

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Thursday, 15 April 2021 — No. 179 *Nine forty a.m.*

President of the National Assembly: Mr. François Paradis

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Lac-Saint-Jean on the following subject: 1st anniversary of Mon voisin, je m'en occupe.
- The Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on the following subject: 31 years of passion for the well-being of seniors in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Mohamed Soulami, intercultural champion.*
- The Member for Saint-Laurent on the following subject: *Thanks to the volunteers in Saint-Laurent in the context of the 2021 Volunteer Week.*
- The Member for Granby on the following subject: 30th edition of the benefit brunch of Oasis santé mentale Granby et région.
- The Member for Bonaventure on the following subject: Underline the courage of Mr. Stéphane Boudreau and his spouse, Ms. Catherine Audet.
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Challenge met by the vocational training school's apprentice cooks.*
- The Member for Jean-Lesage on the following subject: April, Daffodil Month.
- The Member for Beauharnois on the following subject: A well-deserved retirement for Mr. Michel Ménard, director of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield's Service de sécurité incendie.
- The Member for Huntingdon on the following subject: *Richard and Oxanna Béliveau: father and daughter answer the call!*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PRESENTING a) Papers

- b) Reports from committees
- c) **Petitions**

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEFERRED DIVISIONS

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

(1) Pursuant to Standing Orders 275 and 276, continuation of the debate on the motion by the Minister of Finance – That this Assembly approves the budgetary policy of the Government,

And on the motions stating a grievance moved by:

The Leader of the Official Opposition

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its denial of the labour shortage and for not presenting the concrete solutions to which it has access to resolve this challenge now.

The Member for Jonquière:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for the lack of vision toward a green and fair transition in this budget.

The Member for Sherbrooke:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its 2021–2022 budget which does not alleviate underinvestment in education and early childcare sectors, thereby contributing to the perpetuation of inequalities, especially gender inequality.

The Member for Gaspé:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for the lack of adequate funding for the network of shelters for abused women.

The Member for Fabre:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for having abolished the Caregiver Support Fund in the budget.

The Member for Mercier:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2021–2022 budget, which does not provide the resources or necessary means to meet the requirements of protecting the environment and fighting against climate change.

The Member for Verdun:

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

The Member for Jean-Lesage:

THAT the National Assembly denounce, in the context of the 2021–2022 budget, the CAQ government's submission to the Canadian system that deprives Québec of crucial levers to deal with the pandemic and carry out a green and fair recovery.

The Leader of the Second Opposition Group

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2021–2022 Budget, "Québec is Resilient and Confident", due to its lack of ambition when it comes to the economic and ecological transition, and for promising a resilient Québec society but does not provide the measures necessary to attain this and also fails to acknowledge the inadequate level of preparedness of our industries, cities, institutions and communities for the inevitable impacts of climate change.

The Member for Joliette

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for:

The significant increase in the number of children waiting for a space in an educational childcare service;

The decline, for a third consecutive year, in investments provided for in the Québec Infrastructure Plan to ensure the development of new subsidized childcare spaces;

The fact that many parents are now forced to delay returning to the workforce due to lack of access to a childcare space for their child;

The lack of means, vision and proactivity to deal with the unprecedented shortage of educators and the serious lack of spaces in educational childcare services.

The Member for Maurice-Richard

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its budget, which does not offer a sustainable solution to the labour shortage in Québec's health services, nor a concrete plan to catch up on the surgeries delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Member for LaFontaine

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for having presented a budget that does not include a comprehensive plan to address the childcare services crisis and meet the needs of the 51,000 families waiting for a space for their child.

