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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, 15 September 2021 – No. 204**

*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 Chauveau on the following subject: *Mr. Serge Duchesneau – This year’s winner of the Columbian Award for his many years of volunteer service.*
- The Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys on the following subject: *Underline Lucille and Jean-Baptiste Vachon’s 70th wedding anniversary.*
- The Member for Beauce-Nord on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. André Spénard’s professional, community and political career over the years.*
- The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé on the following subject: *Tribute to the Société d’histoire et de généalogie de Montréal-Nord.*
- The Member for Vanier-Les Rivières on the following subject: *Celebrate Mr. Clément Allard’s 360th blood donation.*
- The Member for Jonquière on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Philippe Belley.*
- The Member for Beauce-Sud on the following subject: *40 years – La croisée des chemins.*
- The Member for Argenteuil on the following subject: *The Fondation Jérémie Paradis encourages sports activities for Argenteuil’s youth.*
- The Member for Arthabaska on the following subject: *Project to reduce food waste.*

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

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Part 2

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**URGENT DEBATES**

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**I. Government Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

- (1) 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**
  
- (2) 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**
  
- (3) Bill 96  
An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec  
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for the French Language on  
**13 May 2021**

- (4) Bill 97  
An Act to amend the Act respecting energy efficiency and energy conservation standards for certain electrical or hydrocarbon-fuelled appliances  
Introduced by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources on 27 May 2021  
Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources (consultations) tabled on **14 September 2021**.
- (5) Bill 100  
Tourist Accommodation Act  
Introduced by the Minister of Tourism on 8 June 2021  
Report of the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **14 September 2021**
- (6) Bill 101  
An Act to strengthen the fight against maltreatment of seniors and other persons of full age in vulnerable situations as well as the monitoring of the quality of health services and social services  
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers on **9 June 2021**

*Committee Stage*

- (7) 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

- (8) 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
- (9) 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  
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on 27 April 2021  
Passed in principle on **25 May 2021**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
- (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 99  
An Act to amend mainly the Food Products Act  
Introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 10 June 2021  
Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources (consultations) tabled on **14 September 2021**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

*Report Stage*

**(12) 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

Report of the Committee on Institutions tabled on **14 September 2021**  
(Amend. Handed in under Standing Order 252)

*Passage*

**II. Private Members' Public Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

**(13) 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**

**(14) 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**

**(15) 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**

**(16) 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**

- (17) Bill 194  
An Act to ensure compliance with Québec's climate change-related obligations  
Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **21 February 2019**
- (18) 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**
- (19) 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**
- (20) Bill 198  
An Act to facilitate disclosure of wrongdoings  
Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **9 May 2019**
- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**
- (23) Bill 392  
An Act respecting the selection of Québec senators  
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **9 May 2019**
- (24) 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**

- (25) 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**
- (26) 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**
- (27) Bill 398  
An Act to proclaim Québec Democracy Day  
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **20 February 2020**
- (28) 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**
- (29) 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**
- (30) Bill 491  
An Act to combat food waste  
Introduced by the Member for Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue on  
**12 November 2020**
- (31) Bill 492  
Right-to-Disconnect Act  
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **3 June 2020**
- (32) Bill 493  
Interculturalism Act  
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **30 October 2019**

- (33) 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**
- (34) Bill 496  
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act  
Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **14 November 2019**
- (35) 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**
- (36) 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**
- (37) 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**
- (38) Bill 592  
An Act to amend the Act respecting the flag and emblems of Québec to enhance the presence of the flag of Québec  
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **11 June 2021**
- (39) Bill 593  
An Act to change the minimum age required to be a qualified elector  
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **10 June 2021**

- (40) 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**
- (41) Bill 595  
An Act to create the Rent Register  
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **4 June 2020**
- (42) Bill 596  
An Act to establish Pharma-Québec  
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **15 September 2020**
- (43) 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**
- (44) 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**
- (45) Bill 599  
An Act to respect sexual orientation and gender identity  
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **22 September 2020**
- (46) 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**
- (47) 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**

