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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

## Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 17 April 2019 — No. 34

*Nine forty a.m.*

President of the National Assembly:  
Mr. François Paradis

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Part 1

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

- The Member for Masson on the following subject: *Ma Fondation Sports et Jeunesse de Lanaudière-Sud.*
- The Member for Nelligan on the following subject: *The Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec celebrates its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*
- The Member for Beauce-Sud on the following subject: *Tribute to the restaurant Le Bec Fin in Saint-Georges.*
- The Member for Saint-Laurent on the following subject: *Tribute to Mrs. Valentine Thomas, harpoon fisherwoman.*
- The Member for Sanguinet on the following subject: *World Hemophilia Day.*
- The Member for Matane-Matapédia on the following subject: *Outstanding achievement with regard to operating and maintenance.*
- The Member for Argenteuil on the following subject: *Tom Silletta, a role model in terms of healthy living among seniors.*
- The Member for Taschereau on the following subject: *Point of view radio.*
- The Member for Richelieu on the following subject: *Tribute to the Maisons des jeunes de Richelieu.*
- The Member for Laval-des-Rapides on the following subject: *Awarding of certificates to École des Grands graduates.*

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**PRESENTING**      (a) Papers  
                         (b) Reports from committees  
                         (c) Petitions

**ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS**

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**INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

Part 2

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE**

**URGENT DEBATES**

**DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**I. Government Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

**(1) Bill 2**

An Act to tighten the regulation of cannabis

Introduced by the Minister for Health and Social Services on 5 December 2018

Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations) tabled on 21 February 2019

Resuming the debate, adjourned in the name of the Minister for Government Digital Transformation on **11 April 2019**, on the hoist motion by the Member for Viau, –THAT the motion under debate be amended by striking out the word "now" and by adding at the end thereof the words "this day twelve months hence"

**(2) Bill 5**

An Act to amend the Education Act and other provisions regarding preschool education services for students 4 years of age

Introduced by the Minister of Education and Higher Education on **14 February 2019**

**(3) Bill 14**

An Act to facilitate the public administration's digital transformation

Introduced by the Minister for Digital Transformation on **4 April 2019**

(4) Bill 16

An Act mainly to regulate building inspections and divided co-ownership, to replace the name and improve the rules of operation of the Régie du logement and to amend the Act respecting the Société d'habitation du Québec and various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs  
Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on **3 April 2019**

(5) Bill 17

An Act respecting remunerated passenger transportation by automobile  
Introduced by the Minister of Transport on **20 March 2019**

(6) Bill 18

An Act to amend the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Public Curator Act and various provisions as regards the protection of persons  
Introduced by the Minister of Families on **10 April 2019**

(7) Bill 20

An Act to implement certain recommendations of the 20 August 2018 report of the committee on the remuneration of judges and justices of the peace for 2016-2019  
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **11 April 2019**

(8) Bill 21

An Act respecting the laicity of the State  
Introduced by the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness on **28 March 2019**

*Committee Stage*

(9) Bill 6

An Act to transfer responsibility for the registry of lobbyists to the Lobbyists Commissioner and to implement the Charbonneau Commission recommendation on the prescription period for bringing penal proceedings  
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 13 February 2019  
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 3 April 2019  
Passed in principle on **10 April 2019**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

**(10) Bill 7**

An Act respecting certain terms of employment applicable to officers of the health and social services network

Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on 26 February 2019

Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations) tabled on 21 March 2019

Passed in principle on **11 April 2019**, and

Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services

**(11) Bill 9**

An Act to increase Québec's socio-economic prosperity and adequately meet labour market needs through successful immigrant integration

Introduced by the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness on 7 February 2019

Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on 19 March 2019

Passed in principle on **9 April 2019**, and

Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

**(12) Bill 12**

An Act to clarify the scope of the right to free education and to allow the regulation of certain financial contributions that may be required

Introduced by the Minister of Education and Higher Education on 21 February 2019

Report from the Committee on Culture and Education (consultations) tabled on 27 March 2019

Passed in principle on **4 April 2019**, and

Referred to the Committee on Culture and Education

**(13) Bill 13**

An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 26 February 2019

Passed in principle on **10 April 2019**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