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

(2) Bill 30

An Act to recover amounts owed to the State Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on **14 June 2019**

(**3**) Bill 49

An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act and various legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on 13 November 2019

(**4**) Bill 61

An Act to restart Québec's economy and to mitigate the consequences of the public health emergency declared on 13 March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 3 June 2020

Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 11 June 2020

Resuming the debate adjourned in the name of the Member for La Pinière on **12 June 2020**

(5) Bill 83

An Act respecting mainly the health insurance plan and prescription drug insurance plan eligibility of certain children whose parents' migratory status is precarious

Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on **10 December 2020**

(6) Bill 86

An Act respecting the demise of the Crown Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie on **11 March 2021**

(7) Bill 88

An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and other legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks on 11 March 2021

Committee Stage

(8) Bill 23

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 Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and

Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 18 April 2019

Passed in principle on 19 September 2019, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(9) Bill 39

An Act to establish a new electoral system Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions, Electoral Reform and Access to Information on 25 September 2019 Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 11 February 2020 Passed in principle on **8 October 2020**, and Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(10)Bill 59

An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 27 October 2020 Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 2 February 2021 Passed in principle on **16 February 2021**, and Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(**11**)Bill 64

An Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions, Electoral Reform and Access to Information on 12 June 2020, and Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 30 September 2020 Passed in principle on **20 October 2020**, and Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(12)Bill 74

An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 10 March 2020 and to certain other measures Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 2 December 2020 Passed in principle on **2 February 2021**, and Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(13)Bill 78

An Act mainly to improve the transparency of enterprises Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 8 December 2020 Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 9 March 2021 Passed in principle on **14 April 2021**, and Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(14)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

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs on 9 December 2020

Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on 13 April 2021

Passed in principle on 14 April 2021, and

Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

(15)Bill 82

An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 10 March 2020 Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 11 December 2020 Passed in principle on **17 February 2021**, and Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(16)Bill 84*

An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 10 December 2020 Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 2 February 2021 Passed in principle on **4 February 2021**, and Referred to the Committee on Institutions

* Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor

Report Stage

Passage

(17)Bill 60

An Act to amend the Public Service Act and other provisions Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 12 June 2020 Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 17 February 2021 Passed in principle on 9 March 2021 Report from the Committee on Public Finance concurred in on **14 April 2021**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

(18)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**

(**19**)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

(20)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**

(21)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**

Introduced by the Member for Joliette on 7 February 2019

(22)Bill 194

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

Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on 21 February 2019

(23)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**

(24)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

(25)Bill 198

An Act to facilitate disclosure of wrongdoings Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **9 May 2019**

(26)Bill 199

An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to establish a right of citizen initiative in environmental matters and reinforce the powers and independence of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement Introduced by the Member for Mercier on 25 September 2019

(27)Bill 391

An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to assert the primacy of Québec's jurisdiction in this area Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **30 May 2019**

(28)Bill 392

An Act respecting the selection of Québec senators Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **9 May 2019**

(29)Bill 393

An Act to affirm Québec's participation in the appointment process for Québec Supreme Court of Canada judges Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **16 May 2019**

(30)Bill 396

An Act to amend the Civil Code to provide that an action for damages for bodily injury resulting from a sexual aggression, from childhood violence or from the violent behaviour of a spouse or former spouse cannot be prescribed during the lifetime of the author of the act

Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on 12 June 2019

(**31**)Bill 397

An Act to reinforce oversight of the processes to select, renew a term of or dismiss directors of municipal police forces Introduced by the Member for Vaudreuil on **14 November 2019**

(32)Bill 398

An Act to proclaim Québec Democracy Day Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **20 February 2020**

(**33**)Bill 399

An Act to establish a presumption of consent to organ or tissue donation after death

Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on 5 November 2019

(34)Bill 490

An Act to establish the gradual electrification of Québec's vehicle fleet Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **26 September 2019**

(35)Bill 491

An Act to combat food waste Introduced by the Member for Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue on **12 November 2020**

(36)Bill 492

Right-to-Disconnect Act Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **3 June 2020**

(37)Bill 493

Interculturalism Act Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **30 October 2019**

(38)Bill 495

An Act to authorize the recording of sound and images during the public sittings of a municipal council or the public meetings of a council of a metropolitan community Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **20 November 2019**

(39)Bill 496

Parliamentary Budget Officer Act Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **14 November 2019**

(40)Bill 497

An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms in order to strengthen the protection of seniors' rights and create the office of Seniors Ombudsperson

Introduced by the Member for Rimouski on 4 December 2019

(**41**)Bill 590

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to establish free French instruction services for every person who resides in Québec Introduced by the Member for Jacques-Cartier on **4 December 2019**

