



ACTIVITY  
REPORT  
2017  
2018

NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY  
OF QUÉBEC

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REPORT  
2017  
2018

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OF QUÉBEC

This publication was prepared in collaboration with the senior management and personnel of all National Assembly of Québec administrative units. Unless otherwise specified, the information in this activity report covers the National Assembly's activities from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the eighth year in a row, I have the privilege of presenting the Québec National Assembly's *2017-2018 Activity Report*, an overview of the year from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and a testament to the many activities of the institution. As you read this report, you will appreciate its polished and resolutely contemporary layout that beautifully illustrates our Parliament's unique heritage and activities.

## A representative and deliberative Assembly

As guardian of our democracy, the National Assembly is also where parliamentarians exercise their roles as legislators and overseers. To fulfill its mandate, it has eleven standing committees responsible for examining matters falling within their respective areas of competence. Furthermore, the National Assembly has long had ongoing interparliamentary relations with several legislative assemblies. Each year, it meets with other parliamentary organizations dedicated to protecting and promoting democracy, peace, human rights and justice. The year 2017 was special to me, since last July I was elected President of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) for a two-year term.

## A citizens' Assembly

In addition to its parliamentary and diplomatic mission, the National Assembly is pivotal in the history of Québec society. As proof of this, in 2017, it celebrated the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its parliamentary institutions. The National Assembly also commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Le Parlementaire restaurant. Furthermore, it entered into a partnership agreement with the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec, which will allow it to continue promoting traditional Québec products while becoming a learning venue for tourism and catering industry students.

## A bold Assembly

It is hard to contain our excitement about the impressive work achieved thus far on the new reception pavilion, which will be opening its doors to the general public during the first quarter of 2019. Work on the interior has been in progress since fall 2017. This new space will respond to new parliamentary and citizen realities.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the personnel whose daily operations allow us to be both efficient and hospitable. On behalf of all parliamentarians, I hope this overview of our administration attests to the vitality of our organization.

**Jacques Chagnon**  
President of the National Assembly



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

I join the President in expressing how pleased and proud I am to present the National Assembly's 19<sup>th</sup> activity report. When assessment time comes around, it is always astonishing to see the considerable amount of work carried out during the year. The activity report highlights a vast number of activities that marked the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. While providing a condensed and dynamic picture of these very activities, carried out by parliamentarians and administrative personnel, it allows us to see our institution from a number of perspectives.

To fulfill its parliamentary, institutional and public mission, the Assembly has an administration composed of 634 people, whose main task is to support elected officials and their political staff on a day-to-day basis. I would also like to commend the sustained efforts of personnel from all administrative units. Their hard work allows for, among other things, the achievement of all parliamentary activities, an essential part of democracy. As an example, the National Assembly held 82 sittings, totalling 320 hours, while the parliamentary committees met on 458 occasions for a total of 1328 hours.

The National Assembly is now less than a year away from opening its reception pavilion. The new spaces are taking shape and it is pleasing to note that the decision to combine Eugène-Étienne Taché's historical heritage with a modern and bold architectural concept was the right way to go. The realization of the pavilion will trace a significant timeline from the birth of our parliamentary institutions to the present day. It is important to underline that this project could never have been achieved without the tireless, ongoing and dynamic collaboration of Assembly personnel. Each and every one has contributed in various ways and in their respective sectors to the success of this major expansion project unparalleled since 1877.

As you read this activity report, I invite you to view it as a guide to gain a better understanding of the functioning of our institution. You will discover therein all the richness and diversity that inspire the Assembly, which embodies the democratic principles to which Québec society is so deeply attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Michel Bonsaint'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

**Michel Bonsaint**

Secretary General of the National Assembly



# MISSION AND VALUES

The National Assembly administration is a dynamic, modern, competent and innovative organization. Its mission is to provide all the services and resources Members need to perform their duties, which consist of legislating, overseeing government action and representing their fellow citizens. The administration also works to meet citizens' needs by continuously improving the services it offers and maintaining a workplace that fosters creativity and professional development.

neutrality		respect for heritage
openness	values	modernity
sustainable development		

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## NEW RECEPTION PAVILION

The first expansion work carried out on the Parliament Building in 100 years, the new reception pavilion will be more modern, more welcoming and safer. The National Assembly will have security infrastructures that meet current standards, more suitable reception areas, two new parliamentary committee rooms, a multifunctional room and an agora. The project includes significant upgrades to standards and the integration of an educational itinerary.







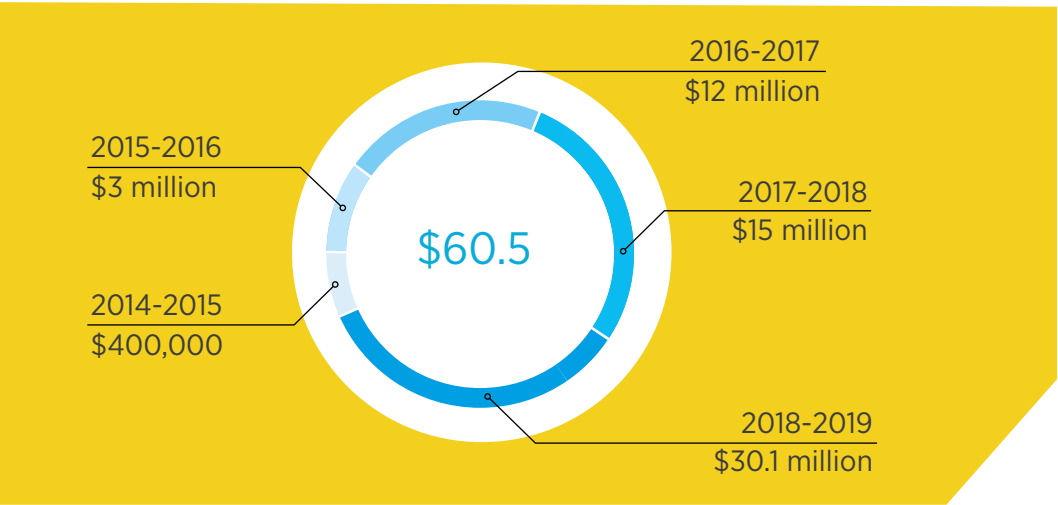
# New reception pavilion

## Worksite overview

60% of the work completed

Surface area	3,800 m2 (+ 1,500 m2 in inner courtyard)
Construction packages	44
Contractors	87
Personnel	574
Hours worked	226,216 hr.
Minor accident mineur	1

## Budget

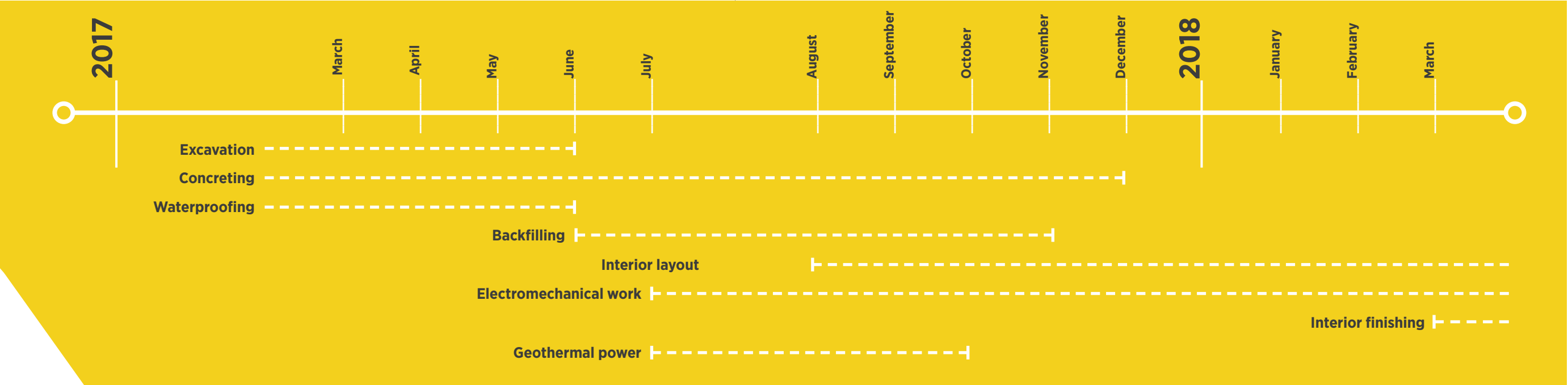


## Sequence of work

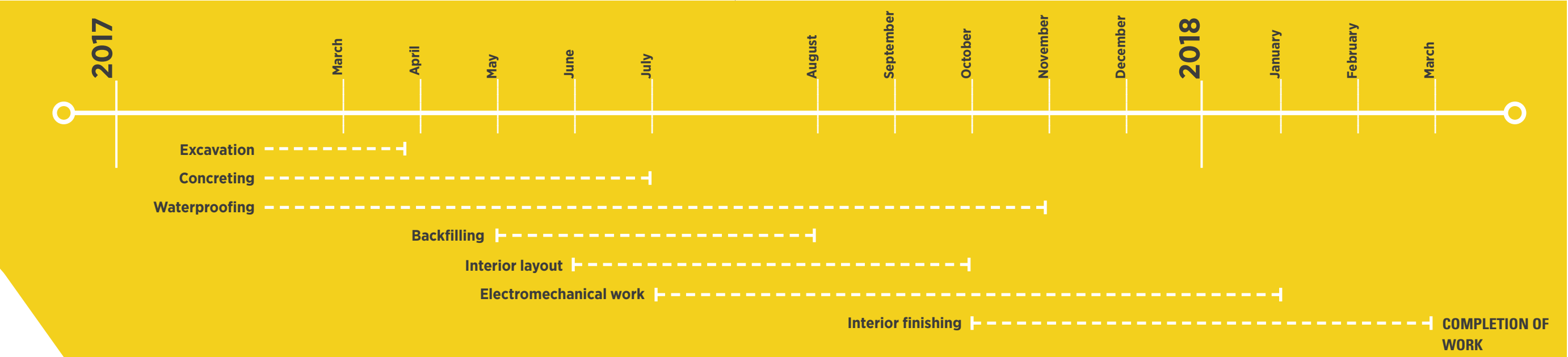
The National Assembly's infrastructure improvement project consists of five major sectors of intervention: the reception pavilion, the inner courtyard meeting rooms, the Parliament Building's new elevator, the Library's tunnel and the northern walkway security stations and gates. The diagrams on the following pages show the work carried out or that was underway at the end of the last fiscal year. It should be noted that work on the northern walkway stations and gates is not represented, as it has yet to begin.

