



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 22 March 2022 — No. 39

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Carmant (Taillon) made a statement to underline Québec's Social Work Week.

Ms. Laforest (Chicoutimi) made a statement to congratulate the COVID-19 vaccination teams in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region.

Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. France Ligez, former director of the Maison des jeunes L'Escalier de Lachine.

Mr. Benjamin (Viau) made a statement to underline the holding of the Salon de l'emploi et de la formation de Saint-Michel.

Mr. Lévesque (Chapleau) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the company Bijouterie Jacques Charron & Fils.

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Ms. Lecours (Les Plaines) made a statement to underline the work of the therapeutic equestrian centre Équi-Sens.

Ms. Roy (Montarville) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Club FADOQ de Boucherville.

Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) made a statement to invite Members to attend the screening of a documentary on the environment and climate change.

Ms. Guillemette (Roberval) made a statement to pay tribute to the first responders who saved the life of young Jakob Simard.

At 1:50 p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2:03 p.m.

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Moment of reflection

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 2023 to the National Assembly and recommend said estimates to it for consideration.

Québec City, 10 March 2022

J. Michel Doyon

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the following:

Expenditure Management Strategy – Additional Information – 2022–2023
Expenditure Budget – Volume 1 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 404-20220322)

Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Bodies –
2022-2023 Expenditure Budget – Volume 2 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 405-20220322)

Estimates and Expenditures of the Departments and Bodies – 2022–2023
Expenditure Budget – Volume 3 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 406-20220322)

Estimates, Expenditures and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the
National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly –
2022-2023 Expenditure Budget – Volume 4 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 407-20220322)

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Information Resource Investment and Expenditure Plan – 2022–2023 Expenditure Budget – Volume 5 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 408-20220322)

2022–2032 Québec Infrastructure Plan – 2022–2023 Expenditure Budget – Volume 6 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 409-20220322)

Annual Management Plans for Public Infrastructure Investments – 2022–2023 Expenditure Budget (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 410-20220322)

2022–2023 Expenditure Management Plans and 2022–2032 Québec Infrastructure Plan – In Brief (French and English versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 411-20220322)

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

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 280, the 2022–2023 estimates of expenditure be referred to a Committee of the Whole for consideration and for concurrence in one quarter of the said estimates.

The motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly proceeded to hear a motion without notice.

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Motions Without Notice

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

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph 4.1 of the first paragraph of Standing Order 87 and Standing Orders 280 and 281, the Assembly consider and concur in Interim Supply for the 2022–2023 fiscal year as provided hereinafter;

THAT, as soon as Orders of the Day for the Wednesday, 23 March 2022 sitting are called, the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and consider Interim Supply as follows:

THAT, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Members in opposition;

THAT, at 1:00 p.m., the Committee of the Whole suspend its proceedings and that the proceedings of the Assembly be suspended until 3:00 p.m.;

THAT, at 3:00 p.m., the Committee of the Whole continue its proceedings and, if necessary, be able to conclude the exchange between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and the Chair of the Conseil du trésor and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change and the Members in opposition;

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THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Education and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately upon the conclusion of this exchange, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole put the question for concurrence in one quarter of the estimates of expenditure for the 2022–2023 fiscal year;

THAT the Chair of the Committee of the Whole then report to the Assembly and that the question for concurrence in such report and then the question for passage of the consequent appropriation bill be put without debate, pursuant to the first paragraph of Standing Order 281;

THAT, lastly, pursuant to the second paragraph of Standing Order 281, the Government House Leader be permitted to move a motion without notice that may not be debated, stating that the main estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, be referred to the Standing Committees for consideration;

THAT the opening statements for each of the exchanges with the aforementioned Ministers not exceed 5 minutes 34 seconds for the parliamentary group forming the Government; 3 minutes 43 seconds for the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 56 seconds for the Second Opposition Group; 56 seconds for the Third Opposition Group; and 51 seconds for the independent Members as a whole;

THAT, for each of the exchanges with the aforementioned Ministers, a period of 3 minutes 45 seconds per hour be set aside for exchanges with the independent Members;

THAT any time not used by the independent Members be redistributed proportionally among the parliamentary groups forming the Official Opposition, the Second Opposition Group and the Third Opposition Group;

THAT the President of the Assembly or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole be permitted to suspend the proceedings at any time;

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THAT, despite the provisions of the special order adopted on 15 March 2022, the Committee of the Whole and the Assembly be permitted to continue their proceedings until the latter has voted on the appropriation bill and on the motion for referral of all of the estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, to the Standing Committees for consideration;

THAT this motion become an order of the Assembly and take precedence over any incompatible provisions of the Standing Orders and the special order adopted on 15 March 2022.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Simard (Montmorency), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Public Finance, which held public hearings on 15, 16 and 17 March 2022 within the framework of special consultations on Bill 12, An Act mainly to promote Québec-sourced and responsible procurement by public bodies, to reinforce the integrity regime of enterprises and to increase the powers of the Autorité des marchés publics.