*Report Stage*

**(14) Bill 1**

An Act to amend the rules governing the appointment and dismissal of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner, the Director General of the Sûreté du Québec and the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions

Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on 29 November 2018

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 20 February 2019

Passed in principle on 28 February 2019

Report from the Committee on Institutions tabled on **16 avril 2019**

(Amend. handed in under Standing Order 252)

*Passage*

**II. Private Members' Public Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

**(15) Bill 190**

An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws

Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **7 December 2018**

**(16) Bill 191**

An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to prescribe the publication of information on the use of the amounts granted to Members in the performance of their duties

Introduced by the Member for Gouin on **6 December 2018**

**(17) Bill 192**

An Act to recognize the Members' oath to the people of Québec as the sole oath required for Members to take office

Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **28 February 2019**

**(18) Bill 193**

An Act to establish a budgetary shield to protect education, child and youth protection services

Introduced by the Member for Joliette on **7 February 2019**



**(19) Bill 194**

An Act to ensure compliance with Québec's climate change-related obligations

Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **21 February 2019**

**(20) Bill 195**

An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to extend the scope of the right to payment of expenses for counsel

Introduced by the Member for Chomedey on **11 April 2019**

**(21) Bill 196**

An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to establish a Passe-Sports register to collect data on the state of health of persons under 18 years of age following a concussion

Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **11 April 2019**

**(22) Bill 197**

An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods

Introduced by the Member for Chomedey on **9 April 2019**

*Committee Stage*

*Report Stage*

*Passage*

**III. Private Bills**

*Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration*

*Passage in Principle*

*Passage*

**IV. Government Motions**

**V. Estimates of Expenditure**

(23) Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2020 tabled by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 21 March 2019 and referred for consideration to the standing committees on **26 March 2019**.

**VI. Statutory Debates**

**BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION**

Part 3

**BILLS PASSED**

*(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)*

Bill 3

An Act to establish a single school tax rate

Passed on **16 April 2019**

Part 4

**PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES**

*The detailed calendar of the proceedings of each committee  
is available on the Internet site of the Assembly*

**COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

## **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

### **Order in compliance with the Standing Orders**

- Hearing of the Auditor General of Québec on its annual management report 2017-2018 and financial commitments.
- Hearing on chapter 5 entitled “Computer Recovery” and chapter 7 entitled “Information Technology Contracts – Follow-Up on a Special Audit” of the Auditor General of Québec’s May 2018 report.
- Hearing on chapter 3 entitled “Contaminated Sites Under the Responsibility of the State” of the Auditor General of Québec’s June 2018 report.
- Hearing on chapter 3 entitled “End-of-Life Tire Management” of the Auditor General of Québec’s November 2018 report.

## **COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Order in compliance with the Standing Orders**

#### **Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:**

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Régie de l’énergie.

### **Order of initiative**

- Examine the impact of pesticides on public health and the environment, as well as current and future innovative alternative practices in the agriculture and food sectors, in recognition of the competitiveness of Québec’s agri-food sector.

## **COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**

### **Order of initiative**

- Continue the order of initiative on access to local financial services in the regions.

## COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

### **Order of reference**

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 12**, An Act to clarify the scope of the right to free education and to allow the regulation of certain financial contributions that may be required (Order of reference given on 4 April 2019).

### **Order of initiative**

- Future of the news media.

## COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

### **Order of reference**

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 13**, An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 10 April 2019).

## COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

### **Order of reference**

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 6**, An Act to transfer responsibility for the registry of lobbyists to the Lobbyists Commissioner and to implement the Charbonneau Commission recommendation on the prescription period for bringing penal proceedings (Order of reference given on 10 April 2019).

### **Order in compliance with the Standing Orders**

- Hearing the Québec Chief Electoral Officer.

## COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

### **Order of reference**

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 9**, An Act to increase Québec's socio-economic prosperity and adequately meet labour market needs through successful immigrant integration (Order of reference given on 9 April 2019).

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### **Order of reference**

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 7**, An Act respecting certain terms of employment applicable to officers of the health and social services network (Order of reference given on 11 April 2019).

