



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 16 May 2018 — No. 340

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mrs. Sauvé (Fabre) made a statement to invite the public to Québec's first U-Pick Tulip Field.

Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest) made a statement to underline the retirement of Mrs. Nicole Breton and Mr. Patrice Vachon of the regional county municipality of Abitibi-Ouest.

Mr. Merlini (La Prairie) made a statement to pay tribute to the Maison de la famille Kateri.

Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Club FADOQ de Saint-Jean-Chrysostome.

Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Paul Lamoureux, Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Mrs. Jean (Chicoutimi) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Pascal Thibeault for his commitment to deprived children in Cameroon.

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Mr. Coiteux (Nelligan) made a statement to underline Police Week.

Mrs. St-Pierre (Acadie) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jean Laliberté for his 20 years of service as Peter-Hall School's President and Director General.

Mrs. David (Outremont) made a statement to underline the Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal's contribution to the Québec cultural scene.

Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau) made a statement to pay tribute to three volunteers from Taschereau riding, recipients of the Medal of the National Assembly.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 54.1 and 54.3, Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé) made a statement to congratulate the city of Percé on being named Québec's first UNESCO Global Geopark.

At 9.52 o'clock a.m., Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Proulx, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

183 An Act mainly to strengthen the role and independence of the
Student Ombudsman

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 183 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) tabled the following on behalf of Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques):

The abstract of a petition on opposing the development of the cryptocurrency industry due to its environmental impact, signed by 191 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 4370-20180516)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, Mrs. David, Minister responsible for Higher Education, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau), together with Mrs. Roy (Montarville), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé) and Mr. Surprenant (Groulx), moved a motion on acts by groups of a sectarian nature; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. D'Amours (Mirabel), together with Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion on the files of citizens who were victims of spring flooding in 2017; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Proulx, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, together with Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mr. Roberge (Chambly), Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved:

THAT the National Assembly underline “Semaine québécoise de la garde scolaire”, held this year from 14 to 18 May;

THAT it recognize the quality services provided by school childcare service personnel;

THAT it thank school system educators who create privileged relationships with our children every day to ensure their well-being, development and educational success;

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THAT, lastly, it encourage childcare service personnel to continue their work with enthusiasm, creativity and commitment.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin), together with Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion on the remuneration of heads of government corporations; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 157, An Act to constitute the Société québécoise du cannabis, to enact the Cannabis Regulation Act and to amend various highway safety-related provisions;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 150, An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speeches of 17 March 2016 and 28 March 2017;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 176, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards and other legislative provisions mainly to facilitate family-work balance;

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- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 170, An Act to modernize the legal regime applicable to liquor permits and to amend various other legislative provisions with regard to alcoholic beverages; and then, undertake the examination of the first guidelines for dealing with requests for accommodations on religious grounds of the *Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies*.
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Motions relating to breaches of privilege or contempt

The Assembly took into consideration the following motion moved by Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) under Standing Orders 324 to 327:

THAT the Assembly declare that the *ad hoc* Ethics Commissioner, Me Jacques Saint-Laurent, violated the rights and privileges of the Assembly and of one of the Members on 24 November 2017 by affirming that he would scapegoat the Member for Groulx.

A debate arose thereon.

During his address, pursuant to Standing Order 325, Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) moved:

THAT the Assembly mandate the Committee on the National Assembly to investigate whether the *ad hoc* Ethics Commissioner stated that he wanted to scapegoat the Member for Groulx when they met on 24 November 2017, and that the Committee recommend the appropriate sanction, if applicable;

THAT the investigation end no later than 30 May 2018.

Pursuant to Standing Order 325, the Assembly entered upon the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Surprenant (Groulx).

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At 11.19 o'clock a.m., Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 11.24 o'clock a.m.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion moved by Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) pursuant to Standing Order 325 was amended to read as follows:

THAT the Assembly mandate the Committee on the National Assembly to investigate whether the *ad hoc* Ethics Commissioner stated that he wanted to scapegoat the Member for Groulx when they met on 24 November 2017, and that the Committee recommend the appropriate sanction, if applicable;

THAT the investigation end no later than 7 June 2018.

The Assembly continued the debate on this motion by Mr. Surprenant (Groulx).

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Accordingly, the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) pursuant to Standing Orders 324 to 327 was adjourned, and the Committee on the National Assembly will be convened to investigate the matter.

At 11.25 o'clock a.m., at the request of Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, and by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 11.35 o'clock a.m.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mrs. Thériault, Minister responsible for Consumer Protection and for Housing, moved that Bill 178, An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning consumer protection, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 178 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 178 be referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

At 12.06 o'clock p.m., Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) moved:

THAT the National Assembly ask the political parties to commit to renovating all schools that have maintenance deficits before reducing the school tax.

Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for her reply; approximately 50 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government; approximately 28 minutes 34 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; approximately 21 minutes 26 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; and 10 minutes to the independent Members, subject to a maximum, based on the number of Members who indicated their intention to speak, of 2 minutes each for the Member for Gaspé, the Member for Groulx and the Member for Vachon, and 6 minutes to the three Members of Québec solidaire. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on the motion, and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Fortin, Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Transport Electrification, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Mr. Fortin, Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Transport Electrification, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 17 May 2018 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 5.01 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 17 May 2018 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 7.30 o'clock p.m. in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mrs. Durepos, Director of theittings Service and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable J. Michel Doyon, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following bill:

- 173 An Act mainly to introduce a basic income for persons with a severely limited capacity for employment

JACQUES CHAGNON

President