- (48) 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**
- (49) 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**
- (50) Bill 694  
An Act to regulate appointments to certain senior positions  
Introduced by the Member for René-Levesque on **10 June 2021**
- (51) 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**
- (52) 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**
- (53) 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**
- (54) 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**
- (55) 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**

- (56) Bill 790  
An Act to amend the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and workforce management in the construction industry to right the power imbalance  
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **15 April 2021**
- (57) Bill 792  
An Act to enhance the transparency of municipal councils  
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **14 April 2021**
- (58) Bill 794  
An Act to amend the Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec to facilitate the production and circulation of statistical information  
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **21 April 2021**
- (59) Bill 795  
An Act to permanently limit the amount of certain charges payable by restaurateurs when they retain the delivery services of a third person  
Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **27 May 2021**
- (60) Bill 796  
An Act respecting the Agence des infrastructures de transport du Québec  
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **1 June 2021**
- (61) Bill 797  
An Act to amend the Business Corporations Act to include benefit corporations  
Introduced by the Member for Robert-Baldwin on **26 May 2021**
- (62) Bill 798  
An Act to entitle employees to a “vaccine break” to receive a COVID-19 vaccination  
Introduced by the Member for Gouin on **6 May 2021**
- (63) Bill 890  
An Act to amend various legislative provisions relating to financial assistance for education expenses  
Introduced by the Member for Bonaventure on **27 May 2021**

**(64)** Bill 893

An Act to facilitate the marketing of Québec microdistillers' and microbrewers' products  
Introduced by the Member for Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue on **10 June 2021**

*Committee Stage*

**(65)** 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

**(66)** Bill 793

An Act to recognize the white admiral as the emblematic insect of Québec  
Introduced by the Member for Argenteuil on 26 May 2021  
Passed in principle on **10 June 2021**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

*Report Stage*

*Passage*

**III. Private Bills**

*Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration*

**(67)** 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

*Passage in Principle*

**(68)** Bill 219

An Act respecting an immovable located on Rue University in Montréal (on the Royal Victoria site) (*modified titled*)

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

Report of the Committee on Public Finance passed on 14 September 2021

*Passage*

**IV. Government Motions**

**V. Estimates of Expenditure**

**VI. Statutory Debates**

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

**(69)** 14 September 2021

Motion standing in the name of the Member for LaFontaine

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the importance of educational childcare services for child development;

THAT it ask that access to a childcare space be a recognized right under the *Educational Childcare Act*, without conditions, in the same way as the right to education provided for in the *Education Act*.

Part 3

**BILLS PASSED**

*(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)*

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 Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor on the Report on the application of the *Public Administration Act*.
- 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).

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 99**, An Act to amend mainly the Food Products Act (Order of reference given on 14 September 2021).

### **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**

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **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 25 May 2021).

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

#### Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Hearing the Commission municipale du Québec.

## COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

### **Order of reference**

#### Special Consultations:

- Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec (Order of reference given on 14 September 2021).

### **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 217**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archbishopial corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 11 November 2020).

## 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).

## 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 793**, An Act to recognize the white admiral as the emblematic insect of Québec (Order of reference given on 10 June 2021).

## COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

### Order of reference

#### Special Consultations:

- **Bill 101**, An Act to strengthen the fight against maltreatment of seniors and other persons of full age in vulnerable situations as well as the monitoring of the quality of health services and social services (Order of reference given on 14 September 2021).

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **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

## COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**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 (Order of reference given on 31 March 2021).

Part 5

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

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

(238) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **27 May 2021**  
To the Government

The month of May is a time to raise awareness of celiac disease, a gluten allergy that affects about 1% of the Québec population. Unfortunately, it can take up to ten years for it to be diagnosed.

This chronic autoimmune disease affects people who are genetically predisposed. Consumption of gluten-containing foods by a person with celiac disease causes an abnormal and disproportionate immune system response. Some people have no symptoms, while others are very sick to the point of not being functional.

There is no treatment and the solution is for these people to eliminate gluten from their diets. That is why the organization Cœliaque Québec is asking the Government to provide financial assistance for people with the disease, as gluten-free foods are very expensive.

My question is the following:

Why doesn't the Government offer the same measure that is offered to parents of children with celiac disease, who can receive up to \$200 per month to help them with groceries thanks to the supplement for disabled children?