### **Order of initiative**

- The alarming increase in the use of psychostimulants in children and young people in connection with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

## COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### **Order of reference**

#### Special Consultations:

- **Bill 17**, An Act respecting remunerated passenger transportation by automobile (Order of reference given on 3 April 2019).

### **Order of initiative**

- The issues of recycling and local recovery of glass.

Part 5

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Questions already placed on the Order Paper  
*are published each Wednesday*

- (27) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **19 March 2019**  
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Food allergies are on the rise. In Québec, 8% of children suffer from food allergies. In schools, where these children eat at least one of their meals each day, there is currently no legal framework in Québec that enables the standardization of preventive measures and treatment of severe allergic reactions. Québec is the only Canadian province without a legal framework to standardize reception measures for allergic children and the prevention of severe reactions.

Last 14 June, the outgoing Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Carole Poirier, introduced Bill 1197 to require educational institutions to adopt practices for managing cases of anaphylaxis.

My questions are as follows:

- Do you intend to support the introduction and passage of such a bill during the current parliamentary session?
- What actions do you intend to take in the coming months to ensure the standardization of reception measures for allergic children and the prevention of severe reactions?

- (29) Mrs. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **2 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

My riding office was recently informed of an urgent situation involving a person requiring that her case be treated as a top priority to obtain low rental housing. This elderly woman was living temporarily with her son and was a victim of violence committed by a close family member, namely her son's spouse.

Considering that the By-law respecting the allocation of dwellings in low rental housing of the *Act respecting the Société d'habitation du Québec* (chapter S-8, s. 86) states that only a person who is a victim of domestic violence may benefit from a priority application under section 23.1, several other situations requiring emergency housing for vulnerable individuals are not taken care of by the State. This section, which reads as follows: “a person whose lease is resiliated under article 1974.1 of the Civil Code or who is a victim of domestic violence as indicated in an attestation issued by a shelter for such persons, a police force or an institution of the health and social services network”, is extremely restrictive when we consider the range of possible situations that may jeopardize the security and physical integrity of vulnerable persons.

Will the Minister commit to:

- Evaluating the possibility of extending the range of situations considered to be priority situations provided for in this section of the Act and setting up guidelines to facilitate prioritization of vulnerable individuals in situations that pose a threat to their security and physical integrity?

(30) Mrs. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **2 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Finance

Support-payment collection is a prerogative that is currently administered by Revenu Québec under the *Act to facilitate the payment of support*. This Act allows the tax agency to use various levers to ensure that these payments are recovered should debtors fail to comply with the rulings establishing support payment terms and conditions. These levers of intervention are determined primarily by the existence of administrative and legal remedies. Administrative remedies exist in order to oblige recalcitrant debtors to comply with their obligations as a step before turning to the courts. This mechanism aims to establish a gradation of measures to strike a balance between coercion and the rights of individuals.

The existing administrative measures are the following, namely: compensation, legal hypothec, seizure by garnishment, solidary liability and suspension of passport or federal licences. Several of these measures have proven their effectiveness, but several specific cases, however, show that certain recalcitrant debtors still manage to avoid the coercive effects of these combined measures. These measures could therefore be improved to be even stricter and prevent these cases from going before the courts at the source.

Will the Minister commit to:

- Evaluating the possibility of including the suspension of the debtor's driver's licence and the registration of any vehicles registered in the said debtor's name among the administrative measures?

(31) Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) – **2 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Education and Higher Education

In 2017, the Couillard Government undertook to offer 250 \$25,000 scholarships per year to graduating doctoral students in psychology who choose to complete their mandatory internship in the public or parapublic sector. The program has been so successful that demand now exceeds supply. The result: a large number of these students will not have access to the scholarship that they are entitled to according to the program's criteria. Universities will have to improvise to determine the criteria for allocating financial assistance, by opting for the random draw or by delivering partial scholarships, for example.

Last February, we found out that the Université de Sherbrooke took the decision, owing to insufficient funding, to allocate the \$25,000 scholarships promised by the Québec Government by random draw to the doctoral students in psychology having chosen the public and parapublic sector internships. The Université de Sherbrooke is not the only institution to find itself in this situation: Next year, this lack of funding will affect Université Laval and Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières in particular.