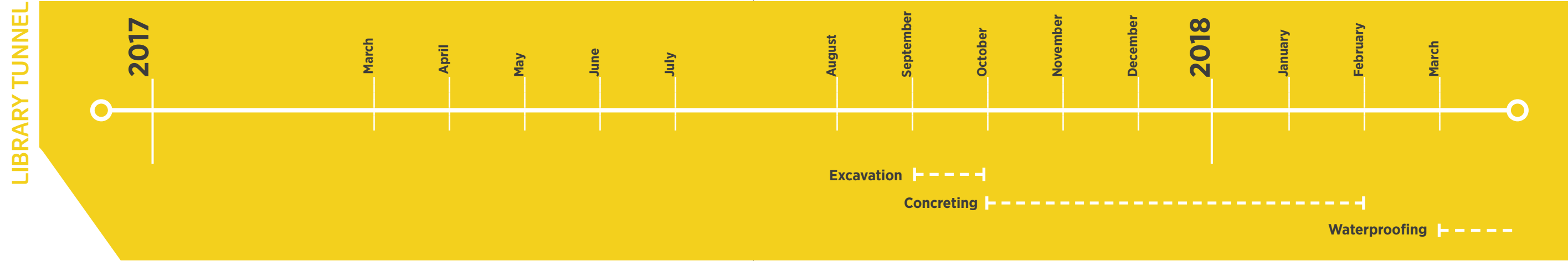
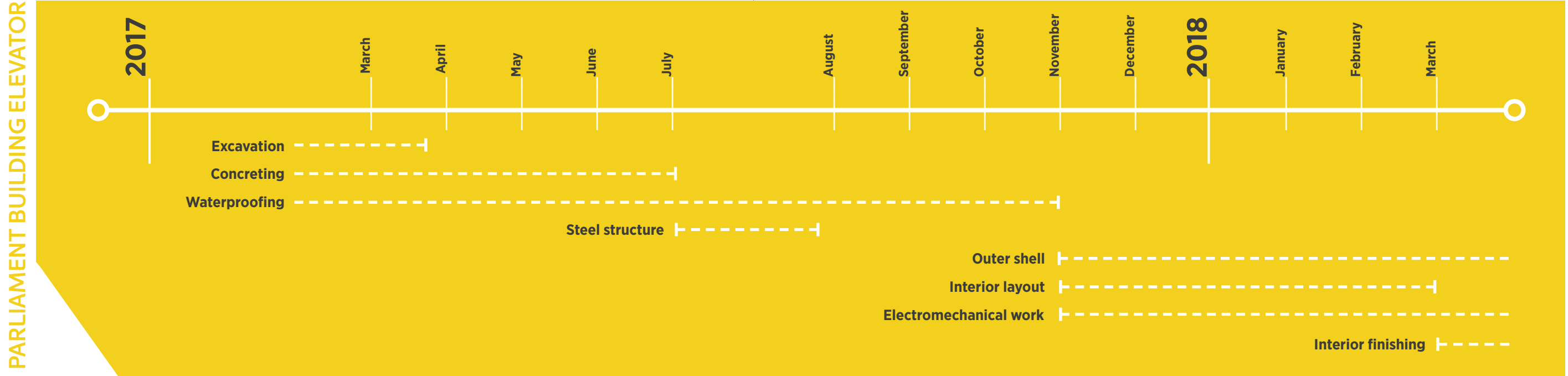


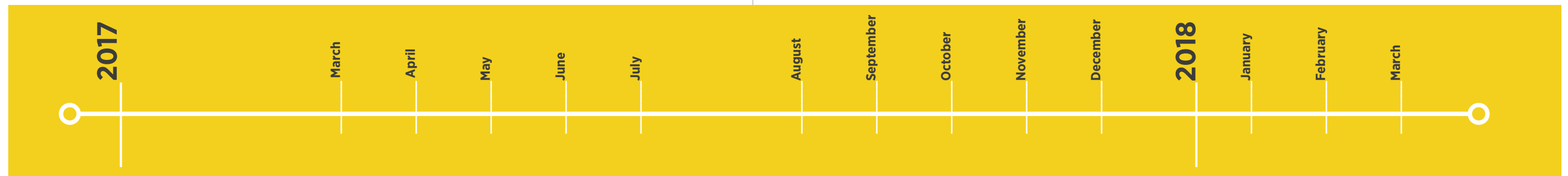
RECEPTION PAVILION



INTERIOR COURTYARD ROOMS







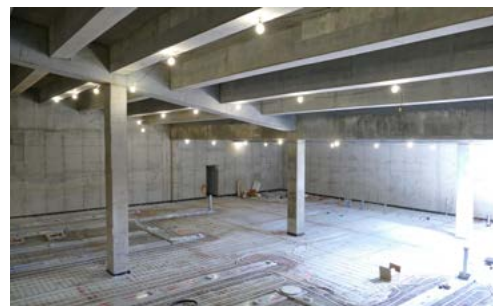
**March 2017 /**  
Concrete work for the reception pavilion



**May 2017 /**  
Excavation along the reception pavilion  
façade



**June 2017 /**  
Laying of reinforcement in the agora  
roof concrete slab



**July 2017 /**  
Installation of the committee room radiant  
heating system



**September 2017 /**  
Tunnel under the Parliament Building



**October 2017 /**  
View through the Parliament Building's  
central tower oculus



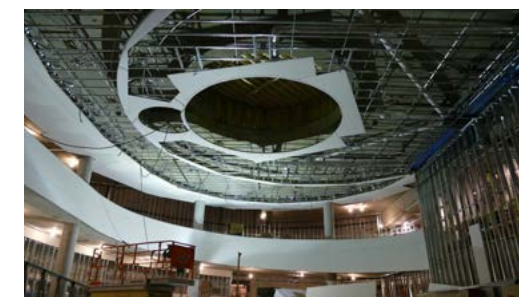
**November 2017 /**  
View of Parliament Building façade



**December 2017 /**  
Preparatory work on the agora's slab  
on grade



**January 2017 /**  
Curtain wall of the Parliament  
Building's elevator shaft



**March 2018 /**  
Construction of the agora's ceiling and  
guard rail along the ramp





## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

The business, discussions and debates of the Assembly and the parliamentary committees are known collectively as *parliamentary proceedings*. The business of the National Assembly is conducted in accordance with a calendar set out in the Assembly's Standing Orders. In the course of a year, there are two distinct periods during which the Assembly sits to conduct parliamentary business: in the spring and in the fall. Each period comprises weeks of regular and extended hours of meeting, as well as weeks set aside for riding work.



# Parliamentary proceedings

In parliamentary language, each day of National Assembly deliberations is called a sitting. Sittings are divided into two parts: **Routine Proceedings** and **Orders of the Day**.

The primary purpose of the **Routine Proceedings** portion is to provide information to Members. For instance, it is during this period that Question Period takes place.

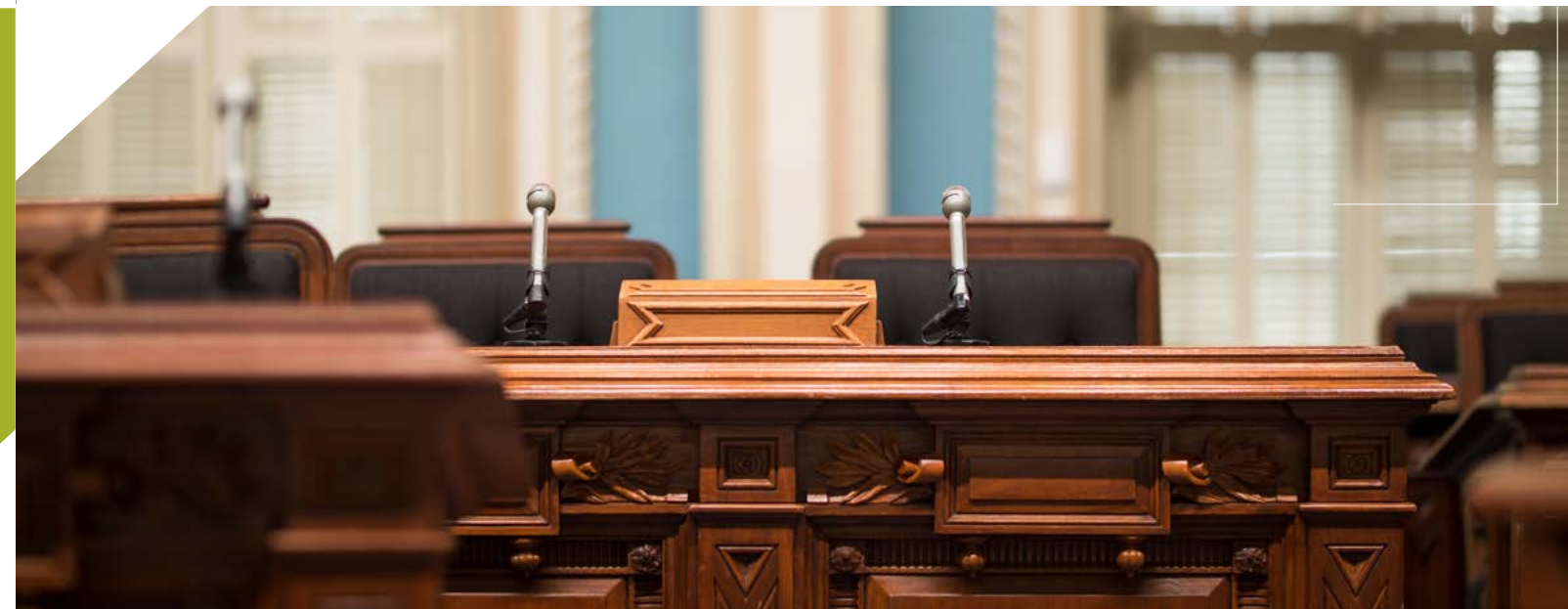
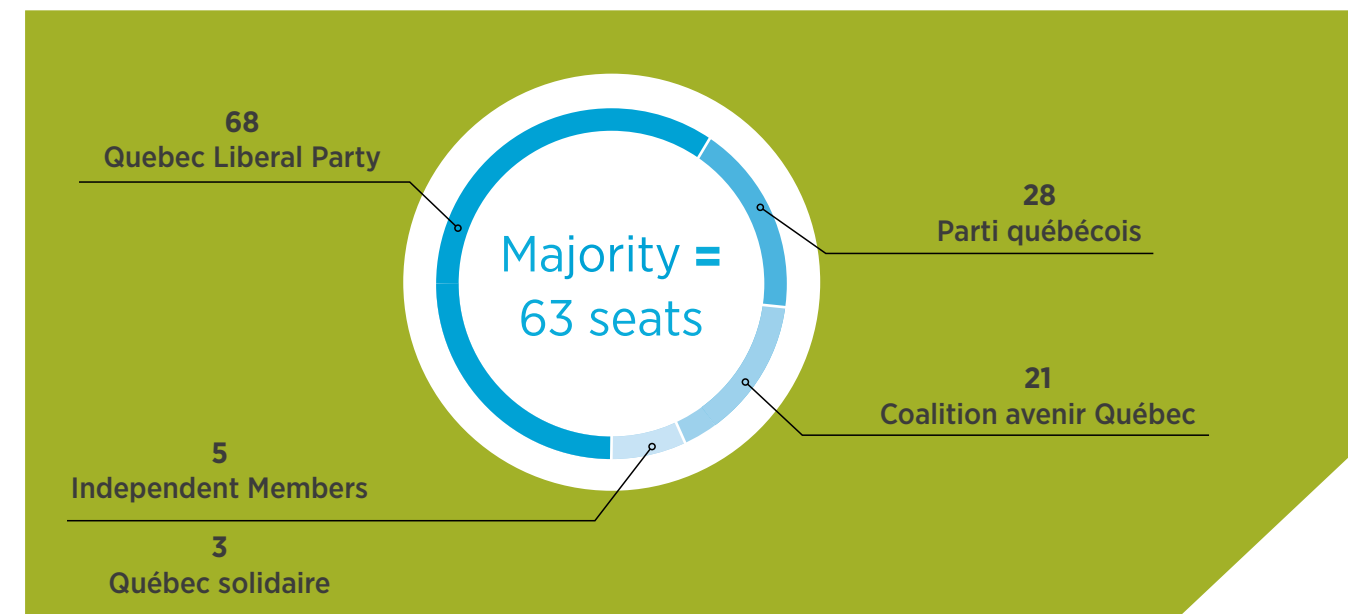
The **Orders of the Day** portion is devoted to the consideration of bills. The Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate during the Orders of the Day.

## Strong symbols and specific rules

Québec's Parliament is rooted in British parliamentary tradition, as evidenced by the many symbols that have their place in the Assembly's proceedings.