(241) Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) – **9 June 2021**  
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Today I would like to draw your attention to Québec's pre-hospital emergency services.

On 27 December 2017, a young 24-year-old paramedic named Hugo St-Onge died from respiratory arrest in Lévis because 21 minutes elapsed between the 911 call and the arrival of the ambulance. On 30 July 2020, the report from coroner Julie Langlois concluded that this incident could have been avoided and pointed out the lack of ambulances to serve this territory. One month before his death, Mr. St-Onge had signed an open letter denouncing the lack of ambulance personnel in Chaudière-Appalaches. To this day, despite the publication of the coroner's report, paramedics are still waiting for a response from the Minister.

Following this incident in 2017, Dessercom (Mr. St-Onge's employer) requested an additional vehicle from the CISSS de Chaudière-Appalaches. However, the CISSS did not see fit, at that time, to forward this request to the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS). It was not until the day the coroner's report was tabled, July 30th of last year, that the CISSS finally made the request – three years after the death of Hugo St-Onge. On 20 August 2020, the office of the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services requested a review of the ambulance service in Lévis. This review is still underway.

The situation in the Lévis region is not an exception. Québec's pre-hospital system is failing in multiple ways and a complete overhaul is required. Furthermore, the MSSS is planning a reform. In 2019, it established the Comité national de transformation des services préhospitaliers d'urgence (CNTSPU) chaired by Michel C. Doré. A first report was to be tabled in the spring of 2020, but we are still awaiting tabling.

The CNTSPU issued its diagnosis of the situation identifying 25 key elements that justify the urgency to take action. This committee has openly shared its conclusions that due to the changing needs of the population, developments in health care continuums, technological support capabilities, and demographic challenges as well as contemporary performance standards, major changes to the system are required.

In light of the aforementioned, my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are as follows:

1. What steps are planned next leading up to the release of the CNTSPU report?
2. When can we expect the final tabling?
3. Will the Minister commit to implementing all of the CNTSPU's recommendations with a view to providing Quebecers with a quality pre-hospital emergency system?

(247) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **14 September 2021**  
To the Minister of Transport

On 11 May 2018, the federal government announced a new rail bypass for Lac-Mégantic to ensure that trains would no longer travel through its downtown core. According to the agreement reached by the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec to cover the cost of the 12 km bypass estimated at \$133 million, Québec will pay 40% of the cost, while the federal government will pay the rest. The 5-year project is slated for completion in 2023. As a result, trains should be using the bypass 10 years after the tragedy.

In December 2019, Canadian Pacific (CP) completed its acquisition of the Central Maine & Québec Railway (CMQR). It became involved in the project as of October 2020 during the initial phase consisting in carrying out the feasibility analysis. According to the Transport Canada timetable, the plans and specifications were to be completed in 2021 and construction was to begin in 2021 for commissioning in 2023.

Since the spring of this year, Mr. François Charbonneau, a retired engineer, has been calling on the various levels of government to recognize that it will be impossible to meet the 2023 deadline unless they take charge of the situation and shift into high gear.

Finally, on 27 May of this year, Ottawa and CP reached an agreement to ensure that the initial deadline would be met, even though the President and CEO of CP had clearly stated that the 2023 target was unrealistic unless the government assumed all the financial risks associated with carrying out the engineering and construction phases simultaneously.

This portion of the railway is under federal jurisdiction. However, in light of the Québec government's 2018 commitment to invest more than \$53 million, it is only reasonable that the Minister of Transport be entitled to have a say regarding the anticipated construction delay, which will probably result in additional costs. The people of Lac-Mégantic deserve to have this rail bypass built by the prescribed 2023 deadline so that they can live in a safer environment, as the tragedy has left many scars.

My questions to the Minister are the following:

1. Does the cost sharing for the construction of the Lac-Mégantic bypass entitle the Minister of Transport to take action to ensure the work is completed within the prescribed period?
2. Considering Québec's major investment in the construction of the bypass, will it be possible for the Government of Québec to follow up with the Government of Canada to know all the details of the agreement made to ensure that the bypass is completed by 2023?
3. Given CP's late arrival in the feasibility study phase, which is taking longer than planned, and the control CP will have over the entire project without contributing financially, will it be possible for the Government of Québec to ask CP's management to specify the date it intends to begin the plans and specifications phase?

