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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 24 November 2020 — No. 145**

**President of the National Assembly:  
Mr. François Paradis**

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The Assembly was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

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## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Statements by Members**

Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) made a statement to invite citizens to give generously to food aid organizations for the holiday period.

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Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Mehmet Deger for his social and community involvement.

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Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Marie-Christine Goupil, founder of the business Produits adaptés Handy.

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Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Lénine Nankassa Boucal on receiving the Charles Biddle award.

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Ms. Soucy (Saint-Hyacinthe) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Jean-Luc Auger on receiving the Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec's Innovation award.

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Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) made a statement to denounce the lack of resources to prevent alcohol and drug addiction.

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Mr. Jolin-Barrette (Borduas) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Normand Angers for his 25-year career as a McMasterville municipal councillor.

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Mr. Jacques (Mégantic) made a statement to pay tribute to Dr. Susan Dion for her community involvement.

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At 1:50 p.m., Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 2:02 p.m.

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At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Pierre Mercier, former Member for Bellechasse, and Mr. George Massicotte, former Member for Lotbinière.

### Presenting Papers

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration 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 2021 to the National Assembly and recommend the said estimates to it for consideration.

Québec City, 17 November 2020

J. Michel Doyon

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2021.

(Sessional Paper No. 2092-20201124)

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2021 be referred to a Committee of the Whole for consideration and for concurrence by the Assembly.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 20 October 2020, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

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The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **610** in Appendix)

Yeas: **121**   Nays: **0**   Abstentions: **0**

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Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, tabled the following on behalf of Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services:

The 2019–2020 annual report on the implementation of the complaints examination procedure, user satisfaction and the respect of user rights of the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Montérégie-Ouest.  
(Sessional Paper No. 2093-20201124)

He then tabled the following on behalf of Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

Canada-Quebec Housing Agreement between the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ).  
(Sessional Paper No. 2094-20201124)

He then tabled the following on behalf of Mr. Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources:

The report by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources on the implementation of the *Act respecting transparency measures in the mining, oil and gas industries* and on the advisability of amending it (October 2020).  
(Sessional Paper No. 2095-20201124)

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He then tabled the following on behalf of Mr. Dufour, Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks:

The agreement on preserving and developing Atlantic salmon and anadromous brook trout on the Moisie River and its tributaries entitled “L’Entente concernant la conservation et la mise en valeur du saumon atlantique (utshashumek”) et de l’omble de fontaine anadrome (uinipeku-matamek”) sur la rivière Moisie et ses affluents (Mishta-Shipu)”.

(Sessional Paper No. 2096-20201124)

He then tabled the following on behalf of Mr. Boulet, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity:

The complementary agreement for the implementation of the Kahnawà:ke regime with regard to compensation for victims of industrial accidents and occupational diseases and the preventive reassignment of pregnant or nursing workers entitled “L’Entente complémentaire pour la mise en œuvre du régime de Kahnawà:ke en matière d’indemnisation des victimes d’accidents du travail et de maladies professionnelles et de retrait préventif de la travailleuse enceinte ou qui allaite”;

(Sessional Paper No. 2097-20201124)

The complementary agreement defining the collaboration between the Commission de la construction du Québec and the Kahnawà:ke Labor Office regarding the construction industry in Kahnawà:ke’s territory entitled “L’Entente complémentaire définissant la collaboration entre la Commission de la construction du Québec et le Bureau de travail de Kahnawà:ke concernant l’industrie de la construction sur le territoire”;

(Sessional Paper No. 2098-20201124)

The complementary agreement for the mobility of Kahnawà:ke workers into the Québec construction industry entitled “L’Entente complémentaire visant l’intégration des travailleurs de Kahnawà:ke à l’industrie de la construction du Québec”.

(Sessional Paper No. 2099-20201124)

He then tabled the following:

The Government’s reply to a petition tabled on 6 October 2020 by Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) on a moratorium of the Sainte-Sophie landfill expansion project;

(Sessional Paper No. 2100-20201124)

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The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 22 October 2020 by Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) on protection measures against fraud and identity theft being free of charge;

(Sessional Paper No. 2101-20201124)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) on the long-standing demands of popular education centres (InterCEP) – Question No. 176, *Order Paper and Notices* of 22 October 2020.

(Sessional Paper No. 2102-20201124)

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The President tabled the following:

A copy of the notice of a motion by Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 25 November 2020 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 2103-20201124)

### Presenting Petitions

Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on opposition to the lifting of agricultural zoning in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, signed by 566 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2104-20201124)

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Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on recognizing the existence of systemic racism and discrimination toward Indigenous peoples in public institutions in Québec, signed by 3,063 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2105-20201124)



### Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

### Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for the French Language, together with Ms. David (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recall that French is the only official language of Québec;

THAT it also recall that the cohesion of the Québec nation depends above all on the vitality of our common language, French;

THAT it acknowledge that the French language is in decline in Québec;

THAT it note that this decline can be observed in several spheres of society, particularly in the labour market, commerce and our higher education institutions;

THAT it reiterate that the Québec State must lead by example when it comes to the use of French, particularly within its administrative entities, such as government departments and bodies, as well as in municipalities;