This underfunding of psychology graduates, who are preparing to take up the reins of a profession that is experiencing a major shortfall of services in the public and parapublic network, is unacceptable. Student bodies are unanimous: It is simply unrealistic to have a job during this internship. Without a scholarship, few options are available to the persons who are excluded from the program. They must live off of their savings, ask their families for help or go into debt.



My questions to the Minister of Education and Higher Education are the following:

- Will the Minister commit to sustaining the scholarship program for doctoral students in psychology who choose to complete their mandatory 1600-hour internship in the public and parapublic sectors?
- Will the Minister commit to increasing the number of scholarships offered within the framework of this program to ensure that all of these graduates receive this financial assistance that is essential to completing their internship?

(32) Mrs. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **2 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Transport

In 2006, the Government launched the Village-Relais program, which involves 41 municipalities located throughout Québec on main national roads or tourist routes, including the town of Témiscaming located in my riding, Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue. This program has two main objectives: counter fatigue at the wheel by providing safe stopping areas and contribute to the local development of certified municipalities. The agreement between the certified municipalities and the Ministère des Transports consists of commitments made on both sides. The “villages-relais” must adhere to a quality charter by providing basic services throughout the year to maintain their certification. In this regard, several investments are made each year in the different municipalities to improve and design areas to make them more accessible and safe.

However, over the past ten years, the network has benefitted from only three major promotional campaigns from 2012 to 2014. To fully carry out their role as a “village-relais”, certified municipalities must be promoted in order to make them better known to the general public.

This program’s implementation and success cannot be achieved without the full participation of the “villages-relais” and their local businesses and that of the Minister of Transport. Lastly, note that this program is perfectly in line with the 2018-2022 government strategy and that of its Ministère des Affaires Municipales et de l’Habitation to ensure land occupancy.

It is with this in mind that the town of Témiscaming urged me to ask the Government:

- 1) How does the Minister intend to help the “villages-relais” maintain their role, which offers more services than a road park?
- 2) When does the Minister intend to launch a major promotional campaign to make the network’s services better known and what amount does he intend to invest in it?
- 3) Specifically, how will the Minister show his support and that of the partner departments, Tourism and Municipal Affairs and Housing, for carrying out projects that allow the “villages-relais”, and their Federation, to fully play their role as safe stopping areas for road users?

(33) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **2 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Public Security

The Ministère de la Sécurité publique is in discussions with the Sainte-Flavie and Sainte-Luce municipalities to implement measures allowing to eliminate the risk of disasters associated with erosion and coastal flooding threatening principal residences. Since the high tides of December 2010, these municipalities have been relentlessly working to implement solutions to ensure the safety of riverside residents. The Ministère’s support and the implementation of new measures have been most welcome. However, certain points of the Ministère’s currently proposed agreement must be reviewed. Considering that each of the municipalities is responsible for administering the Ministère’s program, it is requested that the department cover all costs related to the hiring of a person to provide assistance to the concerned owners, since this is not municipal work but rather services performed to implement the agreement reached with the Ministère, for the benefit of individuals.

My questions are as follows:

- 1) What are the Ministère de la Sécurité publique’s intentions in this regard?
- 2) Will the Ministère fully cover the costs related to the implementation of the agreements with the Sainte-Luce and Sainte-Flavie municipalities aiming to eliminate the risks of disasters associated with erosion and coastal flooding?

- (34) Mrs. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **3 April 2019**  
To the Government House Leader and Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness

On Sunday, 31 March 2019, the Premier delivered a message to Quebecers to explain why it is necessary to end the debate on religious symbols and the laicity of the State.

This address followed the Government's initiative in the matter. On Thursday, 28 March 2019, the Minister tabled Bill 21, An Act respecting the laicity of the State.

The same day, a motion mandating the Office of the National Assembly to move the crucifix from the National Assembly Chamber ("Salon bleu") in order to showcase it elsewhere in the parliamentary precincts was carried unanimously in the National Assembly.