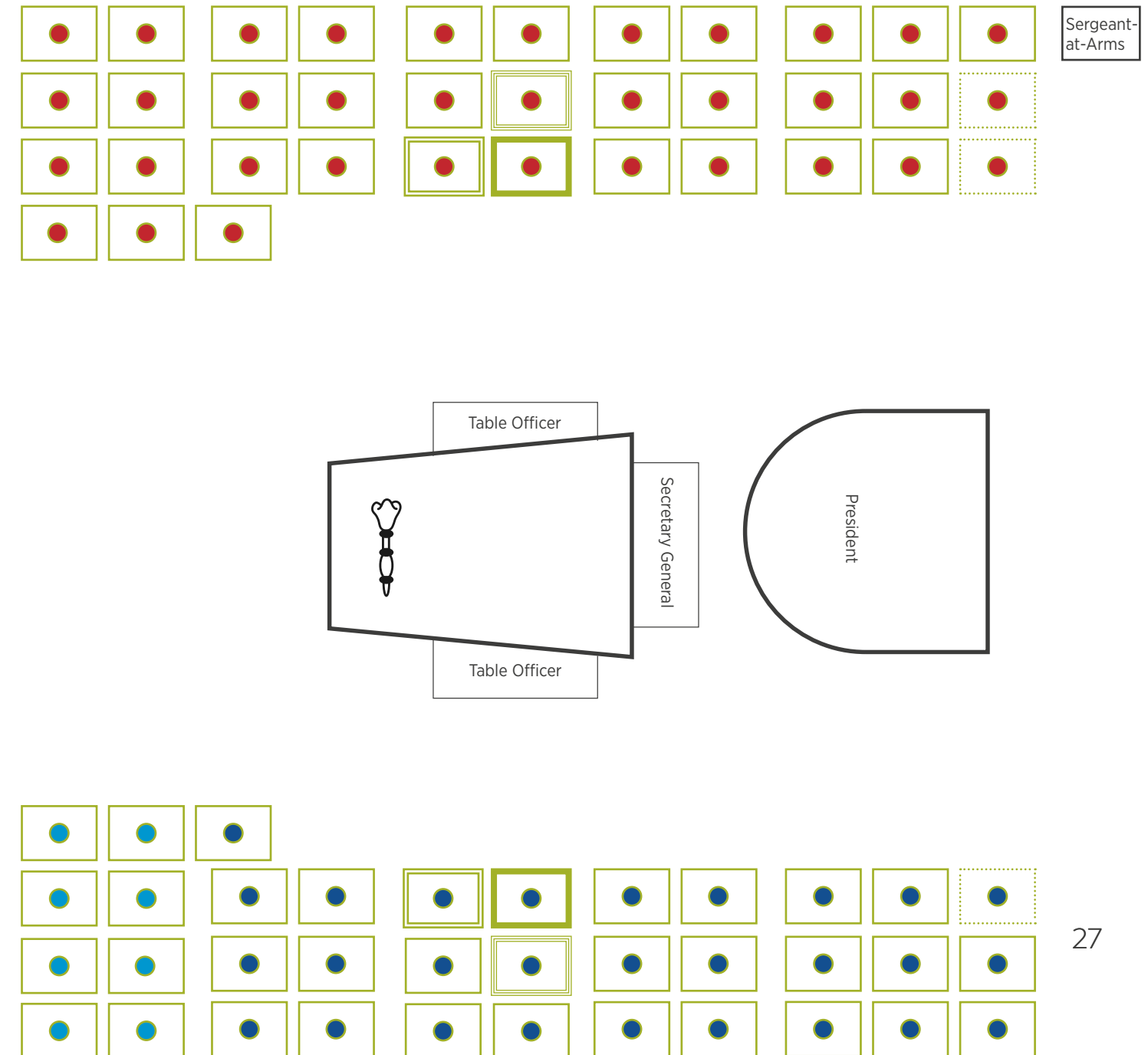
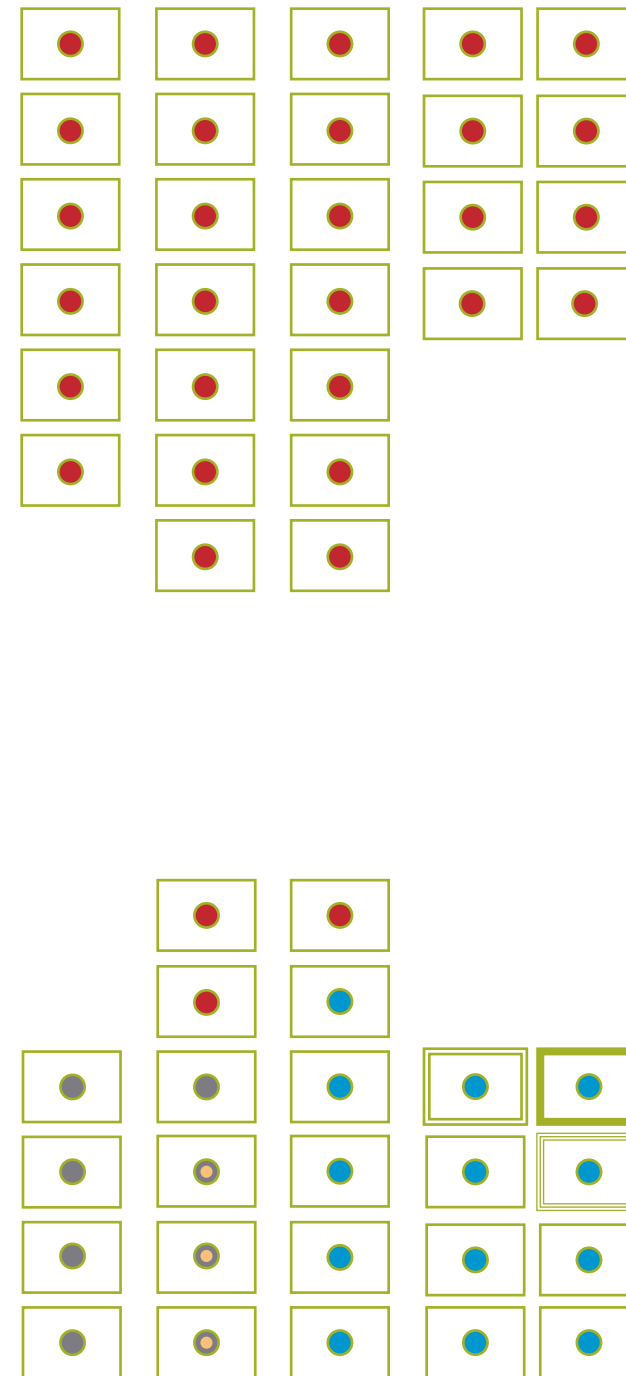
The debates in the Assembly follow specific rules of procedure. The Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) must also obey rules of conduct and observe decorum.

## Distribution of seats as of 31 March 2018



## Seating plan of the National Assembly As at 31 March 2018

41<sup>st</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> Session



# Composition of the National Assembly

As at 31 March 2018

Average  
parliamentary  
experience

8 years,  
4 months

Women's  
place

37  
Members  
29.6%

Average Member  
age

53 ans

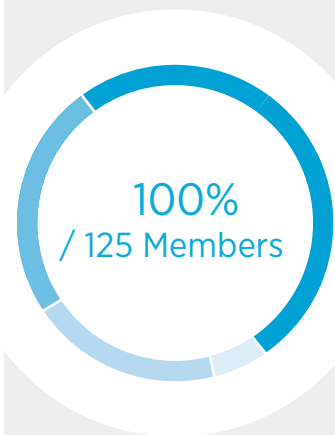
## Breakdown of Members by age

Age 18-39	=	10%	= 13 Members
Age 40-49	=	22%	= 27 Members
Age 50-59	=	37%	= 46 Members
Age 60+	=	31%	= 39 Members

## Breakdown in the number of Members according to parliamentary experience

- Less than 5 years (50 Members) = 40%
- 5-9 years (41 Members) = 33%
- 10-19 years (28 Members) = 22%
- 20 years+ (6 Members) = 5%

+ [www.assnat.qc.ca/en/deputes](http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/deputes)



## New Members

Two by-elections were held in the last fiscal year.

In the electoral division of Gouin, 29 May 2017:  
Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, Québec solidaire, candidate elected.

In the electoral division of Louis-Hébert, 2 October 2017:  
Geneviève Guilbault, Coalition avenir Québec, candidate elected.

## Resignation

Sam Hamad, Member for Louis-Hébert, 27 April 2017.  
(First elected: 14 April 2003)

## Change in status

Gaétan Lelièvre, Member for Gaspé, sitting as an independent since 16 May 2017.



## President of the Assembly

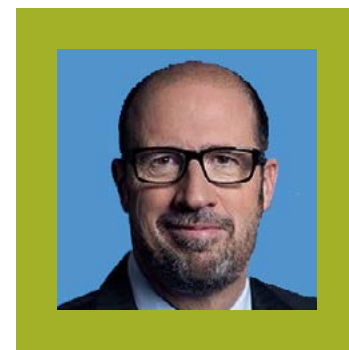


**Jacques Chagnon**  
Member for  
Westmount–Saint-Louis  
President

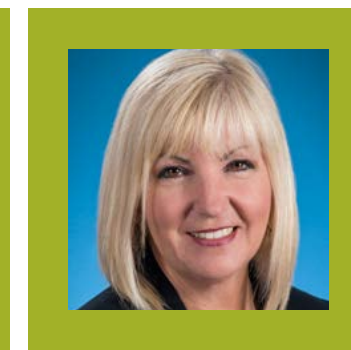
The President arbitrates Assembly proceedings, applying the Standing Orders of the National Assembly to maintain order, ensure the proper conduct of proceedings and protect Members' rights. The President manages the Assembly's administrative services, ensuring they meet the needs of Members and citizens.

Furthermore, the President represents the Assembly. He plays a key role in raising the National Assembly's profile at home and abroad, notably by building relations with other parliaments. The President promotes democratic values and informs the public about the work of Members through communication and educational activities.

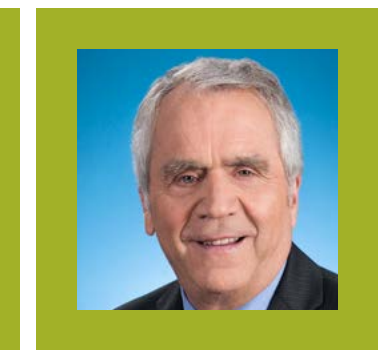
## Vice-Presidents of the Assembly



**François Ouimet**  
Member for Marquette  
First Vice-President



**Maryse Gaudreault**  
Member for Hull  
Second Vice-President



**François Gendron**  
Member for Abitibi-Ouest  
Third Vice-President

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/abc-assemblee/fonction-depute/fonctions-parlementaires.html#preAssemblee>



Parliamentary  
anniversaries

10 years

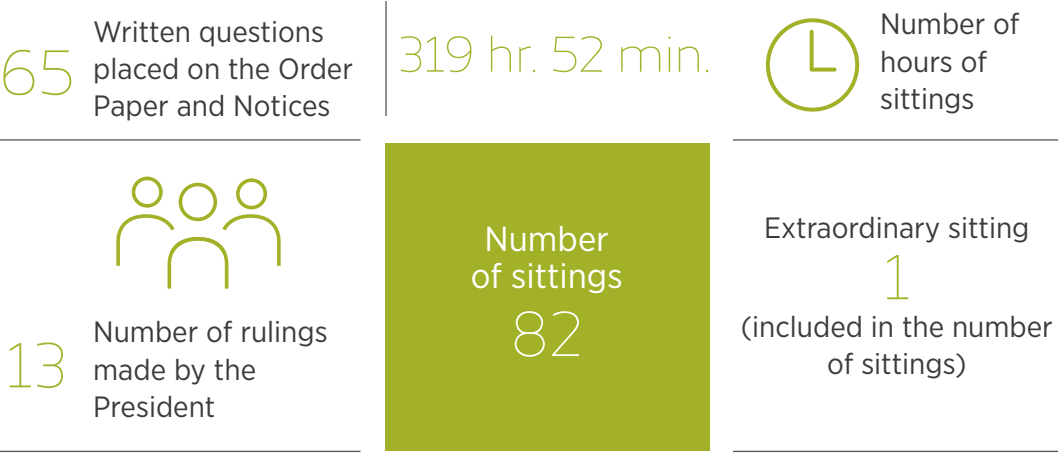
**26 March 2007:** Pierre Arcand, Pascal Bérubé, François Bonnardel, Éric Caire, Alexandre Cloutier, Sylvain Gaudreault, Nicole Ménard, Guy Ouellette, Gerry Sklavounos, Christine St-Pierre, Stéphanie Vallée

15 years

**15 April 2002:** Lise Thériault  
**30 November 1998 :** François Legault

Parliamentary proceedings

Assembly sittings



Monthly breakdown of sittings held and hours worked, 2017-2018

Sittings	Hours	
April 2017	9	39 hr. 43 min.
May	11	52 hr. 17 min.
June	9	31 hr. 10 min.
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	6	21 hr. 33 min.
October	10	38 hr. 54 min.
November	14	44 hr. 27 min.
December	5	17 hr. 56 min.
January 2018	0	0
February	9	38 hr. 27 min.
March	9	35 hr. 25 min.
Total	82	319 hr. 52 min.

