017)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Charest, Premier, moved:

THAT the National Assembly offer its sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the victims, and its solicitude toward the entire Dawson College community, as a result of the tragic events of September 13 last.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec express its compassion for the victims and offer its sincerest sympathies to those families and friends who lost someone dear to them, that it recognize the solidarity shown by the population of Laval after the collapse of a section of the Concord viaduct, and that it thank the competent authorities for their involvement.

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By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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

Mrs. Papineau (Prévost) moved a motion on federal government Bill C-21; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, Mr. Girard (Gouin), and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) jointly moved:

THAT on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty the National Assembly emphasize the importance of fighting poverty and social exclusion durably and in solidarity, with the help of the numerous partners in the Québec government, in order that all of us may take up together the collective challenge that consists in accompanying and supporting persons alienated from the labour market so that they may regain confidence and hope for a better future.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Caron (Terrebonne), Mrs. Thériault, Minister of Families, Seniors and the Status of Women, and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark the 40th anniversary of the Fédération des femmes du Québec as well as the 40th anniversary of the Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale (AFEAS) and recall the importance of these organizations for the equality in law and in fact of the women of Québec and in the world.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Thériault, Minister of Families, Seniors and the Status of Women, Mrs. Champagne (Champlain), and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec mark the International Day of Older Persons, which was observed on 1 October 2006 under the theme “The rainbow of the generations: a ray of light over the world,” reiterate on this occasion its wish to promote the full participation of older persons in society, and underscore the importance of their commitment within our communities.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Legendre (Blainville) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the exceptional performances of Quebecers Aleksandra Wozniak, Marie-Ève Pelletier and Stéphanie Dubois in the latest edition of the Women's Tennis International of Canada held in Montréal in which, for the first time, three Quebecers reached the main draw; that Marie-Ève Pelletier succeeded in reaching the second round and that Stéphanie Dubois became the first Québec athlete to reach the third round; and that the National Assembly reiterate its support for the development of sports excellence in Québec.

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By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bouchard (Vachon) and Mr. Fournier, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport, jointly moved:

THAT on the occasion of International Teachers Day, declared by UNESCO, the National Assembly salute the exceptional contribution of the thousands of women and men who work daily for the instruction and development of our children.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the sixth edition of the Québec week for the reduction of waste, which is being observed from October 16 to 22, and reiterate the importance of attaining the objectives of the 1998-2008 Québec policy on the management of residual materials.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mr. Legault (Rousseau) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark cooperation week, which is being observed from October 15 to 21 and which makes it possible, in particular, to make known the potential for economic and social development that cooperative and mutual businesses offer in their communities.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 186, Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the hearings held by the Committee on Public Finance during its special consultations on Bill 27, An Act respecting the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances, and envisaged in the motion carried by the National Assembly on 15 June 2006, be held on 7, 8, 9 and 16 November 2006.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the National Assembly confirm the order made to the Committee on Social Affairs during its consideration of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Supplementary Pensions Act, particularly with respect to the funding and administration of pension plans, to hold special consultations and public hearings on 20, 26 and 27 September 2006, on 25 and 31 October 2006, and on 1 November 2006 and, to that end, that it hear the following bodies:

- Conseil du patronat du Québec
- Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec
- Fédération des associations de retraités du Québec and Mouvement des aînés du Québec
- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec
- Centrale des syndicats du Québec
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business
- Alliance des associations de retraités
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux
- Centrale des syndicats démocratiques
- Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées

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- Association québécoise des retraités des secteurs public et parapublic
- Mercer, Consultation en ressources humaines ltée
- Union des municipalités du Québec
- Fédération des associations de cadres municipaux du Québec
- Canadian Institute of Actuaries
- Groupe-conseil Aon
- Regroupement des associations de pompiers du Québec
- Association canadienne des gestionnaires des caisses de retraite – chapitre québécois
- Association of Canadian Pension Management
- Québec Bar
- Association des retraités d’Abitibi-Consolidated Inc.
- City of Montréal
- Fédération des policiers et policières municipaux du Québec

THAT a period of 30 minutes be set aside for preliminary remarks, to be allotted as follows: 15 minutes for the parliamentary group forming the government and 15 minutes for the Members sitting in opposition;

THAT a maximum of 20 minutes be fixed for the presentation by each body and a maximum of 40 minutes be fixed for the exchange with the members of the committee, to be divided equally between the members of the parliamentary group forming the government and the Members sitting in opposition;

THAT a period of 30 minutes be set aside for the final remarks, to be allotted as follows: 15 minutes for the Members sitting in opposition and 15 minutes for the parliamentary group forming the government;

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THAT the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity be a member of the said committee during its execution of this order.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

- the Committee on Culture, to continue its public hearings within the framework of the general consultation on the paper entitled *Toward a government policy to fight racism and discrimination*.

Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Social Affairs will meet to consider the annual reports and, to that end, to hear the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, pursuant to the *Act respecting health services and social services*;
- the Committee on Public Administration will hold a deliberative meeting to prepare its hearing of the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife on the reform of the municipal roll.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the private bill entitled “An Act respecting the city of Saint-Jérôme,” which had been placed on the Order Paper on 10 May 2006 in the name of the Member for Prévost, had been withdrawn at the latter’s request.

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He then informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 18 October 2006, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion by Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition. This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly demand of the Premier that he urgently convene a summit on the crisis that is affecting the forest industry and on its consequences for the workers, the local communities, and the regions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 5.53 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6.00 o'clock p.m.

Debates Upon Adjournment

At 5.59 o'clock p.m. the Assembly held the first debate on a question by Mr. Bédard (Chicoutimi) to Mr. Corbeil, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, concerning the follow-up given to the CRÉ du Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean action plan.

At the request of Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, Mr. Bédard (Chicoutimi) withdrew certain unparliamentary remarks.

The Assembly then held the second and third debates:

- the second, on a question by Mrs. Doyer (Matapédia) to Mr. Corbeil, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, concerning the reckoning of job losses by his ministry;

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- the third, on a question by Mr. Dufour (René-Lévesque) to Mr. Corbeil, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, concerning the follow-up given to the CRÉ Côte-Nord action plan.

At 6.37 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 18 October 2006, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President