



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 28 March 2017 — No. 239

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 1.40 o'clock p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 54.1, Mr. Drolet (Jean-Lesage) made a statement to underline the success of the benefit concert held for the Fondation Laurent-Breton.

Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé) made a statement to congratulate the citizens of Gaspé riding for their commitment to improving access to hemodialysis services.

Mrs. Melançon (Verdun) made a statement to underline École de cirque de Verdun's grand opening.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 54.1 and 54.3, Mr. Jolin-Barrette (Borduas) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of Patrimoine hilairemontais.

Mrs. Simard (Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to congratulate Mrs. Marie-Anne Gagnon-Simard, of Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré riding, for her community involvement.

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Mrs. Lamarre (Taillon) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of Centre communautaire des aînés et aînées de Longueuil.

Mrs. Tremblay (Chauveau) made a statement to underline Nutrition Month.

Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of Service d'entraide de Breakeyville.

Mr. Coiteux (Nelligan) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Benoît Langevin, winner of the Viva MTL contest.

Mr. Arcand (Mont-Royal) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of the organization Femmes du monde à Côte-des-Neiges.

At 1.53 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Mr. Moreau, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, transmitted the following message from the Honourable Lieutenant-Governor of Québec to the President, who communicated it to the Assembly:

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

In accordance with the provisions of section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, I hereby transmit the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2018 to the National Assembly and recommend the said estimates to it for consideration.

Québec City, 24 March 2017

J. Michel Doyon

Mr. Moreau, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the following:

Expenditure Management Strategy – The 2017–2018 Expenditure Budget
(French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3069-20170328)

The 2017–2018 Expenditure Budget – Estimates and Annual Expenditure
Management Plans of the National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the
National Assembly (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3070-20170328)

The 2017–2018 Expenditure Budget – Estimates of the Departments and Bodies
(French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3071-20170328)

The 2017–2018 Expenditure Budget – Special Funds Budget (French and English
versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3072-20170328)

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The 2017–2018 Expenditure Budget – Budget of the Bodies Other than Budget-funded Bodies (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3073-20170328)

The 2017–2018 Expenditure Budget – Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Bodies (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3074-20170328)

The 2017–2018 Expenditure Budget – Additional Information (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3075-20170328)

Québec's Public Infrastructures – The 2017–2027 Québec Infrastructure Plan and the 2017–2018 Annual Management Plans for Public Infrastructure Investments (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 3076-20170328)

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 280, the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2018 be referred to a Committee of the Whole for consideration and for concurrence in one quarter of the said estimates.

The motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly proceeded to hear a motion without notice.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, under an agreement between the Government Members and the Members in Opposition, and pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph 4.1 of the first paragraph of Standing Order 87 and Standing Orders 280 and 281, the Assembly consider and concur in Interim Supply for the 2017–2018 fiscal year as provided hereinafter;

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THAT, as soon as Orders of the Day for the 29 March 2017 sitting are called, the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and consider Interim Supply as follows:

THAT, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister responsible for Government Administration and Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor and the Members in Opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter, and for a period not exceeding 1 hour 30 minutes, an exchange take place between the Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Transport Electrification and the Members in Opposition;

THAT, after this exchange, the Committee of the Whole suspend its proceedings and that the proceedings of the Assembly be suspended until 3.00 o'clock p.m.;

THAT, at 3.00 o'clock p.m., the Committee of the Whole continue its proceedings and that, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Justice and the Members in Opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter and for a period not exceeding 1 hour 30 minutes, an exchange take place between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Members in Opposition;

THAT, immediately upon conclusion of this exchange, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole put the question for concurrence in one quarter of the estimates of expenditure for the 2017–2018 fiscal year;

THAT the Chair of the Committee of the Whole then report to the Assembly and that the question for concurrence in such report and the question for passage of the consequent appropriation bill be put without debate, pursuant to the first paragraph of Standing Order 281;

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THAT, lastly, pursuant to the second paragraph of Standing Order 281, the Government House Leader be permitted to move a motion without notice that may not be debated stating that the main estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, be referred to the Standing Committees for consideration;

THAT the opening statements for each of the exchanges with the aforementioned Ministers not exceed 6 minutes for the parliamentary group forming the Government; 3 minutes 30 seconds for the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 2 minutes 30 seconds for the Second Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds for the independent Members;

THAT, for each of the exchanges with the aforementioned Ministers, a period of 4 minutes per hour be set aside for exchanges with the independent Members;

THAT any time not used by the independent Members be redistributed proportionally among the parliamentary groups forming the Official Opposition and the Second Opposition Group;

THAT the President of the Assembly or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole be permitted to suspend the proceedings at any time;

THAT, despite Standing Order 20, the Committee of the Whole and the Assembly be permitted to continue their proceedings until the latter has voted on the appropriation bill and on the motion for referral of all of the estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, for consideration in the Standing Committees;

THAT this motion become an order of the Assembly and take precedence over any incompatible provisions of the Standing Orders.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Presenting Papers

Mr. Heurtel, Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, tabled the following:

The 2015–2016 accounts of the Green Fund.

