



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Written Questions on the Order Paper and Notices

- (1) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **4 December 2018**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **12 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 349-20190212)

The Comité des citoyens du Mile End (CCME), consisting entirely of volunteers, has been working for over 35 years to improve the quality of life of neighbourhood residents. It has worked on various issues, such as heritage preservation, traffic, the development of the St-Viateur Est sector, etc. The CCME focussed on the health system issue more closely when it found out about the retirement of a CLSC St-Louis du Parc doctor who had been working there for 40 years. The numerous patients under this doctor's care wish to continue receiving care at this public institution, but this does not appear to be guaranteed since they have been asked to register on the list of patients without a family doctor. Thus, the CCME wrote to the former Minister of Health, Mr. Gaétan Barrette, asking him to intervene in the matter, and also sent a letter to the head officers of the CIUSSS Centre-Sud-de l'Île-de-Montréal and to their CLSC doctors. In October 2018, they sent a letter to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Danielle McCann. In the course of exchanging with various relevant stakeholders, they "discovered" the operation of the super centralized, super privatized health system. They then decided, in pursuance of their mission, that they would take the necessary measures for the Québec Government to reinvest in our public health system.

They therefore got in touch with me and asked me to pose the following questions to Québec's Minister of Health and Social Services:

- 1) What decisions do you intend to take to make the health system a truly public, decentralized system and to make it meet the social and health needs of Québec's population?
- 2) Specifically, what actions will you take to truly foster the development of this public network that has gradually been deprived of its resources for the benefit of the private sector over the past 15 years?
- 3) More specifically and knowing that it is of primary importance that "[Translation] front-line services be organized around small neighbourhood establishments rooted in their local community", what actions will you take so that CLSCs return to their primary role "[Translation] of offering front-line health services and social services to the population of the territory they serve along with curative and preventive services" (Anne Plourde, research associate at IRIS)?
- 4) Do you intend to finance these institutions so that they may adequately meet the needs of the local population? If so, when and what will the amount of this investment be?
- 5) What will you do to make CLSCs more independent again and adapt the services provided to the needs of their clientele?
- 6) Since an administrative board elected at a general assembly should be able to guide the services and programs provided, what will you do to help patients regain the role they had

within their CLSCs' administrative boards? These persons could reflect the local community's viewpoints, serving as a transmission belt between the institution and the community.

(2) Mr. Tanguay (LaFontaine) – **6 December 2018**

To the Premier

Answer tabled on **12 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 350-20190212)

Since 15 January 2015, the website transparence.gouv.qc.ca has allowed citizens to have access to all public agendas of Cabinet members and, since 1 April 2015, to information relating to meetings with non-government representatives.

At present, the website transparence.gouv.qc.ca is still not functional, that is, there is no information available regarding CAQ ministers, not even public agendas, which previously were to be posted daily.

Yet, the Premier committed to being at the head of a transparent government. When his party was in the opposition, the Member for Borduas and current House Leader stated the following:

“[Translation] When we say that we are a transparent government, it is important to match words with actions. When we speak of the government's transparency, I think it's important to truly practice what we preach”.

Consequently:

Will the Premier commit to keeping the website transparence.gouv.qc.ca and at least post the information that was posted there since 2015?

Will he immediately post the information relating to Cabinet members' public activities since 18 October 2018?

Retroactively to 18 October 2018, will the Premier post the information relating to meetings requested by non-government representatives in which Cabinet Members participate and do so no later than 1 January 2019, as provided for in the established procedure?

(3) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

Answer tabled on **5 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 287-20190205)

For over 20 years now, the amounts related to child support payments haven't been taxable, but continue nonetheless to affect the amounts received by social assistance recipients. “The social assistance act provides that a person must exercise their rights and remedies as a condition to eligibility for benefits [...]. That same logic applies with respect to support payments.” When a person receives benefits, the amount received as support is deducted from the amount to which a recipient is entitled. Unlike employment income, which is taken into account upwards of a certain amount, support payments for spouses or children are fully taken into account. This injustice affects more than 8,000 families in Québec.

During the consideration of Bill 173, An Act mainly to introduce a basic income for persons with a severely limited capacity for employment, the Parti Québécois moved an amendment aimed at no longer taking into account support payments for children when determining the benefits to be granted to a single adult or a family. That provision, which was rejected by the Quebec Liberal

Party, was openly supported by the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ). Its representative in employment and social solidarity matters, Sébastien Schneeberger, claimed “they wanted to correct this injustice once and for all”. At that time, the CAQ and the Parti Québécois were in agreement to denounce the Liberal Government’s decision, which turned its back on thousands of Quebecers, while a simple solution was being proposed.

Following the tabling of draft regulation last July, and now that the CAQ holds power as a majority government, they have neglected to follow-up on this issue. Bill 394, An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws, tabled by Ms. Lisette Lapointe, Member for Crémazie (Parti Québécois) in 2008, has already been introduced. It proposed to amend section 55 of the *Individual and Family Assistance Act* by excluding support payments from the calculation of the social assistance benefits granted. The Leader of the CAQ had even voted in favour of this bill’s introduction.

It seems as if everything is set for this injustice to be corrected. Therefore, when will the Government amend this provision?

(4) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**

To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers

Answer tabled on **14 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 361-20190214)

The Québec Seniors’ Housing Group estimates that about 4000 seniors’ residences have closed in less than 3 years. In recent weeks, we have observed that the number of such residences announcing that they will be closing soon continues to grow. The problem is that the owners demand that the residents leave almost immediately, giving them only days—sometimes, hours—to leave and find a new dwelling. For these individuals, who are vulnerable or coping with a loss of autonomy, the procedures associated with filing a complaint are considerable, and those associated with moving quickly even more so.

The existing rules are obviously not being enforced. According to section 346.0.17.1 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, “The operator of a private seniors’ residence who wishes to cease activities [...] must give at least six months’ prior notice [...] to the agency concerned”, namely a Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS). If this time frame is not respected, the operator commits an offence under the Act and is liable for a fine of up to \$9600. Such fines, however, are rarely imposed since the residence’s closing necessarily results in the end of the private enterprise’s existence. So, no one “pays the price”.

Last May, as an Opposition Member, the Member for Beauce-Sud spoke openly on this subject, saying he wished to “protect seniors from such savage closings and allow them to grow old with dignity”.