(248) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **14 September 2021**

To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change

Citizens of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville and of Chambly have recently brought to my attention the air pollution caused by crematoriums. Today, I would like to ensure that the Minister of the Environment will be giving this matter special attention. Chapter VIII of the Clean Air Regulation (CAR) deals specifically with crematoriums and animal incinerators, which are not considered incinerators and are therefore not subject to the stricter standards and rules in CAR's Chapter VII, which governs other incinerators.

Their sole requirement is to report, every five years, the concentration of total particles emitted into the atmosphere, without identifying the particles or analyzing samples of the other contaminants emitted.

Yet scientific articles and Canada's Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory show that crematoriums emit 10 of the 12 most toxic contaminants denounced by the WHO and the Stockholm Convention.

According to the Canadian inventory, in 2019, crematoriums emitted just as much if not more dioxins and mercury than the most polluting companies. Crematoriums and animal incinerators do not use a filtration system, nor are they required to do so under Québec regulations.

However, these facilities are located in residential areas without buffer zones to protect sensitive areas near childcare centres, schools and homes.

Forty percent of the 85 crematoriums in Québec are located less than 20 metres from homes and 87% are less than 300 metres away. This is illegal in many countries and other Canadian provinces, including Ontario where a buffer zone of up to 500 metres is required.

Every day, thousands of Quebecers must endure this environmental pollution that affects their quality of life and needlessly jeopardizes their health.

Considering the foregoing, our questions to the Minister are the following:

1. Why are crematoriums and animal incinerators not subject to the same regulations as incinerators that require sample analyses and annual reporting of the contaminants they emit into the atmosphere?
2. Why are they allowed to be located nears homes, childcare centres, schools and parks and needlessly expose Québec families to the most toxic contaminants?
3. What does the Minister intend to do to remedy this situation, which is socially unacceptable and runs counter to all sustainable development efforts?

(249) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin)  
To the Minister of Education

In the factsheet “Enseigner et apprendre dehors” (outdoor teaching and learning) published in June 2020 and created in collaboration with the Fondation Monique-Fitz-Back, your department acknowledged the positive links between the outdoor learning approach and benefits such as student engagement, healthy lifestyles, critical and creative thinking, a heightened awareness of environmental responsibility and a greater sense of community. However, the outdoor learning approach is based on a specific program to be followed and curriculum to be learned, with common learning goals to be obtained. As a result, the target goals are mainly academic and the chances of broadening the scope are diminished.

In that context, a working committee comprised of citizens in my riding has taken steps to establish an alternative school with the forest school approach in Longueuil. The learning method proposed by the working committee for this new alternative school retains the concepts of respect for humans and their environment, community involvement and mutual assistance promoted by alternative schools that provide outdoor learning, and it is unique in that it is student centred and each child’s overall development is ensured through a wide array of experiences, exploration, free play and discovery. The forest school approach is also part of a long-term process in which the academic structure may include diverse disciplines, such as meditation, risk management, gardening and interaction with nature. Although the aim is not to attain immediate measurable results, this approach does provide students the benefits of outdoor learning, and more.

The reputation of forest schools in Scandinavian countries, where the concept was introduced in the 1950s, is well established and the success of their approach is proven. Such schools are increasingly popular around the world and can be found in France, Denmark, Germany, England and the United States. In Québec, the pilot project École Forêt Nature in the Mauricie region yielded promising results after its first year of activities in 2016, but without being officially recognized by the Ministère de l’Éducation. The alternative primary school Saules-Rieurs in Verdun appears to be on track to meet the educational objectives for its target date in 2022.

It took more than four years of effort for the working group in my riding to finally gain the potential support of the Centre de services scolaire Marie-Victorin. However, facilitating the development of this type of school would not only help to decentralize academic institutions, but also meet a growing need for such schools and make more options available to the parents of school-age children, with an educational framework they want.

