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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Thursday, 28 November 2013 — No. 98**

**President of the National Assembly:**  
**Mr. Jacques Chagnon**

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**QUÉBEC**



The Assembly was called to order at 9.45 o'clock a.m.

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## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Statements by Members**

Mr. McKay (Repentigny) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Antoine Laporte, recipient of the William D. Hatfield Award.

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Mrs. Charlebois (Soulanges) made a statement about the Ovation 2013 awards in Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

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Mr. Leclair (Beauharnois) made a statement to pay tribute to Mrs. Suzanne Fortier.

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Mr. Poëti (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) made a statement to underline the sporting achievements of the Cégep André-Laurendeau in LaSalle.

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Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) made a statement about the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cégep de Granby-Haute-Yamaska.

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Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville) made a statement to congratulate Mrs. France Demers, Woman Farmer of the Year for 2013.

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Mrs. de Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to pay tribute to Mrs. Thérèse Latour, a key volunteer of Montréal-Nord.

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Mrs. St-Laurent (Montmorency) made a statement about the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Le Lavallois newspaper.

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Mr. Morin (Côte-du-Sud) made a statement to congratulate the winners of the Gala Étoile of the regional county municipality of L'Islet.

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Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) made a statement about the Prix Reconnaissance awarded to Mr. Dominique Robichaud.

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At 9.57 o'clock a.m., Mr. Ouimet, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 10.15 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

### **Presenting Papers**

Mr. Bergeron, Minister of Public Security, tabled the following:

The 2012-2013 annual management report of the École nationale de police du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 1384-20131128)

The 2012-2013 annual report of the École nationale des pompiers du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1385-20131128)

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Mr. Bédard, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The reply from the Government to the petition tabled on 10 October 2013 by Mr. Arcand (Mont-Royal), concerning Hydro-Québec's radio frequency transmitting meters.

(Sessional Paper No. 1386-20131128)

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Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and tabled the following:

A letter, dated 27 November 2013, he had received from Mr. Bertrand St-Arnaud, Minister of Justice, in which he requested a directive on the application of Standing Order 164 after having been summoned to appear before the Committee on Institutions.

(Sessional Paper No. 1387-20131128)

Mr. President took the matter under advisement.

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### **Presenting Petitions**

Mr. Richer (Argenteuil) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting Hydro-Québec's Grand-Brûlé Saint-Sauveur project in Sainte-Adèle, and signed by 354 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1388-20131128)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Dutil (Beauce-Sud) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting financial support to the Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées (AQDR) Beauce-Etchemins, and signed by 383 citizens of the riding of Beauce-Sud.

(Sessional Paper No. 1389-20131128)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the recovery of Styrofoam containers, and signed by 96 citizens of the riding of Sanguinet.

(Sessional Paper No. 1390-20131128)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Fournier, Leader of the Official Opposition, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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At 11.13 o'clock a.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings.

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The proceedings resumed at 11.55 o'clock a.m.

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The Minister of Justice requested a directive from the Chair concerning his having been summoned to appear before the Committee on Institutions on Thursday, 28 November 2013, at 3.00 o'clock p.m., with regard to the comments of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, made public on 17 October 2013, on the Government's policy directions regarding the proposed charter of Québec values, as well as on the unconstitutionality of the Government's proposal. More specifically, he asked whether Standing Order 164, which states that a minister will be notified not less than fifteen days before he is to be heard, applies since he was convened last 14 November, which is 14 days before the scheduled date for the Committee order to be carried out. Mr. President gave a directive on this question.

#### **DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR**

In the directive given by the Chair last 14 November, when the Assembly took the deferred division on the motion by the Member for LaFontaine instructing the Committee on Institutions to hear the Minister of Justice, the Chair insisted on the fact that the intent of the deferred division procedure was not to prevent the Assembly from carrying out its business, but rather to foster the proper conduct of proceedings.

Drawing on Lavoie's Standing Order 106, which states that the vote is considered to have taken place during the sitting when the motion was first put to the vote and the entry of names requested, the Chair mentioned that while the motion by the Member for LaFontaine, which was valid when it was first put to the vote, could not become invalid because the division was deferred until the next sitting.