My question is as follows:

In light of this statement, does the Government intend to amend the law to clarify means that can protect the residents and hold the operators accountable for their actions?

(5) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

Answer tabled on **5 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 288-20190205)

The “Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation 2017-2023” that was launched last May proposed 43 measures and actions, including lifting over 100,000 people out of poverty and increasing the incomes of people in poverty. With this plan, the previous government promised an investment of \$1.25 billion to introduce a basic income for Quebecers with a severely limited capacity for employment. The program offered the possibility, for those who are continuously fighting against poverty, to earn an annual income of about \$18,000.

In 2018, the *Act mainly to introduce a basic income for persons with a severely limited capacity for employment* was introduced, passed and then assented to. However, the regulatory intentions, tabled at the same time as the bill, seem to be inexistent. Today, almost a year after the plan was announced, no regulation has been enacted.

My questions are the following:

To fight poverty, will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity promise to implement a basic income for persons with a severely limited capacity for employment and, do so, before the end of the year?

When will the regulation for that purpose be adopted?

(6) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**

To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor

Answer tabled on **19 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 369-20190219)

In an article published on 28 August 2018 in *La Presse* newspaper, journalist Martin Croteau reported Coalition avenir Québec’s commitment to cut 5,000 jobs from the public service during its first term. The current Premier said at that time that those 5,000 government employees did not provide direct services to the public and that, therefore, their jobs were superfluous.

That same day, we could also read in an article penned by Caroline Plante of the *Presse canadienne*, that the General President of the SFPQ, Christian Daigle, stated that Coalition avenir Québec’s commitment would have repercussions on the quantity and quality of services to the public.

For its part, the Verification team at Radio-Canada reported on 29 August 2018 that, according to an assessment carried out by the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor, 15,000 regular employees would need to be hired for the public service over the next 5 years.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor maintain his political party’s commitment to cut 5,000 jobs from the public service during its current term?
- How many public service jobs will be cut for the 2019–2020 fiscal year? How many will be cut in the following years?
- How many public service jobs does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor intend to cut in each of the departments and secretariats during this term, and how many for each fiscal year of the term?
- Does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor call into question the assessment conducted by the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor?

(7) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister for Government Digital Transformation
Answer tabled on **19 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 370-20190219)

The Premier made a commitment to consolidate data processing centres.

My question is the following:

- Which centres will be consolidated, and according to what timetable?

(8) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister for Government Digital Transformation
Answer tabled on **19 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 371-20190219)

The Premier has committed to reducing IT-related expenditures and improving IT management.

My questions are as follows:

- What are the Minister for Government Digital Transformation's targets for each government department and secretariat?
- Which programs and contracts will be revised for each government department and secretariat?

(9) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor
Answer tabled on **19 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 372-20190219)

The Premier has promised to cut State procurement costs for goods and services by at least 10%.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor maintain his political party's commitment to reduce State procurement costs for goods and services by at least 10% during this term?
- What are the reduction targets for each government department and secretariat? What is the timeline for making the cuts?

(10) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor
Answer tabled on **19 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 373-20190219)

The Premier has committed to transferring 5000 government jobs to the regions.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Chair of the Conseil du trésor maintain his party's commitment to transfer 5000 government jobs to the regions during the current mandate?
- Which government departments will be affected?
- Which regions will receive these 5000 government jobs?

- How many government jobs does the Government intend to transfer to the regions for each government department and what is the timeline, by region and by fiscal year?

(11) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **7 December 2018**

To the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness

Answer tabled on **7 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 339-20190207)

In September 2016, without any consultation, the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness (MIDI) decided to replace the evaluation of newcomers' level of French—done until then by teachers—by an online classification system.

This test works very poorly. Many immigrants are inaccurately evaluated and sent to francization classes that are not appropriate for their real level in French. This situation has created disparities among francization groups, which has resulted in teaching falling behind schedule and lower class success rates. Naturally, this has discouraged many students and made drop-out rates shoot up. Any reclassification must receive Québec's approval, which is rationed out sparingly for "administrative" reasons.

My questions are the following:

- Will the minister promise to suspend the online test, at least until this aberrant situation is corrected?
- Will the minister provide us with a status report: how many requests to repeat a class and for reclassification are rejected and how many are approved?

(12) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **7 December 2018**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **7 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 340-20190207)

According to an article in the October 15, 2018 edition of the *Journal de Québec*, the Québec taxi mobile application could become inoperable as of 1 January 2019, due to a recent Superior Court decision suspending the merging of taxi territories.

The Ministère des Transports had given designers permission – through a pilot project that expires 31 December 2018 – to merge taxi territories virtually until the actual zone grouping came into effect, as promised by the Government of Québec. The Regroupement des intermédiaires de taxi de Québec (RITQ) considers this essential to reduce wait times and compete effectively with the multinational company Uber.

My questions are as follows:

- To allow the mobile application to remain in operation, will the Minister commit to extending the pilot project beyond the January 1, 2018 deadline?
- What measures will the Minister take to ensure the territorial merging sought by the RITQ endure beyond the pilot project period, which has already been in place for 3 years?

- (13) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Transport
Answer tabled on **7 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 341-20190207)

According to an article posted on the Radio-Canada website on December 5, 2018, the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) Government refuses to publish a feasibility study on a tunnel between Québec and Île d'Orléans. However, while in opposition, the CAQ demanded the publication of all studies regarding a third link between Québec and Lévis.

The firm AECOM Consultants was hired in 2009 to perform that analysis, at a cost of \$159,883.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Minister provide us with a copy of the study performed by the firm AECOM Consultants?
- If applicable, will the Minister provide us with a copy of any other feasibility study performed regarding a tunnel between Québec and Île d'Orléans?

- (14) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **14 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 361-20190214)

The Municipality of Albanel, in Lac-Saint-Jean, has been without a physician since June 2018. As a consequence, over 2000 orphan patients must go to the neighbouring town, Dolbeau-Mistassini, to see a health care professional.

My question is the following:

When will the people of Albanel and the vicinity have access to a family physician in their municipality?

- (15) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
Answer tabled on **19 March 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 417-20190319)

Hydro Québec issued a call for tenders in 2015 for the purchase of a 6 MW block of electricity to be produced by coupling a wind farm to the Cap-aux-Meules power plant on the Îles-de-la-Madeleine. This project was to be carried out on public-domain lands, in a protected plant habitat, managed by the municipality of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, in the Dune-du-Nord sector. The wind farm's installation in this protected habitat underwent public consultation held by the BAPE in May 2017.