\* These figures cover the period of 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Extraordinary sitting

The National Assembly was summoned for an extraordinary sitting on one occasion, on 29 May 2017, to permit the introduction of Bill 142, An Act to ensure the resumption of work in the construction industry and the settlement of disputes for the renewal of the collective agreements, as well as to carry out all of the stages of its consideration.

Routine Proceedings

814

Statements  
by Members

79

Bills  
introduced



No

Statements by Ministers

1,118

Documents  
tabled

Oral Questions and Answers\*

Periods	Main questions	Supplementary questions	No. of hours
Spring 2017	452	866	32 hr. 20 min.
Fall 2017	334	639	23 hr. 45 min.

\* Statistics on the Oral Questions and Answers period are based on the parliamentary calendar (spring and fall 2017), not the fiscal year.

Orders of the Day

Some statistics on headings that may be considered during the Orders of the Day.

Orders of the Day

Business Having Precedence**	Urgent Debates	Debates on Reports from Committees	Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition	Other Business Standing on the Order Paper: Approval of International Agreements	Number of Debates Upon Adjournment
	1	5	19	1	26

\*\* Business Having Precedence takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The National Assembly considered several items of business having precedence, including the **budget speech debate** initiated on 29 March 2018.

Urgent Debate

One urgent debate was held and dealt with the decision of the US Department of Commerce to impose preliminary countervailing duties bordering on 220% on Bombardier C Series aircraft.

Petitions

	Paper petitions	Online petitions	Total petitions presented
2016-2017	59 petitions 128,450 signatures	99 petitions 301,918 signatures	158 petitions 430,368 signatures
2017-2018	60 petitions 128,195 signatures	98 petitions 193,924 signatures	158 petitions 322,119 signatures

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/index.html>

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/cheminement-petition.html>

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/abc-assemblee/organisation-travaux-assemblee/calendrier/deroulement-seance.html>

+ [www.assnat.qc.ca/seance-extraordinaire](http://www.assnat.qc.ca/seance-extraordinaire) (French only)

# Bills

**79 bills were introduced in the National Assembly, compared to 56 the year before.**

Government bills **38**

Private Members' public bills **31**

Private bills **10**

**Of all bills introduced since the beginning of the 41<sup>st</sup> Legislature, 42 were passed this year.**

Government bills **33**, with **48.5%** passed unanimously

Private Members' public bills - **Aucun**

Private bills **9**, with **8** passed unanimously

**Of all bills passed, 57% were passed unanimously.**

Government bills passed and private bills passed are listed at the end of the document in Appendix I.

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/projets-loi/projets-loi-41-1.html>

# Documents tabled

Document categories	TOTAL	%
Replies to written questions placed on the Order Paper	61	5.5
Decisions of the Office of the National Assembly	19	1.7
Petitions	158	14.1
Replies to petitions	127	11.4
Committee reports	101	9
Annual reports (departments and agencies)	314	28.1
Other documents	338	30.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>100</b>

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/documents-deposes.html>

# Journal des débats

The *Journal des débats (Hansard)* was launched on 14 January 1964, 54 years ago. The *Journal* provides a faithful record of all that is said, in French or English, by Members and anyone else who takes the floor, whether in the House or in parliamentary committee, as well as during press conferences and briefings taking place in the Parliament Building. Special events may also be transcribed with the approval of the Secretary General.

Again this year, the Debates Publishing Directorate attended the 44<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Hansard Association of Canada (HAC), held in Ottawa, from 14 to 18 August, on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation.

## Production of the *Journal des débats*

For this year's *Journal*, 1,789 hours and 11 minutes of parliamentary proceedings were transcribed, reviewed, edited and laid out.

  
1,789 hr. 11 min.

National Assembly sittings: **328 hr. 37 min.**  
Parliamentary committees: **1,261 hr. 45 min.**  
Meetings and press briefings: **185 hr. 30 min.**  
Special events (film shoots by the Debates Broadcasting Service, transcripts of educational, interparliamentary and institutional events): **13 hr. 59 min.**



There was a 12.5% decrease in the number of hours of events transcribed in 2017-2018 over 2016-2017.

### Visit of Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne

On Thursday, 21 September 2017, Ms. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, delivered a speech in the Blue Room during her visit to Québec City. This was the first time that the head of government of a Canadian province took the floor in the Québec National Assembly Chamber.

This official ceremony, included in the special events, was transcribed and published in that day's House issue.

Other dignitaries were recently welcomed to the National Assembly, notably:

**Nicolas Sarkozy**, then President of the French Republic Friday, 17 October 2008, in the Blue Room

**Abdou Diouf**, then Secretary General of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie Wednesday, 18 September 2013, in the Blue Room

**François Hollande**, then President of the French Republic Tuesday, 4 November 2014, in the Blue Room

**Manuel Valls**, then Prime Minister of the French Republic Friday, 14 October 2016, in the Red Room

## Television broadcasting and archiving of proceedings and events

In 2017-2018, the Debates Broadcasting Service broadcast more than **1250 parliamentary sittings**, press events and institutional activities.

This includes **451 press events**.

This year, the Service archived and stored close to **1750 hours of proceedings and institutional activities**. Content is available to MNAs and Québec's general public on request.

This year, **2,062 requests for archives and video clips** were processed.

Members and their staff **1,585 (76.9%)**

National Assembly employees **363 (17.6%)**

Media outlets **71 (3.4%)**

Private citizens **14 (0.7%)**

Audio/video production companies **29 (1.4%)**

## Legislative translation and publishing

The Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate translates all bills so that they may be introduced in the Assembly in French and English. This directorate is also responsible for translating any amendments that are adopted during the legislative process, whether they be introduced in French or English.



**1,714** pages of bills translated, edited and published

**1,635** pages of legislation translated, edited and published

It should be noted that the bills and laws of Québec have been listed by calendar year since 1867 (from 1 January to 31 December 2017).

The laws are published in the *Annual Volume of the Statutes of Québec* and on the Publications du Québec website.

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/publications/fiche-recueil-annuel-lois.html>





## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Parliamentary committees are made up of a limited group of Members. They consider bills, hold public hearings, examine the activities and management of departments and public bodies, and may, by their own initiative, consider any matter of public interest.

Members conduct a great deal of their business within the eleven standing committees of the National Assembly:

Committee on the National Assembly

Committee on Public Administration

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries,  
Energy and Natural Resources

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Committee on Culture and Education

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Committee on Public Finance

Committee on Institutions

Committee on Citizen Relations

Committee on Health and Social Services

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

# Parliamentary committees



+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/index.html>

# Overview

Parliamentary committee activities	Sittings	%	Hours	%
Orders of reference				
Public bills	252	55.0	926 hr. 34 min.	69.7
Private bills	15	3.3	18 hr. 43 min.	1.4
Estimates of expenditure	46	10.0	199 hr. 59 min.	15.0
Examination of any other matter	-	-	-	-
Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders				
Election of chairs and vice-chairs	7	1.5	0 hr. 19 min.	0.1
Interpellations	15	3.3	30 hr. 01 min.	2.3
Other	38	8.3	57 hr. 03 min.	4.3
Statutory orders				
Statutory order	7	1.5	27 hr. 58 min.	2.1
Orders of initiative				
Examination of regulations	-	-	-	-
Public body oversight and accountability	6	1.3	9 hr. 05 min.	0.7
Examination of petitions	3	0.7	4 hr. 49 min.	0.4
Examination of any other matter	17	3.7	24 hr. 05 min.	1.8
General organization	52	11.4	29 hr. 35 min.	2.2
Total	458	100.0	1,328 hr. 11 min.	100.0

## Consideration of bills

Committees spent 71.2% of their time examining 40 public bills and 9 private bills during 267 sittings.

Over the last 10 years, committees have spent an average of 57.3% of their time considering bills.

The clause-by-clause consideration of these bills required 183 sittings and 658 hours and allowed the examination of 3111 sections and 1,870 amendments.

Public consultations on these bills took 69 sittings and 269 hours.

Specific facts concerning the consideration of bills can be consulted at the end of the document in Appendix II.

## Consultations and public hearings



29  
public  
consultations

Parliamentary committees held one general consultation and 28 special consultations, 25 of which were related to bills.

During the consultations and hearings, Members met with 477 individuals and organizations and received 509 briefs.

Over the last 10 years, committees have heard an average of 568 individuals and organizations per year.

## Parliamentary oversight

Examination of the 2017-2018 estimates of expenditure ran from 24 April to 4 May 2017 for a total of 46 sittings and 200 hours.

Fourteen departments and public bodies were heard by the Committee on Public Administration.

Committees devoted 21.5 % of their time to oversight activities.

285 hours  
devoted to  
parliamentary  
oversight.



Specific facts concerning parliamentary oversight can be consulted at the end of the document in Appendix II.

## Other orders

Other orders can be consulted at the end of the document in Appendix II.

## Reports containing observations, conclusions and recommendations

Once a committee completes an order, it tables its report in the Assembly. This report contains the minutes of its meetings and, where applicable, the committee's observations, conclusions and recommendations.

The parliamentary committees tabled twelve reports containing observations, conclusions and recommendations during the year.

The list of reports can be consulted at the end of the document in Appendix III.

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/rapports-documents-reflexion/41-1.html>



## Public comments

Anyone wishing to comment on a bill or matter being considered in a parliamentary committee can do so on the Assembly website. Comments are forwarded to the Members concerned.



Over the year, Members received  
2,883 comments from citizens in relation to  
37 orders and bills.

### CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

267 sittings  
945 hours

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

477 individuals and  
organizations heard  
509 briefs tabled

### PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

21.5% of time devoted  
to parliamentary oversight

## PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The National Assembly maintains relations with other parliaments and various interparliamentary organizations around the world. Parliamentary diplomacy's main objectives are to increase the Assembly's influence on the international scene, increase the effectiveness of the institution and of the Members in carrying out their duties and promote the sectors in which Québec excels.

By virtue of the separation of powers, the Assembly pursues its international relations independently. The President represents the Assembly on the international scene and oversees its interparliamentary relations. He or she is assisted by Members from all the parliamentary groups, who make up the 18 branches or delegations operating in the field of interparliamentary relations.



