



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 1 April 2021 — No. 176

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

The Assembly was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jean-Marie Dubois, Professor Emeritus at the Université de Sherbrooke.

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) made a statement to underline World Autism Awareness Day and Autism Month.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to announce the results of the referendum on the name of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu's new bridge.

Ms. Melançon (Verdun) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Bineta Ba, Executive Director of the organization Toujours ensemble.

Mr. Reid (Beauharnois) made a statement to pay tribute to two Sûreté du Québec officers for their act of bravery.

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Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) made a statement to underline Daffodil Month.

Ms. Foster (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to underline the retirement of Ms. Suzanne Gaudreault, Director General of the Municipalité de Saint-Aimé-des-Lacs.

Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) made a statement to underline Mr. Jean Renaud's courage and his fight against cancer.

Mr. Lacombe (Papineau) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jean-Claude Chartrand, chef and owner of the restaurant L'Orée du Bois.

Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) made a statement to lament the holding of an in-camera summit on academic success.

At 9:53 a.m., Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:05 a.m.

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Moment of reflection

The President informed the Assembly that he had, within the prescribed time, received a request for an urgent debate from Mr. Fortin, Official Opposition House Leader, with respect to Québec's public health situation, which has alarmingly deteriorated extremely rapidly in the past few days.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

To determine whether a request for an urgent debate is receivable, the Chair must examine the criteria stipulated in the Standing Orders and in jurisprudence. To be receivable, a request for an urgent debate must concern a specific, important matter that falls under the Assembly's jurisdiction. Furthermore, the object of the debate must concern a sudden, acute crisis or the worsening of such a crisis. The Chair must also take into consideration whether the matter has been discussed in other circumstances and whether there will be upcoming opportunities to do so.

However, before examining these criteria, the Chair must also take into account Standing Order 54, which sets out the order of priority of the debates that may take place during a given sitting. In this regard, Urgent Debates rank second after Business Having Precedence.

In addition, the House undertook the debate on the Budget Speech yesterday, which has priority under paragraph 5 of Standing Order 87. An urgent debate can therefore not be held while the Assembly is seized of a matter of greater priority. Consequently, the Chair is not required to examine the receivability criteria as such, given that no urgent debate may be held while the debate on the Budget Speech is in progress.

Accordingly, the request for an urgent debate is out of order.

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Introduction of Bills

Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

699 An Act to promote integration of immigrants by organizing welcome ceremonies for newcomers

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **909** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Accordingly, Bill 699 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Petitions

Ms. Hébert, Deputy Government Whip, tabled the following on behalf of Mr. Lemay (Masson):

The abstract of a petition on declaring a national day of mourning for animals, signed by 110 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2439-20210401)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on free dental care, signed by 248 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 2440-20210401)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

The President informed the Assembly that he had, within the prescribed time, received a request from Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, to be heard on an alleged breach of privilege.

In his notice, the House Leader of the Second Opposition Group alleged that the Minister of Education acted in contempt of Parliament for having misled the Assembly by declaring in the House that the protocol for measuring the quality of air in schools had been developed following the recommendation of the Direction générale de la santé publique du Québec.

The notice further stated the Official Opposition House Leader's intention to move a motion under Standing Orders 315 and following.

The President informed the Assembly that he would hear arguments at a later sitting.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Legault, Premier, tabled the following:

Three versions of a document concerning the ventilation of school facilities entitled “Directive sur la ventilation des installations scolaires”, including certain corrections suggested by the Direction générale de la santé publique.

(Sessional Paper No. 2441-20210401)

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services, together with Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Mr. Thouin (Rousseau), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark April as Daffodil Month and Cancer Awareness Month;

THAT it recall that each year, more than 55,000 Quebecers are diagnosed with cancer and that receiving this diagnosis is a major shock affecting all spheres of their lives;

THAT it recall that cancer is the leading cause of death in Québec, but that thanks to funding for innovative research, the survival rate for all types of cancer combined has increased by 8%, rising from 55% in 1992 to 63% in 2019;

THAT it reiterate that approximately four out of every ten cancers could be prevented by adopting a healthy lifestyle and by implementing public health policies designed to protect Quebecers;

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THAT, in support of the Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Month, the Assembly encourage all Quebecers to make a meaningful gesture toward someone touched by cancer.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **910** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee), together with Ms. Girault, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Mr. Thouin (Rousseau), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Yom Hashoah, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, being held on 8 April 2021.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **911** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

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Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), together with Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), Ms. Hivon (Joliette), Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved a motion on ventilation in Québec schools; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved a motion on a public transport project in the east and northeast of the city of Montréal; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 84, An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 59, An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 60, An Act to amend the Public Service Act and other provisions;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 79, An Act to authorize the communication of personal information to the families of Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution;

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- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to undertake public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 88, An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and other legislative provisions.

The President gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

The President informed the Assembly that on Friday, 16 April 2021, Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) would question Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, during an interpellation on the CAQ government's difficulties in delivering services, particularly health care and the lack of structural measures in the 2021–2022 budget to counter the labour shortage.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

At 11:28 a.m., the President suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 11:36 a.m.

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned 31 March 2021, on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) and Ms. Sauvé (Fabre), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of her address, Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2021–2022 budget, which does not provide the resources and means needed to ensure environmental protection and the fight against climate change.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), Ms. Sauvé (Fabre) and Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), subject to the receivability of these motions.

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At 1:00 p.m., Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

Debates upon Adjournment

At 1:05 p.m., in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question from Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) to Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the management of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Proulx, Minister of Tourism, replaced the Minister for this debate;
 - the second, on a question from Mr. Barrette (La Pinière) to Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, about ethical issues surrounding the Minister of Economy and Innovation. Ms. Proulx, Minister for Regional Economic Development, replaced the Minister for this debate.
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At 1:29 p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2:30 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2:30 p.m.

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Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), Ms. Sauvé (Fabre) and Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of her speech, Ms. Melançon (Verdun) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for the lack of investment in its budget for shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), Ms. Sauvé (Fabre), Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) and Ms. Melançon (Verdun), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his address, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly denounce, within the framework of the 2021–2022 budget, the submission of the CAQ government to the Canadian regime, depriving Québec of levers that are key to fighting the pandemic and to making a fair and green recovery.

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The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), Ms. Sauvé (Fabre), Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Ms. Melançon (Verdun) and Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At 4:29 p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 13 April 2021 at 1:40 p.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Thursday, 1 April 2021 at 11:40 a.m. in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Ms. Roy, Minister of Culture and Communications and Delegate of the Premier, and of Ms. Beauregard, Director of Sitings and Parliamentary Procedure and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable J. Michel Doyon, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following bill:

69 An Act to amend the Cultural Heritage Act and other legislative provisions

FRANÇOIS PARADIS

President

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APPENDIX
Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin):

(Division No. 909)

YEAS - 117

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

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On the motion moved by Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services, together with Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Mr. Thouin (Rousseau):

(Division No. 910)

(Identical to Division No. 909)

On the motion moved by Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee), together with Ms. Girault, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Mr. Thouin (Rousseau):

(Division No. 911)

(Identical to Division No. 909)