Since this consultation, the promoters have been awaiting the Government's decision before proceeding. The promoters have asked for various authorizations, in particular, in mid-September 2018, to build roads and work areas. A Government Order in Council in keeping with section 19 of the *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species* (ATVS) was also requested.

In May 2018, Hydro-Québec (HQ) announced the project linking the archipelago by underwater cable to its integrated and complementary network, as well as development of a microgrid that still remains undefined. In addition to being financially advantageous, the connection, which HQ deems to be feasible by 2025, would apparently also be highly effective for reducing the Cap-aux-Meules power plant's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Moreover, around mid-November 2018, the media (*Le Journal, Hydro-Québec : 12 projets inutiles à 3,2 G\$, 15 November 2018*) reported that the Dune-du-Nord wind farm project was among the wind power development projects that the Government considered costly and useless.

On one hand the project promoters, the Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the Communauté maritime are impatiently awaiting the Government's decision. On the other, environmental groups, including Nature Québec, are calling for the Government Order in Council to be rejected.

My question is as follows:

Will the Minister recommend adoption of an Order in Council in keeping with section 19 of the ATVS, as requested by the Dune-du-Nord wind farm promoters, and within which timeline will the decision be forthcoming?

- (16) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **26 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 388-20190226)

The Premier undertook to transfer the equivalent of one percent of the QST to municipalities.

My questions are as follows:

- When does the Government intend to give the equivalent of one percent of the QST to the municipalities?
- What will the transfer methods be?

- (17) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister for Education and Higher Education
Answer tabled on **26 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 389-20190226)

Over the last few weeks, we have learned, through the media, about a number of cuts in the Universités du Québec network, especially in regional institutions. The cuts result from the new funding system for universities, which deprives those in rural areas from funding allocated in recognition of their regional role.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Minister intend to increase the funding for regional universities by reinstating the budgetary envelope that recognized their regional importance, mission and role?
- If so, within what timeframe?

(18) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Transport
Answer tabled on **5 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 289-20190205)

On July 26, while visiting Rimouski, the CAQ leader explicitly promised to reintegrate the sector of Autoroute 20 between Trois-Pistoles and Le Bic into the Québec infrastructure plan (QIP) if a CAQ Government were elected.

“Yes, it [the Autoroute 20 project] will be reintegrated into the QIP, and soon (...). It’s time that it be carried out, that the 20 be doubled.”

– François Legault, 27 July 2018, on CFYX 93 radio

My question is as follows:

When does the Minister plan to re-enter the sector of Autoroute 20 between Trois-Pistoles and Le Bic (Rimouski) into the Québec infrastructure plan?

(19) Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) – **7 December 2018**
To the Premier
Answer tabled on **12 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 351-20190212)

In 2000, during the Québec Youth Summit, chaired by the incumbent premier, the Québec State made a bold gesture and showed its confidence in its youth by confirming regular funding for youth forums in every region of Québec. The message to youth was unequivocal: we need your participation to advance as a society, and we would like you to create a vehicle for that purpose.

Hundreds of youths, buoyed up by the hope of effecting change, improving the conditions of other youths and contributing to the development of their region, went to work. Young forum volunteers and employees not only changed their community, they underwent a process of personal change; they became dedicated citizens, actors who had a major impact on their environment, their community and their region.

Fifteen years later, the previous Government abolished those organizations, thinking it would silence the voices of those politically-conscious youths, thinking that only the wardens and elected municipal officials could defend young persons’ interests in the regions. However, it takes more than that to demotivate youths; still today, 10 forums and an advisory panel – now called Citoyenneté jeunesse – continue to be active and carry out various projects, despite unstable, at times inexistent, funding.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Premier undertake to reinvest in the youth forums to support the mission of the existing 10 forums and the Citoyenneté jeunesse advisory panel?
- Will he commit financial support for the establishment of 7 new forums in the regions where there are currently none?

(20) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks
Answer tabled on **26 February 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 390-20190226)

In an article the newspaper *Le Devoir* ran on September 25, the Premier of Québec informed us of his commitment to modify the forest regime to allow the State to award cutting rights that could span up to 10 years to the industry's giants.

The, while recognizing that smaller players could find themselves disadvantaged if his Government took such action, he nevertheless persisted, going as far as to say that “the major forestry companies are forced to share forest resources with cooperatives”.

In the face of the uncertainty raised by the Premier's comments, the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks must rule out this possibility immediately.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Government sacrifice the future of forest cooperatives, which create and maintain thousands of jobs in all regions of Québec, to satisfy the multinationals?
- Can the Minister commit to protecting access to the forest economy for Québec cooperatives, which are key actors in all Québec regions?

(21) Mr. Rousselle (Vimont) – **19 February 2019**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
Answer tabled on **28 March 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 492-20190328)

On 12 June 2018, Bill 176, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards and other legislative provisions mainly to facilitate family-work balance, was adopted unanimously by the Members of the National Assembly.

This bill contained five main themes, including one concerning placement agencies and recruitment agencies legislation.

The placement agencies and recruitment agencies portion was particularly defined by section 92.7, which reads as follows:

“92.7. The Government may, by regulation,

(1) define, for the purposes of this Act, what constitutes a personnel placement agency, a recruitment agency for temporary foreign workers, a client enterprise and a temporary foreign worker;

(2) establish categories of licences and determine, for each category, the activities that may be carried on by an agency;

(3) determine the period of validity of a licence and specify any condition, restriction or prohibition relating to its issue, maintenance and renewal;

(4) prescribe the administrative measures that apply to a licence holder if the obligations under this Act or the regulations are not complied with;

(5) determine the obligations of a personnel placement agency or a recruitment agency for temporary foreign workers and those of a client enterprise that retains the services of such an agency; and

(6) prescribe any other measure to protect the rights of employees to whom this division applies.”

On 6 June 2018, during the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 176 in the Committee on Labour and the Economy, your colleague, the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, spoke positively about placement agencies and the bill in general:

« (...) [Translation] Placement agencies, I must admit that I didn't know much about this field (...). I think it's a good idea to put some order in that, because it often concerns low-salaried workers, undereducated, disadvantaged persons, and I think that it is our role as a Government to control the way things work. (...) »

« (...) Overall, it's a satisfactory bill. (...) »

Following the adoption of this bill and the positive comments mentioned above, can the Minister of Labour confirm when exactly he intends to republish the regulation?