THAT it find it utterly unacceptable that it is becoming increasingly difficult for Quebecers to ensure the fundamental rights guaranteed under Québec's *Charter of the French language* are respected, such as the right to receive services in French, to be informed in French and to work in French;

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THAT it reaffirm that learning the French language is a fundamental aspect of newcomers' integration and that the Québec State must ensure that immigrant integration is carried out in French;

THAT it acknowledge that the Québec government has a historic responsibility to ensure the protection and promotion of the French language;

THAT it recognize that this situation calls for strong action on the part of the Québec government, including reopening the *Charter of the French language* to update and strengthen several of its provisions;

THAT it affirm that this action must necessarily be accomplished while respecting the rights of English-speaking Quebecers, who enjoy full citizenship, and without this leading to a reduction in the services offered to them in English;

THAT it affirm that the *Charter of the French language* must be applied to companies operating under federal jurisdiction within Québec and call on the Government of Canada to make a formal commitment to work with Québec to ensure the implementation of this change;

THAT, lastly, considering the position of the French language in Québec, the National Assembly support the Québec government's desire to undertake a major reform of the *Charter of the French language* to ensure the continued protection and visibility of our national language.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 20 October 2020, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 611 in Appendix)

Yeas: 121 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

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Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier), together with Ms. Massé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved a motion on Joyce's Principle; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) tabled the following:

A copy of a document entitled "Principe de Joyce".  
(Sessional Paper No. 2106-20201124)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), together with Ms. Hivon (Joliette) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved:

THAT the National Assembly reaffirm its support of the  
*Act respecting the exercise of the fundamental rights and  
prerogatives of the Québec people;*

THAT the National Assembly demand that Canada stop  
calling into question the legal status and inalienable rights of the  
Québec people to self-determination, and that Canada cease its  
proceedings before the Court of Appeal contesting certain  
provisions of this fundamental law.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 20 October 2020, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **612** in Appendix)

Yeas: **121** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

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Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, together with Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved a motion on the French language; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), together with Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), moved:

THAT the National Assembly deplore that 25 Canadian children under 6 years of age, including a number of Quebecers, are prisoners of Syrian refugee camps;

THAT it ask the Government of Canada to repatriate those children as soon as possible.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 20 October 2020, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **613** in Appendix)

Yeas: **121**   Nays: **0**   Abstentions: **0**

### **Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 67, An Act to establish a new development regime for the flood zones of lakes and watercourses, to temporarily grant municipalities powers enabling them to respond to certain needs and to amend various provisions;

- the Committee on Culture and Education, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 69, An Act to amend the Cultural Heritage Act and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 75, An Act to improve justice accessibility and efficiency, in particular to address consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 66, An Act respecting the acceleration of certain infrastructure projects.

#### **Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly**

The President informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 25 November 2020 during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion moved by Mr. Derraji (Nelligan).

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly recognize that thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises are currently required to stay closed due to the restrictions imposed on businesses located in maximum alert zones;

THAT it recognize that the companies not in maximum alert zones but rather in yellow and orange zones must also contend with major reductions in their volume of business;

THAT it acknowledge that the Government's decisions have a huge impact on the finances of our Québec SMEs;

THAT it realize that enterprises must, among other things, continue paying their fixed operating costs;

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THAT it take notice of the fact that the assistance measures proposed by the CAQ government greatly increase Québec SMEs' level of indebtedness;

THAT it denounce the fact that the assistance for businesses in maximum alert zones has not been made available to businesses elsewhere in Québec;

THAT it denounce the delays Québec enterprises have incurred while waiting for the disbursements in connection with the government assistance measures;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly demand that the Québec government promptly establish a moral contract with Québec SMEs that includes additional direct assistance measures and improved assistance foreseeability and access.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

At 3:19 p.m., the President suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 3:29 p.m.

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### **Business Having Precedence**

The Assembly entered upon the debate on the economic update presented on 12 November 2020, in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 17 March 2020.

Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this debate: 1 hour to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 1 hour 56 minutes 26 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 47 minutes 9 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; and 37 minutes 40 seconds to the Third Opposition Group. Within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

The debate resumed.

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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### **Debates upon Adjournment**

At 6:05 p.m., the Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question from Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) to Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services, on the health networks' preparedness to deal with the COVID-19 cases that will result from the social contract proposed by the Premier for the Christmas holiday. Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for the French Language, replaced the Minister for this debate;

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- the second, on a question from Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, to Mr. Legault, Premier, on the protection of the French language. Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for the French Language, replaced the Premier for this debate;
- the third, on a question from Mr. Barrette (La Pinière) to Mr. Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, on the involvement of the Member for Rousseau, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, in the awarding of contracts by the MRC de Montcalm to BC2. Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, replaced the Minister for this debate.

At 6:43 p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 7:30 p.m..

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The proceedings resumed at 7:31 p.m.

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### **Business Having Precedence**

The Assembly continued the debate on the economic update presented on 12 November 2020, in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 17 March 2020.

The debate expired and, in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 17 March 2020, no question was put.