This motion arose, twelve years later, from the findings of the Bouchard-Taylor Commission to the effect that keeping the crucifix would suggest that "a very special closeness exists between legislative power and the religion of the majority." The report concluded that "It seems preferable for the very place where elected representatives deliberate and legislate not to be identified with a specific religion."

The purpose of the Government's bill is to affirm the laicity of the State and to set out the requirements that follow from it. To that end, the explanatory notes state that the "bill provides that the laicity of the State is based on four principles: the separation of State and religions, the religious neutrality of the State, the equality of all citizens, and freedom of conscience and freedom of religion. Parliamentary, government and judicial institutions are bound to adhere to these principles in pursuing their missions."

I hereby wish to recall that, other than the Catholic crucifix above the President's Chair, there are many other religious signs and symbols in the National Assembly Chamber.

Even today, there are, among other things, above the Throne and the head of the President of the National Assembly, a crown and a cross representing the monarch of the United Kingdom, who is, let us recall, not only a political leader, but also a religious leader.

Still today, this monarch—in this case Queen Elizabeth II—is not only the monarch of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, including Canada and Québec, but is also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

This office marks the authority that the United Kingdom's monarch exercises over the Church of England and the Anglican religion.

In short, this same crown and this same cross also appear on the mace that is in the Sergeant-at-Arms' custody, this mace which symbolizes nothing less than the authority of the National Assembly and the Chair.

Finally, I would like to recall that monarchical symbols have been removed from the National Assembly Chamber in the past. This was the case for statues, including that of Queen Victoria, for example. That statue was replaced by a plant.

In this context, my question is as follows:

Does the Minister intend to mandate the Office of the National Assembly to remove, in addition to the crucifix, all signs and symbols that refer to a religious power from the National Assembly Chamber?

(35) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **9 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Since its creation, in 2010, the Regroupement québécois des maladies orphelines (RQMO), which represents close to 30 associations, has been calling for the adoption of a Québec national plan for rare diseases. In 2015, the RQMO organized a summit on rare diseases to propose a strategy. For Québec patients and their informal caregivers, emphasis was placed on the improvement of diagnosis and the management of rare diseases, as well as access to treatment and social services.

On 19 November 2018, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) du Québec established a rare diseases working group. The RQMO, which advocates on behalf of 500,000 Quebecers affected by a rare disease, as well as other organizations, such as Cystic Fibrosis Canada helping the 1200 Quebecers with cystic fibrosis, were excluded from the initiative. These groups denounce the attitude of the MSSS, which most likely does not wish to hear from them about their collective experience.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the MSSS announced, on International Rare Disease Day, last 28 February, that the Institut national d'excellence en santé et services sociaux (INESSS) had been mandated to develop a Québec rare disease strategy.

My questions are as follows:

- Considering their exclusion from the MSSS working group, will the RQMO and Cystic Fibrosis Canada be invited to participate actively in the work of the INESSS?
- At what stage of the INESSS' and the working group's initiative will the RQMO's proposal, arising from years of consultation, be taken into consideration?
- Treatments for rare and orphan diseases consist of innovative and increasingly personalized therapies in line with the patient's genetic makeup. The INESSS' evaluation process for so-called orphan drugs is starting to recognize promise for therapeutic value as a basic criterion supporting the registration of these drugs. Does the Minister intend to maintain this initiative and facilitate access to these drugs for persons affected by a rare disease, with the objective of improving their quality of life?

(36) Mrs. Dorion (Taschereau) – **9 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Culture and Communications

The 2018–2023 government action plan on culture, arising from the new Québec cultural policy, unveiled by the Liberals in June 2018, contained 41 measures.

Measure 16 stipulates the “[Translation] implementation of concrete solutions to address the issues of employment, remuneration and the social protection of professional artists and cultural workers”.

Short-term actions were planned to implement this measure, including reviewing both Acts respecting the status of artists:

- Act respecting the professional status of artists in the visual arts, arts and crafts and literature, and their contracts with promoters
- Act respecting the professional status and conditions of engagement of performing, recording and film artists

Of course, the fact that the Liberals, in 2018, unveiled this policy a few days prior to the adjournment of the House leads us to believe that they had no real intention of reviewing these Acts, so important to artists.