- (22) Mr. Benjamin (Viau) – **19 February 2019**
To the Minister of Tourism
Answer tabled on **11 April 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 534-20190411)

Last 9 September, the Premier expressed his will to support the creation of 500 new agritourism businesses within the next 4 years. Since that time, we have barely heard about this promise. Since 18 October 2018, measures must have been undertaken to respect your promise. In this regard, we would like to know:

What is your timeline for the creation of the 500 new businesses? How many new businesses will come into being each year?

What will the total budget granted to support the creation of these 500 new businesses be?

Since you came to power, have any agritourism businesses been created thanks to Government support? If so, what was the financial support given to each of the businesses?

Will any existing agritourism businesses also benefit from financial support?

- (23) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **28 February 2019**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
Answer tabled on **28 March 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 493-20190328)

On 1 January 2019, benefit recipients having a severely limited capacity for employment received increases in their allowances ranging from \$73 to \$145 per month for an independent adult and from \$88 to \$130 per month for a family of two adults, relating to the increase in the adjustment to the basic benefit for Social Assistance and Social Solidarity Program beneficiaries who did not receive benefits under the program for at least 66 months of the last 72 months. Considering that recipients must not have used any of the programs for more than 90% of the time in the past six years in order to be eligible, in reality, few recipients qualify for increases. Will the Minister therefore commit to:

- Correcting this inequity between the various benefit recipients by withdrawing the time period requirement for benefit indexing eligibility?
- Retroactively adjusting benefits to 1 January 2019 for benefit recipients who did not qualify under the program's former terms and conditions?

- (24) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **19 March 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **16 April 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 539-20190416)

The municipality of Lac-au-Saumon is undertaking a permanent groundwater supply project that is estimated to cost between 6 and 7 million dollars. The municipality's main water source is Lake Angus. However, last summer's drought brought the water level down to below the reservoir valves' normal range. Since this lake can no longer meet the needs of the citizens and the municipality, the municipality is using Lake Au Saumon as a temporary water source with a temporary pump to get its water supply during the winter. The installation of a temporary pump costs approximately \$250,000. The municipality of Lac-au-Saumon applied for funding from the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, but the request was immediately denied as it did not fall within the definition of "disaster" or "climate crisis" under existing programs. This small community of 1406 inhabitants must therefore bear the costs on its own.

My question is as follows:

- Will the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing consider adding a sub-component to component 1 (Water Infrastructure) in the Programme d'infrastructures municipales d'eau to include an emergency fund during the water infrastructure transition?
- (25) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **19 March 2019**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **16 April 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 540-20190416)

The Camp musical du lac Matapédia is a summer camp where young people aged 7 to 17, with or without experience in the performing arts, are given the opportunity to receive intensive training in music, dance and theatre on the shore of Lake Matapédia in Sayabec. As the camp is very popular among young people throughout Québec, it must now manage exponential growth.

On the one hand, the Camp musical du lac Matapédia must deal with inequity in the funding of its activities in comparison with other Québec music camps. In 2016-2017, the organization received \$15,700 compared to \$55,800 for the Camp musical Saint-Alexandre, located in the western Bas-Saint-Laurent region. In 2017-2018, the Camp musical du lac Matapédia got the same amount as the previous year, while the Camp musical Saint-Alexandre was given an additional amount of \$34,326 for a total financial contribution of \$90,126. Though additional funding must not be recurrent, the Camp musical Saint-Alexandre received financial assistance in the amount of \$91,528 in 2018-2019. For the same period, the Camp musical du lac Matapédia received a slight increase, totalling \$26,316.

On the other hand, the Camp musical du lac Matapédia must build and restore deteriorated infrastructure in order to continue its activities. For instance, the camp does not have a drinking water infrastructure or septic system. Furthermore, lack of space obliges young people to practice in mosquito net shelters, rain or shine. Underfunding prevents catching up with repairs to deteriorating infrastructure.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Minister of Culture and Communications commit to taking a closer look at the issue of inequity of financial assistance for music camps?

- Would it be possible to establish financial assistance in the program “Aide au fonctionnement pour les organismes de formation en art” to include infrastructure investment?

(26) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **19 March 2019**
 To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
 Answer tabled on **9 April 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 517-20190409)

Common hogweed is an invasive alien plant in the Matapedia valley. The sap contains toxins that, combined with exposure to light, cause severe and painful second degree dermatitis upon contact. Symptoms usually appear between 24 and 48 hours after contact with skin. Inflammation can last anywhere between 3 to 5 days and scars may remain approximately six years. Resembling cow parsnip and giant hogweed, common hogweed is increasingly taking the place of native species, which results in biodiversity loss in both natural and urban environments.

The Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques' Program to Fight Against Invasive Alien Plant Species provides financial assistance for initiatives aimed at reducing the threats and impacts of invasive alien plants on biodiversity and Québec's natural environments. However, the action plan does not consider other environments and only includes three invasive species: common reed, giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change expand the action plan to include other invasive plants?
- Will the Program to Fight Against Invasive Alien Plant Species include urban environments, since this is also a matter of public health?

(27) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **19 March 2019**
 To the Minister of Health and Social Services
 Answer tabled on **30 April 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 551-20190430)

Food allergies are on the rise. In Québec, 8% of children suffer from food allergies. In schools, where these children eat at least one of their meals each day, there is currently no legal framework in Québec that enables the standardization of preventive measures and treatment of severe allergic reactions. Québec is the only Canadian province without a legal framework to standardize reception measures for allergic children and the prevention of severe reactions.

Last 14 June, the outgoing Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Carole Poirier, introduced Bill 1197 to require educational institutions to adopt practices for managing cases of anaphylaxis.

My questions are as follows:

- Do you intend to support the introduction and passage of such a bill during the current parliamentary session?
- What actions do you intend to take in the coming months to ensure the standardization of reception measures for allergic children and the prevention of severe reactions?

(28) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **20 March 2019**
To the Minister for Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **16 April 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 541-20190416)

Last 27 November, we asked the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux for information on the Approche interactive au développement de l'enfant (A.I.D.E) Platform, such as Platform analyses and an assessment plan of costs. We did not know whether this Platform, previously praised by Dr. Carmant before he was a minister, would ever see the light of day.

However, our request for access to this information was turned down last 19 December. We finally found out through a press release that the A.I.D.E Platform would be launched last 1 February.