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Ms. Soucy, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly that, in accordance with the motion carried on 17 March 2020, the debate on the economic update presented on 12 November 2020 shall be continued before the Committee on Public Finance for a 5-hour period and that the Minister of Finance shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

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At 9:28 p.m., Ms. Soucy, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 9:40 a.m.

**FRANÇOIS PARADIS**

*President*

## APPENDIX

### Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader:

#### (Division No. 610)

#### YEAS - 121

|                   |                      |                        |                               |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Allaire (CAQ)     | Émond (CAQ)          | LeBel (CAQ)            | Proulx (CAQ)                  |
| Anglade (QLP)     | Fitzgibbon (CAQ)     | (Champlain)            | (Berthier)                    |
| Arcand (QLP)      | Fontecilla (QS)      | Lecours (CAQ)          | Provençal (CAQ)               |
| Arseneau (PQ)     | Fortin (QLP)         | (Lotbinière-Frontenac) | Reid (CAQ)                    |
| Asselin (CAQ)     | Foster (CAQ)         | Lecours (CAQ)          | Richard (PQ)                  |
| Bachand (CAQ)     | Fournier (IND)       | (Les Plaines)          | Rizqy (QLP)                   |
| Barrette (QLP)    | Gaudreault (PQ)      | Leduc (QS)             | Roberge (CAQ)                 |
| Bélanger (CAQ)    | (Jonquière)          | Lefebvre (CAQ)         | Robitaille (QLP)              |
| Benjamin (QLP)    | Ghazal (QS)          | Legault (CAQ)          | Rotiroti (QLP)                |
| Bérubé (PQ)       | Girard (CAQ)         | Leitão (QLP)           | Rouleau (CAQ)                 |
| Birnbaum (QLP)    | (Lac-Saint-Jean)     | Lemay (CAQ)            | Rousselle (QLP)               |
| Blais (CAQ)       | Girard (CAQ)         | Lemieux (CAQ)          | Roy (PQ)                      |
| (Prévost)         | (Groulx)             | Lessard-Therrien (QS)  | (Bonaventure)                 |
| Blais (CAQ)       | Girault (CAQ)        | Lévesque (CAQ)         | Roy (CAQ)                     |
| (Abitibi-Ouest)   | Grondin (CAQ)        | (Chauveau)             | (Montarville)                 |
| Bonnardel (CAQ)   | Guilbault (CAQ)      | Lévesque (CAQ)         | Samson (CAQ)                  |
| Boulet (CAQ)      | Guillemette (CAQ)    | (Chapleau)             | Sauvé (QLP)                   |
| Boutin (CAQ)      | Hébert (CAQ)         | Maccarone (QLP)        | Schneeberger (CAQ)            |
| Bussière (CAQ)    | Hivon (PQ)           | Marissal (QS)          | Simard (CAQ)                  |
| Caire (CAQ)       | Isabelle (CAQ)       | Martel (CAQ)           | Skeete (CAQ)                  |
| Campeau (CAQ)     | Jacques (CAQ)        | Massé (QS)             | St-Pierre (QLP)               |
| Carmant (CAQ)     | Jeannotte (CAQ)      | McCann (CAQ)           | Tanguay (QLP)                 |
| Caron (CAQ)       | Jolin-Barrette (CAQ) | Melançon (QLP)         | Tardif (CAQ)                  |
| Charbonneau (QLP) | Julien (CAQ)         | Ménard (QLP)           | (Laviolette-Saint-Maurice)    |
| Charest (CAQ)     | Kelley (QLP)         | Montpetit (QLP)        | Tardif (CAQ)                  |
| Charette (CAQ)    | Labrie (QS)          | Nadeau-Dubois (QS)     | (Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata) |
| Chassé (CAQ)      | Lachance (CAQ)       | Nichols (QLP)          | Thériault (QLP)               |
| Chassin (CAQ)     | Lacombe (CAQ)        | Ouellet (PQ)           | Thouin (CAQ)                  |
| Ciccone (QLP)     | Laforest (CAQ)       | Ouellette (IND)        | Tremblay (CAQ)                |
| D'Amours (CAQ)    | Laframboise (CAQ)    | Perry Melançon (PQ)    | Weil (QLP)                    |
| Dansereau (CAQ)   | Lafrenière (CAQ)     | Picard (CAQ)           | Zanetti (QS)                  |
| David (QLP)       | Lamontagne (CAQ)     | (Soulanges)            |                               |
| Derraji (QLP)     | Lamothe (CAQ)        | Polo (QLP)             |                               |
| Dorion (QS)       | Lavallée (CAQ)       | Poulin (CAQ)           |                               |
| Dubé (CAQ)        | LeBel (PQ)           | Proulx (CAQ)           |                               |
| Dufour (CAQ)      | (Rimouski)           | (Côte-du-Sud)          |                               |

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On the motion moved by Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for the French Language, together with Ms. David (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin):

**(Division No. 611)**

*(Identical to Division No. 610)*

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On the motion moved by Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), together with Ms. Hivon (Joliette) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin):

**(Division No. 612)**

*(Identical to Division No. 610)*

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On the motion moved by Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), together with Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion):

**(Division No. 613)**

*(Identical to Division No. 610)*

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