## Parliamentary diplomacy

### This year the National Assembly...

carried out  
**159**  
international activities.

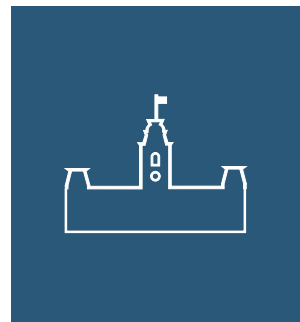


signed **2** new  
cooperation  
agreements.

Participated in **56** parliamentary  
missions abroad.

hosted delegations of  
parliamentarians from  
**18** countries, including  
**18** presidents of  
Houses of Assembly.

involved  
the National  
Assembly's  
parliamentary  
committees in  
more than **8** international  
activities.



welcomed **41** diplomats  
and members of the  
consular corps.

The National Assembly's branches and delegations of international relations examined and presented more than **50** themes of specific interest for Québec.



- Prevention and fight against religious extremism
- Renegotiation of NAFTA
- Energy and fight against climate change
- Violence against women
- Parliamentary practice within a British-style deliberative system
- Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
- Genome editing
- Artificial intelligence and its future impacts
- Legalization of cannabis
- Student retention

## Interparliamentary relations

### Multilateral relations

The National Assembly is a member of several interparliamentary organizations, including the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) since 1975, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) since 1933, and is a founding member of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA). Furthermore, it sits on the executive boards of three U.S. parliamentary organizations: the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the CSG's eastern branch, the Eastern Regional Council (ERC).

### Bilateral relations

The National Assembly has developed an extensive network of bilateral relations with partner parliaments. Agreements with these parliaments provide for regular meetings between National Assembly members and their foreign counterparts. This gives parliamentarians an opportunity to discuss in depth topics of mutual interest and to take advantage of their mutual legislative and policymaking experience. The meetings also serve to promote Québec's areas of excellence and enhance Québec's international profile.

### Interparliamentary cooperation

For over 20 years, the National Assembly of Québec has provided technical support to parliamentary institutions in emerging and consolidating democracies, underpinning their efforts at the parliamentary and administrative levels. In so doing, the Assembly actively contributes to the promotion and strengthening of democratic institutions and processes around the world based on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity.

+ [www.assnat.qc.ca/diplomatie](http://www.assnat.qc.ca/diplomatie)

## Multilateral relations

### 1. Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie

The Québec Branch of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) took part in **21 parliamentary activities** of this organization in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe.

By participating in **8 meetings** of the Francophonie institutionnelle, APF Chair Jacques Chagnon extended Québec's influence on the international scene, particularly during the 137<sup>th</sup> Assemblée de l'Union interparlementaire and the Journée de la Francophonie économique et numérique, organized by the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). On this occasion, he promoted the Chair's plan on APF digitization and strengthened ties with several Francophonie stakeholders.

As APF Chair, the President of the National Assembly led an information and contact mission to the Parliament of Burundi to report on the political and security situation of this country under observation.



Chair of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie

The President of the National Assembly became Chair of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie for a two-year term, on the occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the APF, held in Luxembourg, in July 2017. This chairmanship will focus on digital technology.

## 2. Parliamentary organizations in the United States



The Members of the National Assembly participated **13 meetings** organized by United States parliamentary organizations and represented Québec's interests to their American colleagues.

The renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) marked 2017-2018. The National Assembly was instrumental in having a NAFTA resolution adopted unanimously within the framework of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) of the Council of State Governments, in August 2017. Furthermore, it organized, jointly with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), an interparliamentary conference on free trade, which was held in Québec City, in March 2018.



International Trade Legislative Conference

The International Trade Legislative Conference was held from 15 to 18 March 2018 on the National Assembly's initiative, in partnership with the National Conference of State Legislatures. Close to 150 parliamentarians, experts and observers hailing from Mexico, the United States and Canada met in Québec City to discuss the challenges of free trade in North America.

### 3. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The President of the National Assembly welcomed his counterparts within the framework of the 35<sup>th</sup> Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference, held in January 2018.




The Assembly took part in **5 activities** held by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), namely the Executive Committee, the Canadian Regional Conference, the Canadian Regional Seminar and the Westminster Seminar on parliamentary practice and procedure within a British-style deliberative system.

4. Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. A declaration was adopted by the Members of the National Assembly, on 8 December 2017, to underline this event.

The 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COPA and the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas were held from 26 February to 1 March 2018 at the headquarters of the Latin-American Parliament in Panama City.



This event brought together **80 participants** hailing from some **fifteen** countries.



MNA Diane Lamarre chairs the meeting of the Committee on Democracy and Peace during the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COPA.

Bilateral relations

This year, **17 statutory meetings** of interparliamentary groups were held in Québec and abroad.

EUROPE

PARTNERS	EVENTS	DATES
French Senate	11 <sup>th</sup> French Senate–National Assembly of Québec Annual Meeting	3 to 8 April 2017, Québec City
European institutions	Study mission to European, Belgian and Luxembourg institutions	22 to 25 May 2017, Brussels and Luxembourg
Landtag of Bavaria	10 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Québec–Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee	4 to 8 October 2017, Québec City
Parliament of Wallonia	10 <sup>th</sup> Session of the National Assembly of Québec–Parliament of Wallonia Joint Committee	9 to 12 October 2017, Namur, Belgium
Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation	27 <sup>th</sup> Session of the National Assembly of Québec–Parliament of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels Joint Committee	23 to 27 October 2017, Québec City
Landtag of Bavaria	11 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Québec–Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee	25 February to 2 March 2018, Munich, Germany
Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation	28 <sup>th</sup> Session of the National Assembly of Québec–Parliament of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels Joint Committee	4 to 8 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium
French National Assembly	31 <sup>st</sup> Session of the France–Québec Interparliamentary Committee	6 to 9 March 2018, Paris, France
Parliament of Wallonia	11 <sup>th</sup> Session of the National Assembly of Québec–Parliament of Wallonia Joint Committee	20 to 23 March 2018, Québec City



AMERICAS

ORGANIZATIONS	EVENTS	DATES
Legislative Assembly of Ontario	23 <sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Ontario–Québec Parliamentary Association	11 to 13 May 2017, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the Massachusetts–Quebec Collaborative Research Council and 5 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Québec–Massachusetts Parliamentary Association	9 to 12 August 2017, Boston, Massachusetts
Haitian Chamber of Deputies and Senate	Cooperation mission to the Haitian Parliament	5 to 7 September 2017, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the Québec–Louisiana Parliamentary Association	18 to 21 September 2017, Québec City
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick	6 <sup>th</sup> Session of the New Brunswick–Québec Parliamentary Association	16 to 18 November 2017, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Legislative Assembly of Ontario	24 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Ontario–Québec Parliamentary Association	7 to 9 February 2018, Québec City

ASIA

ORGANIZATION	EVENT	DATES
Kyoto Prefectural Assembly	Mission to the Kyoto Prefectural Assembly	19 to 22 April 2017, Kyoto, Japan

AFRICA

ORGANIZATION	EVENT	DATES
House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco	5 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Morocco–Québec Interparliamentary Committee	9 to 12 January 2018, Rabat, Morocco

Interparliamentary cooperation

International Parliamentary Training Program

For its third edition, the International Parliamentary Training Program brought together **16 parliamentary officials** from **9 parliaments** of French-speaking African countries.



**20 experts** from eleven parliamentary and university institutions delivered more than **25 training modules** to participants over a two-week period.

The Program received  
**a satisfaction rating of**



Working meeting with the Lobbyists Commissioner during the International Parliamentary Training Program.



### Protocol agreement with the Canadian Parliamentary Centre

The National Assembly signed a cooperation agreement with the Canadian Parliamentary Centre within the framework of the project Support to Democracy in Burkina Faso to implement activities aiming to strengthen this country's sustainable institutional and democratic development.



A first parliamentary research training session was delivered from 12 to 16 February by the National Assembly's Research Service. The activity was carried out by means of videoconference and brought together over **20 parliamentary officials from Burkino Faso**.



Signing of a joint declaration with the National Assembly of Burkina Faso on the strengthening of democracy, in May 2017.

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### INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ACCESSION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MR. JACQUES CHAGNON,  
TO THE CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE  
DE LA FRANCOPHONIE FOR  
THE 2017-2019 TERM

ORGANIZATION OF AN  
INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE  
ON FREE TRADE, IN QUÉBEC CITY,  
IN MARCH 2018

CREATION OF THE  
QUÉBEC-HAÏTI STANDING  
INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE



## INSTITUTIONAL AND CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

Beyond its parliamentary mission, the National Assembly also has other objectives, particularly that of welcoming citizens from Québec and abroad. Each year, the Assembly pays tribute to famous people, opens the doors of its Library and restaurants, carries out its educational mission by organizing various parliamentary simulations and takes part in several training sessions. All of these activities reflect the Assembly's commitment to making the Parliament accessible to the greatest number of people.

### **An anniversary year**

This year, the National Assembly celebrated the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its parliamentary institutions by orchestrating several activities designed for a range of audiences. These activities allowed participants to take a journey back in time to the beginning of Québec's parliamentary life.



## 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations



The 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Québec's parliamentary institutions: a year of celebration

### Launching of festivities and unveiling of the exhibition *1792. A Parliament is Born*

**Tuesday, 4 April 2017**

Hall of the Parliament Building

The exhibition *1792. A Parliament is Born* was shown at the Visitor Centre until 4 April 2018. It highlighted the major debates held by the Members of Lower Canada's House of Assembly, from 1792 to 1841. Rare and precious artifacts were on exhibit in the Parliament Building, including the only existing copy of the cartoon *À tous les électeurs (to all voters)*, recognized as the world's first French-language comic strip.

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/visiteurs/225-institutions/index.html>



The National Assembly's historian, Christian Blais, presents the exhibition *1792. A Parliament is Born* to Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly, Mr. François Gendron, Vice-President of the National Assembly, and Mr. Mathieu Lemay, Member for Masson.

### Public unveiling of the book *1792 : à main levée*



**Wednesday, 5 April 2017**

Salon international du livre de Québec

Thanks to the talent of four Québec cartoonists, namely VoRo (Vincent Rioux), VAN (Vanessa Lalonde), Vincent Giard and Réal Godbout, and the noted participation of Magali Paquin, a research officer at the National Assembly, Christian Blais, National Assembly historian, and Michel Giguère, a comic strip consultant, this book has emerged as a quality publication, having been recognized by Québec's cartoon industry.

### Four round tables

Round-table discussions on the comic strip *1792 : à main levée*, with the cartoonists.

**Thursday, 6 April 2017**

Musée de la civilisation

(Festival de la bande dessinée francophone de Québec)

**Friday, 26 May 2017**

Festival de bande dessinée de Montréal

**Friday, 3 November 2017**

Salon du livre de Rimouski

**Saturday, 24 March 2018**

Musée québécois de culture populaire (Trois-Rivières)

## Engravings commemorating four key figures of Lower Canada



**December 2017**

Parliament Building, woodwork in front of the Flag Room entrance

The names of four prominent figures of the Lower Canada period were added to the Parliament Building's wood panelling. Each of these moderate reformers, in his own way, helped shape democratic life in Lower Canada.

**William Grant**, elected in the first elections of 1792.

**Augustin-Norbert Morin**, journalist, Member and leader of the 1837 uprising.

**Thomas Dunn**, politician whose prolific career began in 1764.

**Joseph-Octave Plessis**, Archbishop of Québec as from 1819.

## 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration in partnership with the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association

**11 to 13 May 2017**

Niagara-on-the-Lake/Québec

The Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association marked, during its May 2017 meeting, the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Québec's parliamentary institutions by organizing a tree-planting ceremony. This tree was planted close to Navy Hall, a historic site where Upper Canada's first provincial Parliament was built (1792-1796).