Several families awaited the financing of this type of Platform that was to enable early detection of developmental problems.

However, several questions remain unanswered:

- Which services will you provide for children who have already been diagnosed with ASD or ID but who are awaiting services?
- What will you do for children living in CHSLDs or IR-FTRs who are affected by this diagnosis and who are under stimulated?
- How will you manage to hire 800 professionals when Québec is currently going through a labour shortage? We ask that you table your hiring plan per establishment and your timelines.
- Investments are expected to range from \$70 to \$90 million for the development of this platform. Why are you not able to provide a more accurate estimate? How will you finance all this when no additional money was announced to improve health services at the last update?

(29) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **2 April 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **8 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 580-20190508)

My riding office was recently informed of an urgent situation involving a person requiring that her case be treated as a top priority to obtain low rental housing. This elderly woman was living temporarily with her son and was a victim of violence committed by a close family member, namely her son's spouse.

Considering that the By-law respecting the allocation of dwellings in low rental housing of the *Act respecting the Société d'habitation du Québec* (chapter S-8, s. 86) states that only a person who is a victim of domestic violence may benefit from a priority application under section 23.1, several other situations requiring emergency housing for vulnerable individuals are not taken care of by the State. This section, which reads as follows: "a person whose lease is resiliated under article 1974.1 of the Civil Code or who is a victim of domestic violence as indicated in an attestation issued by a shelter for such persons, a police force or an institution of the health and social services network", is extremely restrictive when we consider the range of possible situations that may jeopardize the security and physical integrity of vulnerable persons.

Will the Minister commit to:

- Evaluating the possibility of extending the range of situations considered to be priority situations provided for in this section of the Act and setting up guidelines to facilitate prioritization of vulnerable individuals in situations that pose a threat to their security and physical integrity?

(30) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **2 April 2019**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **8 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 581-20190508)

Support-payment collection is a prerogative that is currently administered by Revenu Québec under the *Act to facilitate the payment of support*. This Act allows the tax agency to use various levers to ensure that these payments are recovered should debtors fail to comply with the rulings establishing support payment terms and conditions. These levers of intervention are determined primarily by the existence of administrative and legal remedies. Administrative remedies exist in order to oblige recalcitrant debtors to comply with their obligations as a step before turning to the courts. This mechanism aims to establish a gradation of measures to strike a balance between coercion and the rights of individuals.

The existing administrative measures are the following, namely: compensation, legal hypothec, seizure by garnishment, solidary liability and suspension of passport or federal licences. Several of these measures have proven their effectiveness, but several specific cases, however, show that certain recalcitrant debtors still manage to avoid the coercive effects of these combined measures. These measures could therefore be improved to be even stricter and prevent these cases from going before the courts at the source.

Will the Minister commit to:

- Evaluating the possibility of including the suspension of the debtor's driver's licence and the registration of any vehicles registered in the said debtor's name among the administrative measures?

(31) Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) – **2 April 2019**

To the Minister of Education and Higher Education

Answer tabled on **13 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 704-20190613)

In 2017, the Couillard Government undertook to offer 250 \$25,000 scholarships per year to graduating doctoral students in psychology who choose to complete their mandatory internship in the public or parapublic sector. The program has been so successful that demand now exceeds supply. The result: a large number of these students will not have access to the scholarship that they are entitled to according to the program's criteria. Universities will have to improvise to determine the criteria for allocating financial assistance, by opting for the random draw or by delivering partial scholarships, for example.

Last February, we found out that the Université de Sherbrooke took the decision, owing to insufficient funding, to allocate the \$25,000 scholarships promised by the Québec Government by random draw to the doctoral students in psychology having chosen the public and parapublic sector internships. The Université de Sherbrooke is not the only institution to find itself in this situation: Next year, this lack of funding will affect Université Laval and Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières in particular.

This underfunding of psychology graduates, who are preparing to take up the reins of a profession that is experiencing a major shortfall of services in the public and parapublic network, is unacceptable. Student bodies are unanimous: It is simply unrealistic to have a job during this internship. Without a scholarship, few options are available to the persons who are excluded from the program. They must live off of their savings, ask their families for help or go into debt.

My questions to the Minister of Education and Higher Education are the following:

- Will the Minister commit to sustaining the scholarship program for doctoral students in psychology who choose to complete their mandatory 1600-hour internship in the public and parapublic sectors?
- Will the Minister commit to increasing the number of scholarships offered within the framework of this program to ensure that all of these graduates receive this financial assistance that is essential to completing their internship?

(32) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **2 April 2019**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **14 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 720-20190614)

In 2006, the Government launched the Village-Relais program, which involves 41 municipalities located throughout Québec on main national roads or tourist routes, including the town of Témiscaming located in my riding, Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue. This program has two main objectives: counter fatigue at the wheel by providing safe stopping areas and contribute to the local development of certified municipalities. The agreement between the certified municipalities and the Ministère des Transports consists of commitments made on both sides. The “villages-relais” must adhere to a quality charter by providing basic services throughout the year to maintain their certification. In this regard, several investments are made each year in the different municipalities to improve and design areas to make them more accessible and safe.

However, over the past ten years, the network has benefitted from only three major promotional campaigns from 2012 to 2014. To fully carry out their role as a “village-relais”, certified municipalities must be promoted in order to make them better known to the general public.

This program’s implementation and success cannot be achieved without the full participation of the “villages-relais” and their local businesses and that of the Minister of Transport. Lastly, note that this program is perfectly in line with the 2018-2022 government strategy and that of its Ministère des Affaires Municipales et de l’Habitation to ensure land occupancy.

It is with this in mind that the town of Témiscaming urged me to ask the Government:

- 1) How does the Minister intend to help the “villages-relais” maintain their role, which offers more services than a road park?
- 2) When does the Minister intend to launch a major promotional campaign to make the network’s services better known and what amount does he intend to invest in it?
- 3) Specifically, how will the Minister show his support and that of the partner departments, Tourism and Municipal Affairs and Housing, for carrying out projects that allow the “villages-relais”, and their Federation, to fully play their role as safe stopping areas for road users?