In this case, the vote on the motion is presumed to have been taken on Wednesday, 13 November 2013. For obvious reasons, the Minister could not be convened to appear on this date since the division was deferred until the following day, at the Government's request.

The Committee is therefore instructed to hear the Minister of Justice today and it must comply with this order. It must therefore be convened today to carry out this order.

**Motions Without Notice**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Trudel (Charlesbourg), together with Mr. Bérubé, Minister for Tourism, Mrs. Charlebois (Soulanges), Mrs. David (Gouin) and Mr. Ratthé (Blainville), moved:

THAT the Committee on Labour and the Economy hold special consultations on the inappropriate use of public funds by Tourisme Montréal and that, for this purpose, the Committee hear the former chief executive officer of Tourisme Montréal, Mr. Charles Lapointe, the chairman of the board of directors of Tourisme Montréal, Mr. Jacques Parisien, the Minister for Tourism, the Member for Laporte, as well as any person it may deem necessary to summon;

THAT the presentation by the former chief executive officer of Tourisme Montréal last no longer than 10 minutes and the exchanges with the Committee members last no longer than 90 minutes;

THAT the presentation by the chairman of the board of directors of Tourisme Montréal last no longer than 10 minutes and the exchanges with the Committee members last no longer than 90 minutes;

THAT the maximum length of the presentation and exchanges for each of the other speakers, if any, be established by the Committee members;

THAT the Committee report to the Assembly no later than on 11 February 2014, unless the Committee decides otherwise;



Lastly, that this motion become an order of the Assembly.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Mr. St-Arnaud, Minister of Justice, moved a motion concerning the severance pay of Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg, former Member for Viau and new Federal Member for Bourassa; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Moreau, Official Opposition House Leader, moved a motion concerning the severance pay allocated to the former Member for Taillon, Mrs. Pauline Marois; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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

Mr. Traversy, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 64, An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 52, An Act respecting end-of-life care.

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 145, he convened the following Committee:

- the Committee on Institutions, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 61, An Act mainly to recover amounts paid unjustly by public bodies in relation to certain contracts in the construction industry.

Mr. Ouimet, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Institutions shall hear the Minister of Justice concerning the comments of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse made public on 17 October 2013 on the Government's policy directions regarding the proposed charter of Québec values as well as on the unconstitutionality of the Government's proposal;
- the Committee on Culture and Education shall hear the head officers of the Institut national de la recherche scientifique, of the HEC Montréal and of Concordia University;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly took Motions Without Notice.

### **Motions Without Notice**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. David (Gouin), together with Mr. Bédard, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Mr. Poëti (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Duchesneau (Saint-Jérôme) and Mr. Rathé (Blainville), moved:

THAT the National Assembly pay tribute to the whistleblowers who dare to denounce unacceptable situations in spite of the risks involved in doing so;

THAT it underline the courage of Mrs. Stéphanie Bérard, of Mr. François Beaudry and of Mrs. Chantal Levert, who have contributed to the fight against corruption in the construction industry and in the granting of public contracts;

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THAT this House commit to adopting without delay legislative measures to protect whistleblowers.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **Government Bills**

#### *Report Stage*

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 39, Voluntary Retirement Savings Plans Act, together with the amendments handed in by Mrs. Maltais, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity.

The amendments were declared in order.

A debate arose thereon.

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At 12.59 o'clock p.m., Mr. Ouimet, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 3.11 o'clock p.m.

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*Report Stage*

The Assembly continued the debate on the consideration of the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 39, Voluntary Retirement Savings Plans Act, together with the amendments handed in by Mrs. Maltais, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity.

The debate being concluded, the amendments were carried.

The report, as amended, was concurred in.

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Mr. Traversy, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Friday, 29 November 2013, at 9.45 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 3.45 o'clock p.m., Mr. Ouimet, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Friday, 29 November 2013, at 9.45 o'clock a.m.

**JACQUES CHAGNON**

*President*