## The Parliament's restaurants, gardens and beehives

### 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Le Parlementaire restaurant

On 4 December 2017, Le Parlementaire restaurant celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark its centennial, a collection of artifacts and antique dishes was put on display in the restaurant. Furthermore, from September to December 2017, four food products were showcased on the menu, namely apples, squash, salted herbs and cranberries.



### Partnership agreement with the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec

On 5 December 2017, the National Assembly and the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec (ITHQ) signed a partnership agreement to formalize an alliance that has been in place for a few years now. This agreement aims particularly to update the Parliament restaurants' culinary selection and provide restaurant industry internships to students hailing from various culinary schools. Québec's food products will thus continue to occupy an important place in the restaurant menu, since both partners are committed to promoting local products.

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/visiteurs/restaurant-parlementaire/index.html>



## Woodland gardens

Woodland gardens have graced the National Assembly's grounds for over thirty years. Several species of trees that are dear to Quebecers' hearts can be found there, including the yellow birch, which was chosen as Québec's official tree in 1993.

## Edible gardens

Edible gardens have been part of the National Assembly's landscape for five years. Whenever possible, they supply Le Parlementaire restaurant with herbs, fruits and vegetables. The restaurant chefs harvest the produce themselves on a daily basis. Furthermore, several ingredients from the gardens are included in the salted herbs recipe, which is very popular among restaurant customers. Certain sections of these gardens are open to the general public for harvesting.



## Assembly honey

Honey was harvested twice in 2017: once in summer and again in fall. More than 250,000 bees foraged from May onward and produced 175 kg of honey. Urban honey has a very interesting characteristic: it is free of pesticides and insecticides. This honey, which is sold at La Boutique giftshop, is also a popular ingredient among the chefs.

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/visiteurs/jardins.html>

# Tribute

## Medal of Honour of the National Assembly

On 14 November 2017, President Jacques Chagnon bestowed the Medal of Honour on five public figures who, through their achievements, have left a mark in their respective fields of endeavour and thus contributed to Québec's outreach.



In alphabetical order

Mr. Alexandre Bilodeau

Mr. Jean-Marie De Koninck

Mr. Bernard Descôteaux

Ms. Ginette Reno

Ms. Kim Thúy

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/abc-assemblee/assemblee-nationale/medailles-assemblee-nationale/index.html#honnneur>

## Parliamentary life

### Creation of the Cercle des jeunes parlementaires du Québec



President Jacques Chagnon announced the creation of the Cercle des jeunes parlementaires du Québec (circle of young parliamentarians of Québec), which aims to foster the involvement of the next generation of parliamentarians within decision-making bodies and to provide better representation of Québec's population in democratic institutions.

Established at the beginning of each legislature, the Cercle, which will bring together women and men aged 35 years and under, will organize activities such as meetings, conferences and workshops on various issues, particularly that of promoting the representativeness of young Members in the National Assembly.

### Pepper, first service dog in the National Assembly



Pepper, the first assistance dog to serve within the framework of parliamentary proceedings with the Member for Iberville, Ms. Claire Samson, retired on 30 November 2017. To underline his presence in the National Assembly for close to three years, a picture was put up at the entrance of the Café du Parlement, a restaurant that is frequented by MNAs and political and administrative staff.

## Healthy living

### Energy Cubes Challenge

For the ninth year in a row, President Jacques Chagnon hosted the Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie and released the names of the winning schools during the 2017 Energy Cubes Challenge. In joining the Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie, the National Assembly wishes to support Pierre Lavoie in his mission to encourage people of all ages to adopt healthy lifestyle habits.

### Health Challenge – Working together for a healthy Québec

#### Close to 100,000 Quebecers take action

The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, welcomed the Health Challenge team at the Parliament to mark the closing of this collective activity, which was held from 30 March to 10 May 2017. This free activity invited the population to reach the following three goals: eat better, be more active and take better care of themselves.

### Québec athletes at the Special Olympics World Winter Games Austria 2017



From 14 to 25 March 2017, in Austria, Québec athletes distinguished themselves among 3000 athletes hailing from 110 countries. They showed the world that they could excel in several sports such as indoor hockey, figure and speed skating, snowshoeing, alpine skiing and cross-country skiing. They returned to Québec with an impressive 22 medals, including 10 gold medals, 7 silver medals and 5 bronze medals.



# National Assembly Library

*The Library meets the documentary and research needs of MNAs and the National Assembly's political and administrative staff by providing them with referencing, research, indexing, archiving, document processing and and document management services.*

## Support to Members and administrative units



information and research requests, **6,300** document loans, **195** assignments completed by the Research Service, **1,000** document management requests

## A lively, open and connected Library



Library visitors and users, **800,000** Web pages accessed, **11,700** pages of indexed parliamentary debates, **118,000** searches from the *Journal des débats* online index, **160** activities, such as lunchtime lectures, guided tours and book launches

## Collections to browse



**2.3**  
million

documents in various collections, **11,300** new documents processed and added to the collection, **43,000** files of administrative documents, **6,200** heritage objects, **87,000** + pages scanned, **70** archival fonds and collections, **10,000** rare and valuable books, **90,000** hours of audio and video recordings of parliamentary proceedings



## Its publications

*Bulletin de la Bibliothèque*

*Cinq lectures pour comprendre...*

*En BREF. Notes d'information de la Bibliothèque*

*Subject guides*

*Encyclopedia of Québec*

*Parliamentarism*

*Répertoire des fonds d'archives de parlementaires québécois*

## Its activities

**3** lunchtime lectures

**1** table ronde

**1** exhibition:

Powerful pencil strokes!

Political satire cartoons

Political Book Prize

**16** guided exhibition tours



## 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Political Book Prize

Thursday, 6 April 2017

Salon international du livre de Québec

### Winners of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition

Sean Mills, winner of the Prix de la présidence de l'Assemblée nationale for his book *A Place in the Sun: Haiti, Haitians, and the Remaking of Quebec*.

Julien Mauduit, winner of the Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant in the Doctoral Dissertation category for his thesis *Vrais républicains d'Amérique : Les patriotes canadiens en exil aux États-Unis (1837-1842)*.

Camille Robert, winner of the Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant in the Master's Theses category for her thesis *Toutes les femmes sont d'abord ménagères : Discours et mobilisations des féministes autour du travail ménager (1968-1985)*.

Jocelyn St-Pierre, winner of the Prix du Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec/Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Développement international de France for his book *La Tribune de la presse à Québec depuis 1960*.

+ [www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca](http://www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca)

## The National Assembly's educational mission

*The mission of the National Assembly's educational programs service is to contribute to the development of more responsible citizens, who will be better informed, more committed and more attached to their democratic institutions. To reach young people at all school levels, the National Assembly organizes a vast array of educational activities at the Parliament as well as in schools, thanks to its partnership with the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant.*

### Par ici la démocratie

Since 2014, the Internet site [www.paricilademocratie.com](http://www.paricilademocratie.com) has been the gateway to the National Assembly's educational activities. Furthermore, it provides schools with plain language, well-researched pedagogical content linked to history programs.



As at 31 March 2017, the National Assembly's website for young people had **1,515 subscribers** and logged an average of **9,800 visits** per month.

## Parliamentary simulations

The National Assembly welcomes young people of all school levels for a unique parliamentary experience at the heart of this seat of democratic power.



### 21<sup>st</sup> Pupils' Parliament

This one-day parliamentary simulation allows children to become familiar with the legislative process, from the presentation of a bill to its consideration in parliamentary committee to its royal assent.



**5 May 2017**

**Target group:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students

**Number of participants:** 123 students and 51 teachers

**Scope:** 30 electoral divisions and 12 administrative regions

#### Bills considered

1. An Act respecting the implementation of intergenerational projects in Québec's elementary schools
2. Volunteering Act
3. An Act respecting the establishment of student councils



## 16<sup>th</sup> Young People's Parliament

Participants in this simulation, divided into three parliamentary groups, discover the effervescence of caucuses. Furthermore, some students participate as journalists and report on the proceedings held in the House and in the parliamentary committees.



**24 to 26 January 2018**

**Target group:** Secondary 3 and 4 students

**Number of participants:** 134 students and 38 teachers

**Scope:** 33 electoral divisions and 11 administrative regions represented

Bills considered

1. An Act respecting the establishment of a course on citizenship and civic education for secondary students
2. An Act respecting the control and prevention of food waste
3. An Act aiming to promote the use of electric vehicles and to improve recharging

An order of initiative on performance anxiety among youth.

## 26<sup>th</sup> Student Forum

This parliamentary simulation allows participants to hone their knowledge of the functioning of a democratic state. Divided into three parliamentary groups, these young people act according to their own ideology. Two newspapers with separate editorial policies are also published by the young people every day during the Forum.



**8 to 12 January 2018**

**Target group:** College students

**Number of participants:** 143 students and 48 professors

**Scope:** 25 electoral divisions and 12 administrative regions represented

Bills considered

1. An Act respecting a framework for sex work
2. An Act respecting the liberalization of the distribution of alcohol in Québec
3. An Act respecting learning through community involvement



## 25<sup>th</sup> Young Democrats Tournament

This quiz game invites contestants to test their knowledge of democracy, parliamentarism and the political history of Québec and Canada.



**21 to 23 April 2017**

**Target group:** Students in secondary 4 and 5 and college

**Number of participants:** 177 young people and 40 professors

**Scope:** 19 electoral divisions and 8 administrative regions represented

### Parliamentary simulations organized by external organizations

*Québec Youth Parliament and Québec Student Parliament*

In addition to its own parliamentary simulations, the National Assembly offers logistics support for two simulations designed for young people aged 18 to 25.

- The 68<sup>th</sup> legislature of the Québec Youth Parliament, organized by the Association québécoise des jeunes parlementaires inc., was held from 26 to 30 December 2017 and drew 105 participants.
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> legislature of the Québec Student Parliament, organized by the Assemblée parlementaire des étudiants du Québec, was held from 2 to 6 January 2018 and drew 149 participants.

## Democracy and citizen education

### Vox populi: Your democracy at school!



This program is in its third year thanks to the support of the Directeur général des élections du Québec and the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant. Benefitting from a team of qualified and dynamic educators, it offers elementary and secondary schools an organizational framework for their student councils.

On 19 May 2017, the reward activity Vox populi recognized several elementary and secondary schools that excelled owing to their mobilizing projects, the dedication of teachers accompanying the student councils and their outstanding democratic culture.

**Target group:** elementary and secondary school students

**Number of member schools:** 252

**Number of training sessions:** 185

**Number of students joined:** 3,415

**Scope:** 17 administrative regions

### President's Tour

#### Democracy: Why and for whom?

For many years now, visits by the President or a Vice-President of the National Assembly have been organized in Québec's elementary and secondary schools. During these meetings, students learn about the roles of the President, Vice-presidents and Members of the National Assembly, and the importance of getting involved in their community. This year, the President's Tour was revamped with the integration of new technologies in its presentations in order to vitalize exchanges.



**Target group:** elementary and secondary students

**Number of schools visited:** 17 elementary schools and 21 secondary schools

**Scope:** 30 electoral divisions and 13 administrative regions visited

## Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant internships

Every year the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant offers five 10-month internships along with a \$21,000 scholarship to graduates of a Québec university. Five interns are alternately paired with a Government Member, excluding ministers, and an Opposition Member. They also participate in an international exploratory mission, which this year took place in the United Kingdom. Lastly, they are required to write an essay on a topic related to the parliamentary system and democracy.

The Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant also awards scholarships within the framework of the Assembly's educational activities and the Political Book Prize.