- (33) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **2 April 2019**
To the Minister of Public Security
Answer tabled on **8 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 582-20190508)

The Ministère de la Sécurité publique is in discussions with the Sainte-Flavie and Sainte-Luce municipalities to implement measures allowing to eliminate the risk of disasters associated with erosion and coastal flooding threatening principal residences. Since the high tides of December 2010, these municipalities have been relentlessly working to implement solutions to ensure the safety of riverside residents. The Ministère's support and the implementation of new measures have been most welcome. However, certain points of the Ministère's currently proposed agreement must be reviewed. Considering that each of the municipalities is responsible for administrating the Ministère's program, it is requested that the department cover all costs related to the hiring of a person to provide assistance to the concerned owners, since this is not municipal work but rather services performed to implement the agreement reached with the Ministère, for the benefit of individuals.

My questions are as follows:

- 1) What are the Ministère de la Sécurité publique's intentions in this regard?
- 2) Will the Ministère fully cover the costs related to the implementation of the agreements with the Sainte-Luce and Sainte-Flavie municipalities aiming to eliminate the risks of disasters associated with erosion and coastal flooding?

- (34) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **3 April 2019**
To the Government House Leader and Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness
Answer tabled on **8 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 583-20190508)

On Sunday, 31 March 2019, the Premier delivered a message to Quebecers to explain why it is necessary to end the debate on religious symbols and the laicity of the State.

This address followed the Government's initiative in the matter. On Thursday, 28 March 2019, the Minister tabled Bill 21, An Act respecting the laicity of the State.

The same day, a motion mandating the Office of the National Assembly to move the crucifix from the National Assembly Chamber ("Salon bleu") in order to showcase it elsewhere in the parliamentary precincts was carried unanimously in the National Assembly.

This motion arose, twelve years later, from the findings of the Bouchard-Taylor Commission to the effect that keeping the crucifix would suggest that "a very special closeness exists between legislative power and the religion of the majority." The report concluded that "It seems preferable for the very place where elected representatives deliberate and legislate not to be identified with a specific religion."

The purpose of the Government's bill is to affirm the laicity of the State and to set out the requirements that follow from it. To that end, the explanatory notes state that the "bill provides that the laicity of the State is based on four principles: the separation of State and religions, the religious neutrality of the State, the equality of all citizens, and freedom of conscience and freedom of religion. Parliamentary, government and judicial institutions are bound to adhere to these principles in pursuing their missions."

I hereby wish to recall that, other than the Catholic crucifix above the President's Chair, there are many other religious signs and symbols in the National Assembly Chamber.

Even today, there are, among other things, above the Throne and the head of the President of the National Assembly, a crown and a cross representing the monarch of the United Kingdom, who is, let us recall, not only a political leader, but also a religious leader.

Still today, this monarch—in this case Queen Elizabeth II—is not only the monarch of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, including Canada and Québec, but is also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

This office marks the authority that the United Kingdom's monarch exercises over the Church of England and the Anglican religion.

In short, this same crown and this same cross also appear on the mace that is in the Sergeant-at-Arms' custody, this mace which symbolizes nothing less than the authority of the National Assembly and the Chair.

Finally, I would like to recall that monarchical symbols have been removed from the National Assembly Chamber in the past. This was the case for statues, including that of Queen Victoria, for example. That statue was replaced by a plant.

In this context, my question is as follows:

Does the Minister intend to mandate the Office of the National Assembly to remove, in addition to the crucifix, all signs and symbols that refer to a religious power from the National Assembly Chamber?

- (35) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **9 April 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **30 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 632-20190530)

Since its creation, in 2010, the Regroupement québécois des maladies orphelines (RQMO), which represents close to 30 associations, has been calling for the adoption of a Québec national plan for rare diseases. In 2015, the RQMO organized a summit on rare diseases to propose a strategy. For Québec patients and their informal caregivers, emphasis was placed on the improvement of diagnosis and the management of rare diseases, as well as access to treatment and social services.

On 19 November 2018, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) du Québec established a rare diseases working group. The RQMO, which advocates on behalf of 500,000 Quebecers affected by a rare disease, as well as other organizations, such as Cystic Fibrosis Canada helping the 1200 Quebecers with cystic fibrosis, were excluded from the initiative. These groups denounce the attitude of the MSSS, which most likely does not wish to hear from them about their collective experience.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the MSSS announced, on International Rare Disease Day, last 28 February, that the Institut national d'excellence en santé et services sociaux (INESSS) had been mandated to develop a Québec rare disease strategy.

My questions are as follows:

- Considering their exclusion from the MSSS working group, will the RQMO and Cystic Fibrosis Canada be invited to participate actively in the work of the INESSS?
- At what stage of the INESSS' and the working group's initiative will the RQMO's proposal, arising from years of consultation, be taken into consideration?
- Treatments for rare and orphan diseases consist of innovative and increasingly personalized therapies in line with the patient's genetic makeup. The INESSS' evaluation process for so-called orphan drugs is starting to recognize promise for therapeutic value as a basic criterion supporting the registration of these drugs. Does the Minister intend to maintain this initiative and facilitate access to these drugs for persons affected by a rare disease, with the objective of improving their quality of life?

(36) Ms. Dorion (Taschereau) – **9 April 2019**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **28 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 618-20190528)

The 2018–2023 government action plan on culture, arising from the new Québec cultural policy, unveiled by the Liberals in June 2018, contained 41 measures.

Measure 16 stipulates the “[Translation] implementation of concrete solutions to address the issues of employment, remuneration and the social protection of professional artists and cultural workers”.

Short-term actions were planned to implement this measure, including reviewing both Acts respecting the status of artists:

- Act respecting the professional status of artists in the visual arts, arts and crafts and literature, and their contracts with promoters
- Act respecting the professional status and conditions of engagement of performing, recording and film artists

Of course, the fact that the Liberals, in 2018, unveiled this policy a few days prior to the adjournment of the House leads us to believe that they had no real intention of reviewing these Acts, so important to artists.

But considering that the Minister mentioned on several occasions that she would maintain this policy and considering that the Government included funds for this policy in the last budget, can the Minister of Culture tell us when these two bills will be introduced?

(37) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **9 April 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **28 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 619-20190528)

Today I draw the attention of the Minister of Health and Social Services to the special situation of Social Solidarity Program (SSP) recipients who are living in intermediate (IR) and family-type resources (FTR).