(42)Bill 591

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to define the circumstances under which an employer may make knowledge of a language other than the official language a requirement for access to employment or a position

Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on 12 February 2020

(43)Bill 594

An Act to improve the quality of care through the setting of ratios in certain institutions governed by the Act respecting health services and social services Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on **26 May 2020**

(44)Bill 595

An Act to create the Rent Register Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **4 June 2020**

(45)Bill 596

An Act to establish Pharma-Québec Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **15 September 2020**

(46)Bill 597

An Act to improve support offered to entrepreneurs and farmers in relation to mental health

Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on 10 June 2020

(47)Bill 598

An Act to authorize the holder of a restaurant sales liquor permit to sell, for takeout or delivery, spirit-based alcoholic beverages Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **12 June 2020**

(48)Bill 599

An Act to respect sexual orientation and gender identity Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on 22 September 2020

(49)Bill 690

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to specify that it applies to private enterprises operating in an area of federal jurisdiction Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **24 September 2020**

(50)Bill 691

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Transports to maintain air transportation services in certain regions of Québec Introduced by the Member for Mont-Royal–Outremont on **30 September 2020**

(**51**)Bill 692

An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to prohibit fighting in sports activities in which persons under 18 years of age participate Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **21 October 2020**

(52)Bill 693

An Act to amend the Election Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in the context of political activities

Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on 22 October 2020

(53)Bill 695

An Act to set a standard for the maximum concentration of manganese in drinking water

Introduced by the Member for Vaudreuil on 9 December 2020

(54)Bill 696

An Act providing for the temporary suspension of the right to increase the rent for a lease of a dwelling Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **10 February 2021**

(55)Bill 697

An Act to promote the disclosure of wrongdoings and strengthen the protection of whistleblowers

Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on 17 March 2021

(56)Bill 698

An Act to temporarily limit the charges that restaurateurs may be required to pay for online order services and meal delivery services Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **18 February 2021**

(57)Bill 699

Act to promote integration of immigrants by organizing welcome ceremonies for newcomers Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **1 April 2021**

(58)Bill 792

An Act to enhance the transparency of municipal councils Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **14 April 2021**

Committee Stage

(59)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 Passed in principle on **13 April 2021**, and Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

Report Stage

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

(60)Bill 209

An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Tite Introduced by the Member for Maskinongé on **4 December 2019**, and Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(61)Bill 214

An Act respecting Ville de Sutton Introduced by the Member for Richmond on **12 November 2020**, and Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(62)Bill 215

An Act respecting Municipalité de Nominingue Introduced by the Member for Labelle on **12 November 2020**, and Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(63)Bill 216

An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a special taxation scheme for the Corporation de gestion du port de Baie-Comeau Introduced by the Member for René-Lévesque on **21 October 2020**, and Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(64)Bill 217

An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal

Introduced by the Member for Westmount-Saint-Louis on 11 November 2020, and

Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(65)Bill 219

An Act respecting an immovable located on Rue University in Montréal Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **11 November 2020**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

(66)Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2022 tabled by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 25 March 2021 and referred for consideration ot the standing committees on 30 March 2021

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

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 her 2018–2019 annual management report and financial commitments.
- Hearing of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor on the Report on the application of the *Public Administration Act*.
- Hearing of the Public Curator on Chapter 6 of the Auditor General of Québec's November 2019 report entitled "Protection of Incapacitated Persons Under Public Protective Supervision".
- Hearing of the Société d'habitation du Québec on Chapter 4 of the Auditor General of Québec's October 2020 report on housing projects entitled "AccèsLogis Québec Programme: Réalisation des projets d'habitation" as a follow-up to recommendation 2.1 of the 41st report from the Committee on Public Administration.
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques on Chapter 2 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's June 2020 report entitled "Eco-Taxation, Cross-Compliance and Eco-Responsibility for a Green and Responsible Economy".
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation on Chapter 3 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's June 2020 report entitled "Conservation of Water Resources".
- Hearing of the Ministère de la Famille on its administrative management and financial commitments, as well as on Chapter 2 of the Auditor General of Québec's October 2020 report entitled "Access to Educational Childcare Services".
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation on its administrative management and financial commitments.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Order of reference

 Examination of Hydro-Québec's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 (Order of reference given on 5 December 2019).