+ [www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca](http://www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca)



### 2017-2018 cohort

Philippe Brassard, Vincent Boulay, Isabelle Bélanger, Maxime Huot Couture, Justine Lalande

## Student Page Program

This program gives 14 undergraduate students an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of Québec's parliamentary institutions.

From September 2017 to June 2018, the student pages were able to experience political, legislative and parliamentary activity first-hand in the National Assembly Chamber.

+ <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/abc-assemblee/carrieres-et-stages/stages.html>

+ [www.parilademocratie.com/participer/983-pages-parlementaires](http://www.parilademocratie.com/participer/983-pages-parlementaires)



## Parliamentary diplomacy: university research

### Research chair on democracy and parliamentary institutions

Resulting from a partnership between the National Assembly and Université Laval, the Chair's mission is to improve understanding of the issues and challenges facing parliamentary systems and contemporary democracies.

### Recognition event

On 7 February 2018, National Assembly President Jacques Chagnon welcomed the Chair's partners. On this occasion, four students received a scholarship to mark the quality of their research work on democracy and parliamentary institutions.

+ [www.democratie.chaire.ulaval.ca](http://www.democratie.chaire.ulaval.ca)



### Training in parliamentarism and parliamentary law

The Assembly actively contributes to training for persons with an interest in the rules of parliamentary debate and how Parliament works. It provides various courses tailored to the needs of each clientele. Members and their staff have access to courses to help them mainly in their roles as legislators and overseers of government action. Similarly, the Assembly provided training courses to the administrative staff of the Assembly, the officers of the Assembly and Québec's public service, thus allowing them to fully play their roles by having better knowledge of the role played by the Assembly.

Furthermore, for the past 14 years, the National Assembly has offered the course "Droit et procédure parlementaires" to students enrolled in a bachelor's program in law, political science, public affairs or international relations at Université Laval. The Assembly also takes part in the *Clinique de rédaction législative* course by offering a legislative drafting course to students and by giving them the opportunity to draft bills within the framework of the Student Forum. Lastly, it also took part in training sessions and exchanges regarding best practices and parliamentary reform with representatives of certain foreign parliaments.

This year, over **375 persons** benefitted from these training sessions for a total of **97.5 hours**.

A VISITED ASSEMBLY

110,551 PERSONS

CAME TO THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

35,725 OF THEM WERE FROM QUÉBEC,  
8,852 FROM THE OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES,  
8,895 FROM THE UNITED STATES,  
6,479 FROM FRANCE AND  
10,764 FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

8,390 PERSONS

ATTENDED THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
HELD IN THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER





# I ADMINISTRATION

## Office of the National Assembly

The Office of the National Assembly oversees and directs the Assembly's administration. Furthermore, it is responsible for adopting the Assembly's administrative organization plan, approving the Assembly's budget estimates and regulating areas of immediate concern to Members and their staff, such as their allowances and working conditions.

### Its composition as at 31 March 2018

#### Chair of the Office

Jacques Chagnon

#### Members

##### Quebec Liberal Party (5)

Jean-Denis Girard (Trois-Rivières)  
Michel Matte (Portneuf)  
Richard Merlini (La Prairie)  
Monique Sauvé (Fabre)  
Karine Vallières (Richmond)

##### Parti québécois (3)

Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)  
Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure)  
Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne)

##### Coalition avenir Québec (1)

Jean-François Roberge (Chambly)

#### Substitute Members

##### Quebec Liberal Party (5)

Guy Bourgeois (Abitibi-Est)  
Patrick Huot (Vanier-Les Rivières)  
Nicole Ménard (Laporte)  
Norbert Morin (Côte-du-Sud)  
Marie-Claude Nichols (Vaudreuil)

##### Parti québécois (3)

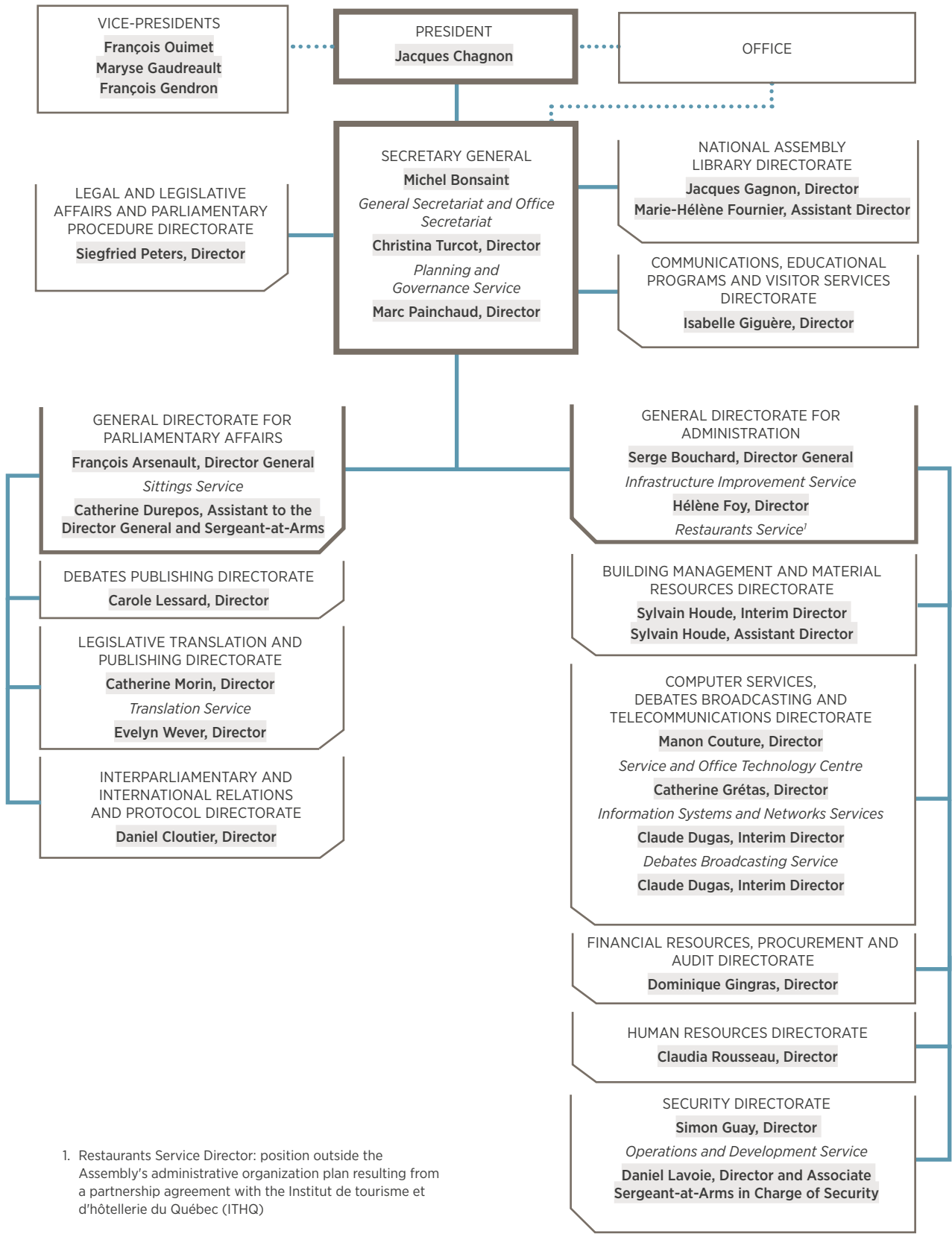
Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)  
Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)  
André Villeneuve (Berthier)

##### Coalition avenir Québec (1)

Donald Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour)



Administrative structure  
as at 31 March 2018



Members' payroll,  
allowances and expenses in  
2017-2018

Payroll

Regular remuneration (includes basic allowance and additional allowance)	\$13,447,898
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Allowances

Allowances for expeditures, attendance and political activities	\$3,350,150
Transition allowances (includes allowances paid when a Member leaves)	\$49,923
Travel from riding to Parliament Building	\$942,211
Accommodation in or around Québec City	\$1,614,934
Additional allowance for purchase of office furniture and equipment during first term of office	\$31,091
Riding office operating expenses	\$7,334,990

Expenses

	Members' staff	Office staff of House officers	Total
Payroll	\$14,273,278	\$8,306,314	\$22,579,592
Travel expenses	\$453,450	\$346,658	\$800,108
Political party research services			\$2,985,282

# Appropriations allocated to the National Assembly in 2017-2018

	Appropriations used* (\$000)
<b>General Secretariat and Legal Affairs</b>	
General Secretariat and Office Secretariat	1,007.7
Legal and Legislative Affairs and Parliamentary Procedure Directorate	1,065.3
	2,073.0
<i>Institutional Affairs and National Assembly Library</i>	
National Assembly Library Directorate	4,883.4
Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate	3,205.7
	8,089.1
<b>General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs</b>	
General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs	1,727.8
Debates Publishing Directorate	1,702.0
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	410.6
Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate	3,055.8
	6,896.2
<b>General Directorate for Administration</b>	
General Directorate for Administration	209.1
Restaurants Service	1,780.2
Building Management and Material Resources Directorate	9,616.2
Computer Services, Debates Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate	9,400.3
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,956.1
Human Resources Directorate	10,835.7
Security Directorate	5,759.6
	39,557.2
<b>Administrative total</b>	<b>56,615.5</b>
<b>Statutory support services to parliamentarians</b>	<b>69,278.3</b>
<b>Expenditures incurred by transferring surpluses to own-source revenue account</b>	<b>9,509.0</b>
<b>Appropriations used</b>	<b>135,402.8</b>
<b>Fixed assets amortization</b>	<b>5,022.0</b>

\* The appropriations used include fixed assets, salaries, operating expenses and advances.

# Human resources

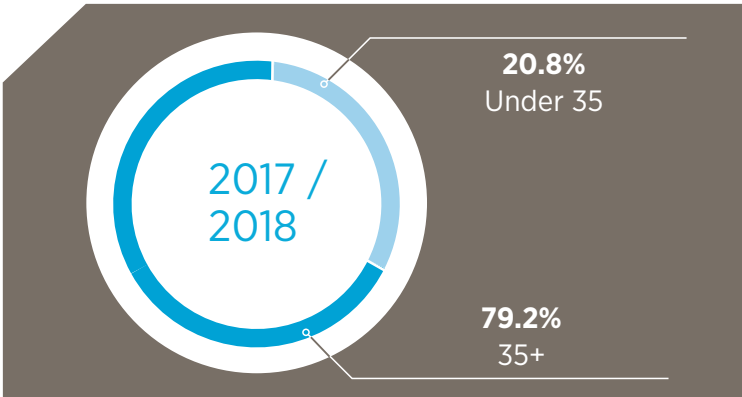
## Personnel

As at 31 March 2018, the Assembly's administrative sector had 463 regular employees, 171 casual employees and 29 students and interns.

As at 31 March 2018, the political sector, comprising executive assistants, political aides, advisors and support staff, totalled 521 persons working in the parliamentary precinct and in Members' riding offices.

## Administrative staff by age group (regular, casual employees and students/interns)

**Gender distribution**  
52% women  
48% men



## Administrative staff by job category

- Executives 4.7%
- Professionals 29.6%
- Public servants 38.8%
- Workers 15.5%
- Peace officers 7.1%
- Students and interns 4.4%

Demographic representation

Cultural communities	5.0%
Cultural	2.2%
Aboriginals	0.5%
Individuals with disabilities	0.9%

Training sessions on psychological harassment

The National Assembly's *Policy on Preventing and Managing Situations Involving Harassment in the Workplace*, adopted on 4 June 2015, makes a clear commitment to ensuring a healthy and harmonious workplace, as well as preventing any form of disrespect and workplace harassment. In 2017, training sessions on preventing disrespect, conflict and harassment in the workplace were offered to the administrative staff. This information activity is in addition to the various ongoing actions taken to raise the awareness of Members and political and administrative staff regarding the importance of living together in the workplace, such as offering training sessions particularly to managers and professionals in management positions.