Last 8 February, four national organizations for disabled persons wrote to the Minister to denounce certain measures deemed to discriminate against persons living in IR-FTRs. This is what they had to say:

“[Translation] As the Minister surely knows, the Social Solidarity Program is enhanced each year. Since 2018, additional increases to SSP benefits have been added in pursuance of the Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation 2017-2023. Since February 2018, SSP recipients living in IR-FTRs had received \$1035 per month, from which the RAMQ deducted \$747 as a contribution of users. The amount left to users is the personal spending allowance, which was \$288 as at 1 February 2018. The calculation of the personal spending allowance is a topic that year after year creates a certain amount of concern among persons living in these resources and their families.

On 1 January 2019, a new increase in the SSP benefits occurred. For the first time, persons who had been SSP recipients for at least 66 months out of a total of 72 months were entitled to a greater increase than the other SSP recipients (increasing from \$1035 per month to \$1123 instead of \$1035 to \$1061 for the other recipients). This differentiated increase is linked to the gradual coming into force of the Basic Income Program, adopted unanimously by the National Assembly in 2018. It should be recalled that under its enabling legislation, the Basic Income Program concerns social inclusion and the economic participation of persons with a severely limited capacity for employment and that, as such, it is not last-resort financial assistance, which distinguishes it from the SSP.

Unfortunately, since 1 February 2019, the personal spending allowance of persons living in these resources has been reduced from \$288 to \$245 per month, regardless of whether or not they had been SSP recipients for 66 months out of 72 months. These persons therefore have become poorer in comparison with 2018, while the Government’s efforts were intended to help them overcome poverty and improve their living conditions. At present, these efforts are instead being used to finance housing resources rather than to help the people themselves. It is difficult to understand such a contradiction between different State guidelines.”

Accordingly, my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are the following:

- Does the Minister intend to reconsider her department’s decision by increasing the minimum personal spending allowance threshold to ensure that persons living in IR-FTRs and who are SSP recipients will be entitled to the measures provided for in the Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation 2017-2023?
- Considering that a good number of persons living in these resources are seeking autonomy and not losing autonomy, how does the Minister justify cutting off a portion of their personal allowance, while this same amount is directly linked to these persons regaining the power to act?

(38) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **11 April 2019**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Answer tabled on **14 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 596-20190514)

Throughout Québec, the droughts over the past two years have been a challenge for agricultural producers. Considering the Minister's announcement last 20 March concerning crop insurance, part of the problem is on the way to being solved. I thank the Minister for this gesture.

However, the situation remains very difficult for the psychological and financial health of farmers and their families. In the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, for example, several farmers who took out a loan with La Financière agricole requested that they only be required to pay the interest due. In this region, livestock, which is fed hay, is important in terms of numbers. The effects of the drought these past two years were especially felt, owing to the constant need for forage.

In this region, we have further observed – and this concerns all farming sectors (potato, vegetable, fruit, maple...) – that farmers suffered indirect losses caused by the drought due to additional care having to be given to livestock, water transportation costs, the digging of wells or irrigation lakes and the additional forage needed.

My question is the following:

Will the Minister of Agriculture indicate whether he will intervene to support farmers affected by this catastrophe that has lasted for two years and that we are expecting again this year? If so, how will he cover all the farm producers who are affected by the drought? When will they receive this assistance?

(39) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **30 April 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **4 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 652-20190604)

A labour shortage as well as an endemic work overload have been plaguing the health sector for several years. Nurses are the first to be affected in their daily work and demand for their services continues to grow.

On 16 December 2015, the previous government adopted order-in-council 1072-2015. This order acknowledged the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers auxiliaires du Québec's decision to create a special temporary status for candidates to the nursing profession (CEPIA). CEPIAs have been able to practice in public or private institutions under agreement and perform specific acts since its implementation.

Considering the current work overload in the health care sector, will the Minister commit to:

- Re-evaluating the authorizations and provisions concerning acts performed by Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers auxiliaires du Québec CEPIA individuals so as to maximize the public network's use of their newly acquired skills?
- Extending the number of institutions that are authorized to hire Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers auxiliaires du Québec CEPIA individuals?

(40) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **30 April 2019**
To the Premier
Answer tabled on **28 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 620-20190528)

The Lieutenant-Governor has the power to recommend bills introduced in the National Assembly.

We would like to have:

- A copy of each brief having led to the approval or refusal of the Lieutenant-Governor's recommendation of a bill during the 42nd Legislature;
- The documentation supporting this approval or refusal of a recommendation for each of the bills;
- A copy of each of the recommendations for bills during the 42nd Legislature;
- The number of hours and the financial and human resources involved in the approval or refusal of a recommendation.

(41) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **1 May 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **30 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 633-20190530)

On 10 April 2019, the Minister of Health and Social Services announced a reorientation of the OPTILAB project. This reform was intended to reorganize medical biology laboratories in health institutions. The Minister's announcement concentrates on general principles, referring in particular to the number of analyses sent to server laboratories without qualifying the scope. That being said, several questions remain.

It is with this in mind that the Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux urged me to ask the Government:

1. What percentage of the analyses will actually be sent to the server laboratories?
2. The reorientation provides that several conditions will need to be met before any "significant" transfer of analyses takes place. What does the word "significant" mean?
3. What specific mechanisms does the reorientation intend to implement in institutions to improve communications about the project and when will they be put in place?
4. What specific mechanisms does this reorientation intend to establish so that medical technologists may henceforth be involved in the OPTILAB process and when will they be put in place?
5. Will this reorientation result in medical technologists—particularly those in the regions—losing their jobs? If so, by when and how will they be informed thereof?
6. What specific mechanisms does this reorientation contain to address the inherent work overload and burnout in this project and when will they be put in place?

(42) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **1 May 2019**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Answer tabled on **14 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 721-20190614)

The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) does not provide financial support to independent community organizations. The MAPAQ is therefore, along with the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles and the Ministère du Tourisme, one of three departments that do not have any funding program for independent community organizations. In other departments, the amount set aside for these programs is approximately 1% of the department's overall budget.

It is with this in mind that the Union paysanne urged me to ask the Government:

- 1) When does the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intend to establish a funding program for independent community organizations?
- 2) Which organizations does the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intend to include in the funding program for independent community organizations?
- 3) What amount does the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intend to invest in the funding program for independent community organizations?
- 4) Specifically, how does the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intend to show his support to the independent community organizations under his jurisdiction?

(43) Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) – **2 May 2019**
To the Minister of Finance
Answer tabled on **28 May 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 621-20190528)

The Minister is well aware of my interest in the protection of whistleblowers and the fight against corruption. I was mentioning this to him a few weeks ago while pointing out that several department employees were opposed to certain ways of doing things and had for the past few years condemned some of the Agence du revenu's practices.