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.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

 Bill 49, An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act and various legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 13 April 2021).

Consideration of Bills:

- Bill 209, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Tite (Order of reference given on 4 December 2019).
- **Bill 214**, An Act respecting Ville de Sutton (Order of reference given on 12 November 2020).
- Bill 215, An Act respecting Municipalité de Nominingue (Order of reference given on 12 November 2020).
- Bill 216, An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a special taxation scheme for the Corporation de gestion du port de Baie-Comeau (Order of reference given on 21 October 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Hearing the Commission municipale du Québec.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Statutory order

- Hearing the heads of educational institutions at the university level.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 59**, An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime (Order of reference given on 16 February 2021).
- **Bill 78**, An Act mainly to improve the transparency of enterprises (Order of reference given on 14 April 2021).
- **Bill 217**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 11 November 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation :

- by the Member for Nelligan to the Minister of Finance on the following subject: *The CAQ government's difficulties in delivering services, particularly health care and the lack of effective measures to address the labour shortage in the 2021–2022 budget* (notice given on 1 April 2021).

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- Bill 23, 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 (Order of reference given on 19 September 2019).
- Bill 74, An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 10 March 2020 and to certain other measures (Order of reference given on 2 February 2021).
- Bill 82, An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 10 March 2020 (Order of reference given on 17 February 2021).
- Bill 219, An Act respecting an immovable located on Rue University in Montréal (Order of reference given on 11 November 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Quarterly examination of the Government's budgetary policy and of the evolution of public finance.
- Continuation of the debate on the budget speech.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 39**, An Act to establish a new electoral system (Order of reference given on 8 October 2020).
- **Bill 64**, An Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information (Order of reference given on 20 October 2020).
- **Bill 84**, An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery (Order of reference given on 4 February 2021).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 14 avril 2021).
- Bill 197, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods (Order of reference given on 13 April 2021).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 83**, An Act respecting mainly the health insurance plan and prescription drug insurance plan eligibility of certain children whose parents' migratory status is precarious (Order of reference given on 25 March 2021).

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

 Bill 88, An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 30 March 2021).

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE ACT RESPECTING END-OF-LIFE CARE

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

 Examine the issues related to extending medical aid in dying to persons who are incapable of caring for themselves or who are suffering from a mental illness.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

<u>Questions already placed</u> on the Order Paper are published each Wednesday

(228) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **15 April 2021** To the Government

The Québec government acquired the ports of Rimouski, Matane, Gaspé and Gros-Cacouna from the Canadian government on 30 March 2020. It took three years of negotiations to complete the acquisition. According to the President and CEO of the Société portuaire du Bas-Saint-Laurent et de la Gaspésie, Ms. Anne Dupéré, we inherited structures from the federal government that were in very poor condition. Structures whose deterioration is accelerated each year by snow and wind storms.

Time is of the essence, and due to Ottawa's neglect in past years, it seems obvious that a lot more time will be required to modernize these ports that are key for eastern Québec's economy. According to the port corporation, work is not slated to begin before 2023 or 2024, "provided everything goes well".

The transfer of property from Ottawa to Québec City was accompanied by a cheque for nearly \$150 million to carry out this work, which is considered major. People closely involved in this issue are convinced that the \$150 million from Ottawa will not be enough. This is a matter of concern to the port corporation's board of directors.

My question is the following:

Can the Government confirm the timelines for work to begin and does it think that the \$150 million transferred from Ottawa will be sufficient to modernize these four ports? If not, does it intend to take the matter up again with Ottawa, which is responsible for the deterioration of these ports, or does it intend to provide the funds for the work itself?

NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

(a) 13 April 2021

An Act to amend the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and workforce management in the construction industry to right the power imbalance – *Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

(aa) Interpellation by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine to the Minister Responsible for the Metropolis and the Montréal Region on the following subject: *The public transit projects in eastern Montréal.*