My question is the following:

Will the Minister commit to considering

- streamlining the process for developing alternative forest schools in order to make it simpler and faster;
- recognizing and supporting initiatives to provide forest learning activities;
- promoting the forest school approach, which is student-centred and ensures each child's overall development through regular, high-quality contact with nature?

(250) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **14 September 2021**

To the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

On 9 July of this year, Hydro-Québec confirmed that the Saint-Narcisse dam, which entered into service in 1925, would be dismantled. The state-owned enterprise also stated that this decision was final.

However, the dam has an important heritage value for many residents of the municipality as well as for its mayor. Many were hoping that another project would be implemented in its facilities.

Consequently, as regards this project:

1. I would like to ask the Minister to make public the studies he has regarding the dam's dismantling, restoration and refurbishing.
2. I would also like the Minister to make public the information he has regarding the dam's condition.
3. I would like to know what steps the Minister has taken to ensure a proper assessment of the different options for the dam.

(251) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **15 September 2021**  
To the Government

In just 10 years, the number of Quebecers aged 75 and older will jump by 50%, or nearly 400,000 people.

It is obvious that the number of places in CHSLDs, which has remained around 40,000 for the last 15 years, should, according to experts, increase by approximately 2,000 per year over a period of 20 years.

I will remind you that Québec already has more residents in CHSLDs, intermediate resources and private seniors' residences (PSRs) than elsewhere in Canada and in the world. In fact, 9.4% of Quebecers aged 65 and older live in long-term residences, compared to 7% in Canada as a whole and 4% in countries such as France, Norway and the Netherlands.

The result during this COVID period: More than 5,210 people living in CHSLDs – that is 13% of the 40,000 Quebecers living in these residences – have died.

Over 50% of the 10,000 deaths in Québec have occurred in CHSLDs, and to this I add 20% of deaths occurring in private seniors' residences (PSRs). What a sad record. By comparison, long-term care centres accounted for 43% of deaths in France, 34% in the United Kingdom, and 28% in Germany.

But, unfortunately, this disaster does not stop there, the confinement and isolation measures employed to try to counter COVID in our CHSLDs, intermediate resources and private seniors' residences (RPA) have caused an acceleration in cognitive decline in many elderly people.

We have all heard accounts of seniors talking of being left all alone in small rooms where you lose all your references, go crazy and die of boredom. It was scandalous to see them shut inside, wandering around in circles not knowing what to do. Their dignity was violated. We have just lived through an unacceptable episode of ageism.

Understanding how the oldest of us survived and recovered from this crisis may well be useful in the face of further lockdowns and possible future pandemics.

This pandemic has put a strain on everyone's nerves. Faced with a heightened level of mental stress, seniors have had to find strategies to distance themselves from the realities of the pandemic. We have to listen to what they have to say.

We must listen, defend and protect them. Because Québec is not doing a good job of protecting its most vulnerable. I know that the situation is complex and full of nuances. However, these nuances will not change Québec's horrible track record during this crisis: I repeat, more than 5,000 seniors have died since the beginning of March 2020.

It must also be said that in Québec aging does not necessarily mean being dependent. Becoming dependent is not the destiny of every person who is growing older in our society.

The question is whether this chance to live a long, healthy life will turn into a disaster or will result in many more positive opportunities.

We are undergoing a heightened sense of awareness of the importance of knowing the whole truth about how our elders were treated during this pandemic, of the need to have an ombudsperson to defend elders' rights and ensure going forward that we create a society that adapts to our aging population to ensure the opportunity to age well and with dignity in Québec.

My questions are the following:

1. Will the Government act quickly following the tabling of this preliminary report to set up an independent, roving public inquiry commission to look into the circumstances that led to this disaster?
2. Will the Government call up Bill 497 in order to examine it and create an office of Seniors Ombudsperson?
3. Will the Government carry out as soon as possible the holding of an Estates General on the adaptation of our society to the aging of the population?

Part 6  
**NOTICES**

**I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN**

**Government Bills**

(a) 14 September 2021

An Act to create a court specialized in sexual and domestic violence and respecting training of judges in these matters – *Minister of Justice*

**Private Members' Public Bills**

(b) 14 September 2021

An Act to prohibit petroleum exploration and production – *Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques*

**Private Bills**

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