But considering that the Minister mentioned on several occasions that she would maintain this policy and considering that the Government included funds for this policy in the last budget, can the Minister of Culture tell us when these two bills will be introduced?

(37) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **9 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Today I draw the attention of the Minister of Health and Social Services to the special situation of Social Solidarity Program (SSP) recipients who are living in intermediate (IR) and family-type resources (FTR).

Last 8 February, four national organizations for disabled persons wrote to the Minister to denounce certain measures deemed to discriminate against persons living in IR-FTRs. This is what they had to say:

“[Translation] As the Minister surely knows, the Social Solidarity Program is enhanced each year. Since 2018, additional increases to SSP benefits have been added in pursuance of the Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation 2017-2023. Since February 2018, SSP recipients living in IR-FTRs had received \$1035 per month, from which the RAMQ deducted \$747 as a contribution of users. The amount left to users is the personal spending allowance, which was \$288 as at 1 February 2018. The calculation of the personal spending allowance is a topic that year after year creates a certain amount of concern among persons living in these resources and their families.

On 1 January 2019, a new increase in the SSP benefits occurred. For the first time, persons who had been SSP recipients for at least 66 months out of a total of 72 months were entitled to a greater increase than the other SSP recipients (increasing from \$1035 per month to \$1123 instead of \$1035 to \$1061 for the other recipients). This differentiated increase is linked to the gradual coming into force of the Basic Income Program, adopted unanimously by the National Assembly in 2018. It should be recalled that under its enabling legislation, the Basic Income Program concerns social inclusion and the economic participation of persons with a severely limited capacity for employment and that, as such, it is not last-resort financial assistance, which distinguishes it from the SSP.

Unfortunately, since 1 February 2019, the personal spending allowance of persons living in these resources has been reduced from \$288 to \$245 per month, regardless of whether or not they had been SSP recipients for 66 months out of 72 months. These persons therefore have become poorer in comparison with 2018, while the Government's efforts were intended to help them overcome poverty and improve their living conditions. At present, these efforts are instead being used to finance housing resources rather than to help the people themselves. It is difficult to understand such a contradiction between different State guidelines."

Accordingly, my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are the following:

- Does the Minister intend to reconsider her department's decision by increasing the minimum personal spending allowance threshold to ensure that persons living in IR-FTRs and who are SSP recipients will be entitled to the measures provided for in the Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation 2017-2023?
- Considering that a good number of persons living in these resources are seeking autonomy and not losing autonomy, how does the Minister justify cutting off a portion of their personal allowance, while this same amount is directly linked to these persons regaining the power to act?

(38) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) –**11 April 2019**  
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Throughout Québec, the droughts over the past two years have been a challenge for agricultural producers. Considering the Minister's announcement last 20 March concerning crop insurance, part of the problem is on the way to being solved. I thank the Minister for this gesture.

However, the situation remains very difficult for the psychological and financial health of farmers and their families. In the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, for example, several farmers who took out a loan with La Financière agricole requested that they only be required to pay the interest due. In this region, livestock, which is fed hay, is important in terms of numbers. The effects of the drought these past two years were especially felt, owing to the constant need for forage.

In this region, we have further observed – and this concerns all farming sectors (potato, vegetable, fruit, maple...) – that farmers suffered indirect losses caused by the drought due to additional care having to be given to livestock, water transportation costs, the digging of wells or irrigation lakes and the additional forage needed.

My question is the following:

Will the Minister of Agriculture indicate whether he will intervene to support farmers affected by this catastrophe that has lasted for two years and that we are expecting again this year? If so, how will he cover all the farm producers who are affected by the drought? When will they receive this assistance?



Part 6  
**NOTICES**

**I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN**

**Government Bills**

**Private Members' Public Bills**

**Private Bills**

**(a) 5 February 2019**

An Act respecting certain immovables situated on a mining concession of the cadastre of Canton de Bourlamaque, registration division of Abitibi – *Member for Abitibi-Ouest.*

**II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**(aa)** An Act respecting the names and responsibilities of certain ministers and government departments and to enact the Act respecting the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs – *Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor.*

**(bb)** An Act to replace the Act respecting the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec – *Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière.*