25 years of service

**Five members** of the National Assembly's personnel with **25 years** in the public service were honoured.

On 30 November 2017, a ceremony was held to highlight the dedication of staff members having worked at the National Assembly or in the public service for 25 years. Ruth Cusson, Sylvie Deschênes, Isabelle Simard, Martin Duclos and Daniel Lavoie were all honoured during the special event, also attended by Assembly President Jacques Chagnon, Secretary General Michel Bonsaint, and a number of other guests.



**Left to right:**  
Michel Bonsaint, Ruth Cusson, Sylvie Deschênes, Martin Duclos, Daniel Lavoie, Isabelle Simard, Jacques Chagnon.



## Building management and material resources

### **Open-concept administrative offices**

#### André-Laurendeau Building ground floor

The spaces located on the ground floor of André-Laurendeau Building were renovated to house new administrative offices. The purpose of this project was to create a workspace prototype to establish the National Assembly's new vision with regard to office layout. This project was carried out in collaboration with the personnel via an advisory committee. This committee was given the opportunity to contribute to planning new spaces according to current workspace layout trends.

The project created eighteen new open-concept work stations, three of which are equipped with sit-stand desks. Collaborative work areas, an executive office, a meeting room, a dining area and two bathrooms make up this layout, which highlights the building's architecture and paves the way for the coming years.

**Cost: \$900,000**

### **Construction and development of a secure unloading area**

To improve security upon the delivery of mail, packages and merchandise, a new unloading area was built and developed outside the buildings belonging to the National Assembly. This new unloading area complies with all safety and detection requirements. It allows for the screening of all incoming material and was carried out with the collaboration of the Société québécoise des infrastructures. Several nearby entities, such as the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor, the Ministère de la Sécurité publique and the Ministère du Conseil exécutif, will share the facilities. Screening and sorting of incoming material will be carried out by National Assembly personnel.

**Cost: \$1.5 M**

## I APPENDICES

Abbreviations for the eleven committees of the National Assembly

CAP:	Committee on Public Administration
CAPERN:	Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources
CAT:	Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
CAN:	Committee on the National Assembly
CCE:	Committee on Culture and Education
CET:	Committee on Labour and the Economy
CFP:	Committee on Public Finance
CI:	Committee on Institutions
CRC:	Committee on Citizen Relations
CSSS:	Committee on Health and Social Services
CTE:	Committee on Transportation and the Environment

I APPENDIX I

33 Government bills passed

62	CI	An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies ( <i>modified title</i> ) (Vote: Yeas 66, Nays 51, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
98	CI	An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system (Vote: Yeas 102, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
99	CSSS	An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other provisions (Vote: Yeas 112, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
107	CI	An Act to increase the jurisdiction and independence of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner and the Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes and expand the power of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions to grant certain benefits to cooperating witnesses (Vote: Yeas 61, Nays 49, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Spring 2018)
108	CFP	An Act to facilitate oversight of public bodies' contracts and to establish the Autorité des marchés publics (Vote: Yeas 107, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
113	CI	An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and the disclosure of information (Vote: Yeas 97, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
115	CRC	An Act to combat maltreatment of seniors and other persons of full age in vulnerable situations (Vote: Yeas 111, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
121	CAT	An Act to increase the autonomy and powers of Ville de Montréal, the metropolis of Québec (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
122	CAT	An Act mainly to recognize that municipalities are local governments and to increase their autonomy and powers (Vote: Yeas 50, Nays 42, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Spring 2017)
126	CFP	An Act to foster the financial health and sustainability of the Pension Plan of Management Personnel and to amend various legislative provisions (concurred in on division) (Spring 2017)
130	CSSS	An Act to amend certain provisions regarding the clinical organization and management of health and social services institutions (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
131	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting compensation measures for the carrying out of projects affecting wetlands or bodies of water (concurred in on division) (Spring 2017)



132	CTE	An Act respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water (Vote: Yeas 103, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
133	CI	An Act to make wearing of the uniform by police officers and special constables mandatory in the performance of their duties and respecting the exclusivity of duties of police officers who hold a managerial position ( <i>modified title</i> ) (Vote: Yeas 99, Nays 4, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
134	CRC	An Act mainly to modernize rules relating to consumer credit and to regulate debt settlement service contracts, high-cost credit contracts and loyalty programs (Vote: Yeas 109, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
135	CFP	An Act to reinforce the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
136		Appropriation Act No. 2, 2017-2018 (Vote: Yeas 58, Nays 42, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Spring 2017)
137	CTE	An Act respecting the Réseau électrique métropolitain (Vote: Yeas 82, Nays 26, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
138	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Penal Procedure and the Courts of Justice Act to promote access to justice and the reduction of case processing times in criminal and penal matters (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
139	CI	An Act to group the Office Québec/Wallonie-Bruxelles pour la jeunesse, the Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse and the Office Québec-Monde pour la jeunesse (Vote: Yeas 101, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
142 Commission plénière		An Act to ensure the resumption of work in the construction industry and the settlement of disputes for the renewal of the collective agreements (Vote: Yeas 76, Nays 21, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (extraordinary sitting) (Spring 2017)
143	CRC	An Act to improve the educational quality and foster the harmonious development of educational childcare services (Vote: Yeas 80, Nays 30, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
144	CCE	An Act to amend the Education Act and other legislative provisions concerning mainly free educational services and compulsory school attendance (Vote: Yeas 57, Nays 44, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
146	CFP	An Act to give effect mainly to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 28 March 2017 (concurred in on division) (Fall 2017)
147	CTE	An Act concerning the prohibition against bringing certain actions related to the operation of off-highway vehicles on trails forming part of the interregional network (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
148	CSSS	An Act to regulate generic medication procurement by owner pharmacists and to amend various legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)

149	CET	An Act to enhance the Québec Pension Plan and to amend various retirement-related legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (Spring 2018)
151	CCE	An Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions (Vote: Yeas 111, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
154	CI	An Act to implement certain recommendations of the report of the committee on the remuneration of judges for 2016-2019 (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
163	CFP	An Act respecting the implementation of recommendations of the pension committee of certain public sector pension plans and amending various legislative provisions (Vote: Yeas 106, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (passed unanimously) (Spring 2018)
164	CI	An Act respecting access to certain documents held by the Conseil exécutif or intended for the Conseil exécutif (concurred in on division) (Spring 2018)
166	CCE	An Act to reform the school tax system (Vote: Yeas 61, Nays 40, Abstentions 0) (concurred in on division) (Spring 2018)
177		Appropriation Act No. 1, 2018-2019 (concurred in on division) (Spring 2018)

## 9 private bills passed

223	CFP	An Act respecting the continuance of The Livestock Breeders' Association of the District of Beauharnois Inc. (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
224	CCE	An Act respecting the subdivision of a lot located in the Maison Louis-Degneau protection area and partly in the Maison de Saint-Hubert protection area ( <i>modified title</i> ) (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
226	CFP	An Act respecting La Société des éleveurs de porcs du Québec (concurred in on division) (Spring 2017)
227	CAT	An Act concerning Ville de Gatineau's project for a complex housing an arena and community ice rinks (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
228	CCE	An Act respecting the co-ownership Le 221 St-Sacrement (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
229	CCE	An Act respecting certain alienations involving the Unity Building (passed unanimously) (Spring 2017)
230	CAT	An Act respecting Municipalité de Notre-Dame-des-Pins (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
233	CAT	An Act respecting an immovable located on Boulevard Décarie in Montréal (passed unanimously) (Fall 2017)
234	CAT	An Act to amend the Charter of the Université de Montréal (passed unanimously) (Spring 2018)

# I APPENDIX II

## SPECIFIC FACTS

### Consideration of bills

- The Committee on Health and Social Services held consultations on Bill 157, An Act to constitute the Société québécoise du cannabis, to enact the Cannabis Regulation Act and to amend various highway safety-related provisions. Fifty-five individuals were heard during these consultations, which lasted over 40 hours. At 31 March 2018, 16 sittings had been set aside for the clause-by-clause consideration of this bill.
- Bills 122 and 155 concerning municipal affairs were examined by the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain. During the clause-by-clause consideration of these bills, 451 amendments were examined by the Committee members.
- Bill 108, An Act to facilitate oversight of public bodies' contracts and to establish the Autorité des marchés publics, and Bill 141, An Act mainly to improve the regulation of the financial sector, the protection of deposits of money and the operation of financial institutions, took up most of the Committee on Public Finance's time, with 66 hours set aside for their clause-by-clause consideration. Bill 141, whose consideration is underway, has close to 1500 sections and enacts two new Acts.
- The Committee on Culture and Education examined private Bill 234, An Act to amend the Charter of the Université de Montréal. In all, 20 individuals and groups were heard prior to the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill.

### Parliamentary oversight

- In June 2017, the Committee on Public Administration tabled its 36<sup>th</sup> report and in December 2017, its 37<sup>th</sup> report on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies. In all, both reports contained 31 recommendations addressed to 14 departments and bodies heard during public hearings.
- For their part, the sectorial committees examined the management of several bodies, including the Directeur général des élections, the Fonds de recherche du Québec, the Régie du bâtiment as well as the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec. These hearings gave rise to reports containing observations, conclusions and one recommendation, which were tabled in the Assembly.

Other orders

- In April 2017, the Committee on Public Finance tabled in the National Assembly its report on the tax havens phenomenon containing 38 recommendations. During the same period, the Committee on Institutions tabled its report on the examination of the report on the implementation of the *Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly* which contained several observations and conclusions.
- For its part, the Committee on Citizen Relations continued its work on two orders of initiative: one on Aboriginal women’s living conditions as affected by sexual assault and domestic violence and the other on women’s place in politics. Within the framework of the latter mandate, an on-line consultation was held from November to December 2017.
- The Committee on Health and Social Services examined a petition on introducing and implementing a Lyme disease action plan. Public hearings were held in March 2018 and a report is currently being drafted.
- Finally, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment tabled in the National Assembly, in December 2017, a report on an order of initiative it had undertaken on cell phone use while driving. This report contains observations and one conclusion.

I APPENDIX III

Reports - Committees

	Title of report
CAP	Hearings with deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies on their administrative management – Observations, conclusions and 22 recommendations – 36 <sup>th</sup> report (June 2017)
CAP	Hearings with deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies on their administrative management – Observations, conclusions and 9 recommendations – 37 <sup>th</sup> report (December 2017)
CAPERN	Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec – Observations and conclusions (November 2017)
CET	Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Régie du bâtiment du Québec and hearing with the Regroupement des activistes pour l’inclusion au Québec – Observations, conclusions and one recommendation (June 2017)
CET	Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies – Observations and conclusions (November 2017)
CET	Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé – Observations and conclusions (November 2017)
CET	Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture – Observations and conclusions (November 2017)
CFP	The tax havens phenomenon – Observations, conclusions and 38 recommendations (April 2017)
CI	Examination of the report on the implementation of the <i>Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly</i> – Observations and conclusions (April 2017)
CI	Hearing with the Québec Chief Electoral Officer – Observations and conclusions (December 2017)
CI	Hearing with the Directeur de l’état civil and the Curateur public du Québec following the general consultation on the 2016 five-year report entitled “Rétablir l’équilibre – Rapport sur l’application de la Loi sur l’accès aux documents des organismes publics et sur la protection des renseignements personnels et de la Loi sur la protection des renseignements personnels dans le secteur privé” – Observations (December 2017)
CTE	Order of initiative on cell phone use while driving – Observations and conclusions (December 2017)



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