(Sessional Paper No. 3077-20170328)

Mrs. Weil, Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness, tabled the following:

The 2016–2021 strategic plan of the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion.

(Sessional Paper No. 3078-20170328)

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 23 February 2017 by Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) on creating an independent provincial judicial inquiry commission to investigate the relation between Québec Native women and policing institutions;

(Sessional Paper No. 3079-20170328)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Traversy (Terrebonne) on the Olympic Stadium roof – Question No. 225, *Order Paper and Notices* of 14 March 2017;

(Sessional Paper No. 3080-20170328)

The reply to a written question from the Member for Nicolet-Bécancour on forthcoming financial assistance to apple growers dealing with the fire blight epidemic that afflicted the Laurentides region in 2016 – Question No. 228, *Order Paper and Notices* of 15 March 2017.

(Sessional Paper No. 3081-20170328)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mrs. Lamarre (Taillon) tabled the following:

A copy of a letter, dated 5 December 2016, to Mrs. Frédérique Ponche, Chair of the Regroupement des infirmières françaises du Québec, from Mr. Sébastien Gros, Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister of the French Republic, about the salary discrepancies and inequalities suffered by French nurses living in Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 3082-20170328)

A copy of a letter, dated 2 February 2017, to Mrs. Frédérique Ponche, Chair of the Regroupement des infirmières françaises du Québec, from the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of the French Republic, about the salary discrepancies and inequalities suffered by French nurses living in Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 3083-20170328)

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau), together with Mr. Blais, Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region, Mr. Caire (La Peltrie), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx), Mr. Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the historic character and heritage value of the Quebec Bridge, the longest cantilever bridge of its kind in the world;

THAT it recall that the Quebec Bridge was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1995 and that the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and the American Society of Civil Engineers have designated the Quebec Bridge an International Historical Monument of civil engineering;

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THAT, for this reason, the National Assembly recognize the importance of preserving the Quebec Bridge, declare that its disappearance would constitute an enormous loss, and assert that it is out of the question that it be demolished;

THAT, lastly, the Assembly ask the Bridge's owner and the Federal Government to honour their commitments regarding the Bridge's maintenance.

The question was put on this motion, and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Mrs. Samson (Iberville), together with Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau) and Mr. Surprenant (Groulx), moved a motion concerning renovation of the Grand Théâtre de Québec; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Khadir (Mercier), together with Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion concerning the pilot project with Uber; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84.1 and 185, Mrs. Weil, Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness, together with Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Roy (Montarville), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx), Mr. Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

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THAT it reiterate its unflagging commitment to preventing and fighting all forms of racism and discrimination.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 98, An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 121, An Act to increase the autonomy and powers of Ville de Montréal, the metropolis of Québec.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 298, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the interpellation scheduled for Friday, 31 March 2017 between Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) and Mr. Lessard, Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Transport Electrification, on the chaotic management at the Société des traversiers du Québec, is deferred until Monday, 3 April 2017 from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 3.04 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 4.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 4.05 o'clock p.m.

Business Having Precedence

Budget Speech

Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, delivered the Budget Speech.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, tabled the following documents during his address:

The summary of consolidated budgetary transactions – 2016–2017 preliminary results;

(Sessional Paper No. 3084-20170328)

The summary of consolidated budgetary transactions – 2017–2018 forecast;

(Sessional Paper No. 3085-20170328)

The consolidated revenues – 2017–2018 forecast;

(Sessional Paper No. 3086-20170328)

The consolidated expenditures – 2017–2018 forecast;

(Sessional Paper No. 3087-20170328)

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The expenditures of the General Fund – 2017–2018 forecast;
(Sessional Paper No. 3088-20170328)

The non-budgetary transactions – 2017–2018 forecast;
(Sessional Paper No. 3089-20170328)

The 2017–2018 Budget Speech (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3090-20170328)

The 2017–2018 Additional Information (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3091-20170328)

The Québec Economic Plan – Health Funding (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3092-20170328)

The Québec Economic Plan – Young People (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3093-20170328)

The Québec Economic Plan – Public Transit (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3094-20170328)

The Québec Economic Plan – Generations Fund (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3095-20170328)

The Québec Economic Plan – Education and Higher Education (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3096-20170328)

The Budget Documents – Public Financial Accountability (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3097-20170328)

The Québec Economic Plan – March 2017 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3098-20170328)

The Economic Plan in Brief – March 2017 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 3099-20170328)

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The Québec Economic Plan – List of press releases (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 3100-20170328)

At the end of his address, Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, moved that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy.

Mr. Marceau (Rousseau) commented on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) commented on behalf of the Second Opposition Group.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Wednesday, 29 March 2017 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 5.45 o'clock p.m., the Assembly adjourned until Wednesday, 29 March 2017 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

JACQUES CHAGNON

President