(Sessional Paper No. 412-20220322)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Ms. Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition, tabled the following:

A chart showing the number of patients waiting for surgery, from 2018-2019 to 26 February 2022.

(Sessional Paper No. 413-20220322)

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At the request of the President, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred on 17 March 2022, on the motion moved by Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) for the passage in principle of Bill 498, An Act to proclaim the National Day for the Promotion of Positive Mental Health.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **267** in Appendix)

Yeas: **95** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Accordingly, Bill 498 was passed in principle.

Mr. Schneeberger, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 498 be referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Fortin, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved:

THAT the National Assembly reiterate that the Québec government must give equal attention and support to the issues of all Québec ridings, regardless of the political affiliations of the people duly elected to represent the ridings in this Assembly;

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THAT it affirm that it should not be more difficult for opposition Members to advance the issues of their communities than it is for Members of the governing party.

The question was put on this motion and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **268** in Appendix)

Yeas: **94** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie, together with Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee), Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recall that it is important that the Québec nation take action to ensure a strong, united and committed Canadian Francophonie;

THAT it affirm its support for strengthening the bonds between Quebecers and the other francophones of Canada in order to build bridges and establish sustainable cooperation between us;

THAT it recognize that Québec, which has a vested historical responsibility toward the use, promotion and vitality of the French language, intends to play a leading role within the Canadian Francophonie;

THAT it designate 22 March as Québec Day for the Canadian Francophonie.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Ms. Melançon (Verdun), together with Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved a motion on World Water Day and water preservation; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), together with Mr. Charette, Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism, Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 23rd edition of Action Week Against Racism and for Equal Opportunities, held this year from 21 to 31 March under the theme “Welcoming refugees and migrants to Québec”;

THAT it strongly reiterate that racism in all its forms is unacceptable, that it has socio-economic impacts and impacts on the right to health, housing and the security and dignity of the individuals and communities who experience it;

THAT it strongly condemn the alarming increase in hate crimes over the past year;

THAT it reiterate its commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all, in particular for newcomers;

THAT the National Assembly call on the Québec government and Quebecers to continue and step up the fight against racism.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), together with Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), Mr. Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved:

Whereas pressure on the health care system is reflected in waiting lists, overworked staff and a shortage of beds;

Whereas one effective way to reduce pressure on the health care system is to proactively work to protect the health of the population;

Whereas, for decades, many reports have recommended that constructive actions be taken to reduce the growing impact of chronic diseases;

Whereas the 2022 report of the Commission à la santé et au bien-être included a recommendation to build the capacities of the public health system (human, informational and financial resources) based on needs and targeted outcomes, to achieve levels comparable to those seen elsewhere in Canada and around the world;

Whereas the Government has affirmed its intention to implement the Health and Welfare Commissioner's recommendations;

Whereas the collective position taken on 17 March by 26 professional associations and orders, including the Collège québécois des médecins de famille, the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec and the Association des cardiologues du Québec, calls for an emergency prevention plan;

THAT the National Assembly recognize the importance of taking action to strengthen disease prevention and health promotion in Québec;

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THAT the National Assembly recognize that preventive health requires tools such as the Government's preventive health policy;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly call on the Government to make public health a priority in the overhaul of the health care system.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Schneeberger, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 21, An Act mainly to end petroleum exploration and production and the public financing of those activities;
- the Committee on Culture and Education, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 1, An Act to amend the Educational Childcare Act to improve access to the educational childcare services network and complete its development.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 3:30 p.m., at the request of Mr. Schneeberger, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 4:00 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 4:03 p.m.

Business Having Precedence

Budget Speech

Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, delivered the Budget Speech.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, tabled the following documents during his address:

Budget in Brief – Budget 2022–2023 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 414-20220322)

Budget Speech – Budget 2022–2023 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 415-20220322)

Additional Information – Budget 2022–2023 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 416-20220322)

Budget Plan – Budget 2022–2023 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 417-20220322)

Summary of budgetary transactions – Preliminary results for 2021–2022 –
Table 1;
(Sessional Paper No. 418-20220322)

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Summary of budgetary transactions – Forecasts for 2022–2023 – Table 2;
(Sessional Paper No. 419-20220322)

Revenue – Forecasts for 2022–2023 – Table 3;
(Sessional Paper No. 420-20220322)

Expenditure – Forecasts for 2022–2023 – Table 4;
(Sessional Paper No. 421-20220322)

Expenditure by portfolio – Forecasts for 2022–2023 – Table 5.
(Sessional Paper No. 422-20220322)

At the end of his address, Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, moved that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy.

Mr. Leitão (Robert-Baldwin) commented on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) commented on behalf of the Second Opposition Group.

Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) commented on behalf of the Third Opposition Group.

Debates upon Adjournment

At 5:31 p.m., in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 1 February 2022, the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question from Mr. Polo (Laval-des-Rapides) to Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, about the contamination of La Pinière stream in Laval.

Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

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At 5:47 p.m., Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 9:40 a.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Friday, 18 March 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Ms. Beauregard, Director of Sitings and Parliamentary Procedure and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Dominique Bélanger, Administrator of the Government of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following bill:

- 24 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec correctional system to provide for the power to require that an offender be connected to a device that allows the offender's whereabouts to be known

FRANÇOIS PARADIS

President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee):

(Division No. 267)

YEAS - 95

Allaire (CAQ)	David (QLP)	Laforest (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)
Anglade (QLP)	Derraji (QLP)	Laframboise (CAQ)	(Côte-du-Sud)
Asselin (CAQ)	Dubé (CAQ)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	Dufour (CAQ)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	(Berthier)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Émond (CAQ)	Lavallée (CAQ)	Provençal (CAQ)
Benjamin (QLP)	Fitzgibbon (CAQ)	LeBel (CAQ)	Reid (CAQ)
Bérubé (PQ)	Fontecilla (QS)	(Champlain)	Rizqy (QLP)
Birnbaum (QLP)	Fortin (QLP)	Lecours (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	Foster (CAQ)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Rotiroti (QLP)
(Prévost)	Gaudreault (PQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	(Jonquière)	(Les Plaines)	Rousselle (QLP)
(Abitibi-Ouest)	Girard (CAQ)	Leduc (QS)	Roy (IND)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Lefebvre (CAQ)	(Bonaventure)
Boulet (CAQ)	Girault (CAQ)	Lemay (CAQ)	Roy (CAQ)
Boutin (CAQ)	Grondin (CAQ)	Lessard-Therrien (QS)	(Montarville)
Bussière (CAQ)	Guilbault (CAQ)	Lévesque (CAQ)	Sauvé (QLP)
Caire (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	(Chapleau)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Campeau (CAQ)	Hébert (CAQ)	Maccarone (QLP)	Simard (CAQ)
Carmant (CAQ)	Hivon (PQ)	Marissal (QS)	Skeete (CAQ)
Caron (CAQ)	Isabelle (CAQ)	Martel (CAQ)	St-Pierre (QLP)
Charbonneau (QLP)	Jacques (CAQ)	McCann (CAQ)	Tardif (CAQ)
Charest (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Melançon (QLP)	(Laviolette-Saint-Maurice)
Charette (CAQ)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Ouellette (IND)	Thouin (CAQ)
Chassé (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Perry Mélançon (PQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Chassin (CAQ)	Kelley (QLP)	Picard (CAQ)	Zanetti (QS)
Ciccione (QLP)	Labrie (QS)	(Soulanges)	
D'Amours (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	Polo (QLP)	
Dansereau (CAQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)	

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On the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Fortin, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski):

(Division No. 268)

YEAS - 94

Allaire (CAQ)	David (QLP)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Polo (QLP)
Anglade (QLP)	Derraji (QLP)	Laforest (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)
Asselin (CAQ)	Dubé (CAQ)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	Dufour (CAQ)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	(Côte-du-Sud)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Émond (CAQ)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)
Benjamin (QLP)	Fitzgibbon (CAQ)	Lavallée (CAQ)	(Berthier)
Bérubé (PQ)	Fontecilla (QS)	LeBel (CAQ)	Provençal (CAQ)
Birnbaum (QLP)	Fortin (QLP)	(Champlain)	Reid (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	Foster (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Rizqy (QLP)
(Prévost)	Gaudreault (PQ)	(Lothbinière-Frontenac)	Roberge (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	(Jonquière)	Lecours (CAQ)	Rotiroti (QLP)
(Abitibi-Ouest)	Girard (CAQ)	(Les Plaines)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Boulet (CAQ)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Leduc (QS)	Rousselle (QLP)
Boutin (CAQ)	Girault (CAQ)	Lefebvre (CAQ)	Roy (IND)
Bussière (CAQ)	Grondin (CAQ)	Lemay (CAQ)	(Bonaventure)
Caire (CAQ)	Guilbault (CAQ)	Lessard-Therrien (QS)	Roy (CAQ)
Campeau (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	Lévesque (CAQ)	(Montarville)
Carmant (CAQ)	Hébert (CAQ)	(Chapleau)	Sauvé (QLP)
Caron (CAQ)	Hivon (PQ)	Maccarone (QLP)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Charbonneau (QLP)	Isabelle (CAQ)	Marissal (QS)	Simard (CAQ)
Charest (CAQ)	Jacques (CAQ)	Martel (CAQ)	Skeete (CAQ)
Charette (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	McCann (CAQ)	St-Pierre (QLP)
Chassé (CAQ)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Melançon (QLP)	Tardif (CAQ)
Chassin (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Ouellette (IND)	(Laviolette-Saint-Maurice)
Ciccone (QLP)	Kelley (QLP)	Perry Melançon (PQ)	Thouin (CAQ)
D'Amours (CAQ)	Labrie (QS)	Picard (CAQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Dansereau (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	(Soulanges)	Zanetti (QS)