Which general directorate is responsible for the Agence du revenu's whistleblower protection program?

During the 2018–2019 fiscal year, 42 tax auditors handed in their resignation and 5 were dismissed. I would like to know the reasons for these resignations and dismissals, considering that certain employees of the State are victims of reprisals in several Government departments and bodies.

Since the fight against corruption remains an important part of my political involvement, that I expressed my interest and concern in this regard to the Conseil du trésor in the implementation of a pilot project announced by the previous Government in June 2018, and since Revenu Québec is not a part of it;

I would like clarification on the awarding of two untendered professional services contracts, including the date, the content of the contract, who asked for it and from which general directorate and for what purpose these contracts were granted:

- Gestion Jean Bourdeau – Training in connection with the ISO37001 standard (anti-bribery management system) – \$3,600
- Accuracy Canada inc. – Securities rating – \$20,000

- (44) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **8 May 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **6 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 667-20190606)

Section 3 of the *Act respecting land use planning and development* (LUPD) provides that every regional county municipality (RCM) must maintain in force, at all times, a land use and development plan applicable to its whole territory.

These land use plans deal mainly with urbanization perimeters and flood risk mapping, two topical issues following the spring floods of 2017 and 2019.

Despite the efforts made in recent years, several RCMs still have so-called “first generation” land use plans whose adoption sometimes dates back thirty years.

Does the Minister intend to put in place an exceptional and accelerated support procedure for regional county municipalities to update their land use plans?

Can the Minister confirm the specific timeline for the updating of all so-called “first generation” land use plans?

- (45) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **14 May 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **13 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 705-20190613)

The 2014-2018 Québec tax gas funding program (TECQ) has expired.

This program makes available to Québec municipalities amounts arising from the revenues of the Federal gasoline excise tax and the Government of Québec’s contribution.

The details of the next version of the program for 2019-2023 are currently available for consultation at the municipal level. It is quite clear from this consultation that several municipalities are very concerned about the eligibility of municipal buildings to the program.

During the consideration of the 2019-2020 estimates of expenditure of the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l’Habitation – Municipal Affairs component, reference was made, during an exchange between the Minister and the Member for Rousseau, to correspondence exchanged between the Government of Québec and the Federal Government regarding the renewal of the TECQ program.

For the sake of transparency, will the Minister of Municipal Affairs commit to providing Members with all of this correspondence as well as the terms that are currently the subject of consultations at the municipal level?

Likewise, will the Minister of Municipal Affairs provide us with the specific timeline of the TECQ program renewal for 2019-2023?

(46) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **14 May 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **13 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 706-20190613)

The purpose of the Fonds pour l'eau potable et le traitement des eaux usées (FEPTEU) program is to accelerate municipal investments in the short term while supporting the implementation or the rehabilitation of drinking water, wastewater and rainwater infrastructures, as well as the planning and designing of future installations and upgrading of existing networks.

This program relies on \$363.8 million from the Federal Government and \$300 million from the Government of Québec. With an assistance rate of up to 83%, this program has been very popular among municipalities.

Unfortunately, the amounts set aside for the FEPTEU program have all been incurred, with the result that the program has closed.

As part of the 2011-2017 Québec strategy for drinking water conservation, 77% of Québec's municipalities achieved the leak reduction goal for their entire drinking water distribution network, which was a maximum of 20% of the total volume of water distributed. Despite these encouraging results, it is important to continue efforts in this direction.

Consequently, can the Minister indicate whether negotiations are underway with the Federal Government to renew the FEPTEU program, the Government's specific timeline and the main goals sought by the Government of Québec in the context of this negotiation?

Can the Minister also indicate whether she intends to develop or improve other programs in order to stimulate municipal investments in drinking water infrastructures?

(47) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **14 May 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **6 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 668-20190606)

The Coalition avenir Québec Government made a commitment, in the recent election campaign, to transfer the equivalent of one percent of the Québec Sales Tax (QST) to municipalities, a commitment estimated at \$1.6 billion.

During the examination of the 2019-2020 estimates of expenditure of the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation – Municipal Affairs component, the Minister stated that the transfer of this one percent of the QST would be cost neutral. As a result, current programs and transfers set aside for municipalities will be abolished in order to make the amounts available to achieve this commitment.

Can the Minister release the analyses relevant to the transfer of one percent of the QST?

Can the Minister indicate which programs will be abolished to fund this commitment?

(48) Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) – **15 May 2019**
To the Minister of Families
Answer tabled on **14 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 722-20190614)

On 20 February 2019, the Minister of Families announced that the development of 11,000 childcare places would be accelerated. The Minister affirmed having sent 400 letters to the promoters of projects that were already authorized to check whether they still intended to go ahead with their projects.

Can the Minister provide a list of the promoters who received his letter in February and indicate which ones have committed to implementing their project within a 24-month timeline, as requested by the Minister, while specifying the number of places, the type of childcare facility and the region in which it will be implemented?

Can the Minister also provide us with a list of the promoters who returned their places to the Ministère, indicating the number of places, the type of childcare facility and the region in which it was to be implemented, as well as a list of the promoters who have not replied to the Minister's request as of 14 May 2019?

(49) Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) – **15 May 2019**
To the Minister of Families
Answer tabled on **14 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 723-20190614)

On 9 April 2019, during a press briefing on family-work-school balance, the Minister of Families stated that: “Families’ well-being and improving their living environments are priorities for our Government.”

Can the Minister provide us with all the documents, reports, situation reports, minutes, studies, notes or analyses produced by the Ministère de la Famille on family-work-school balance since 18 October 2018?

(50) Ms. Sauvé (Fabre) – **15 May 2019**
To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers
Answer tabled on **6 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 669-20190606)

On 24 August 2018, the CAQ issued a press release stating that: “a Coalition avenir Québec Government will undertake, during its first mandate, an extensive consultation with users, staff and architects to build some thirty Maisons des aînés and thus compensate for the lack of residential places.”

As a follow-up to this commitment to hold extensive consultations on the Maisons des aînés, we would like to have:

- the specified consultation method;
- the consultation period;
- the list of persons consulted, indicating their title and organization;
- the dates of the meetings;
- the agenda for the meetings;
- the documents or briefs tabled with reference to the Maisons des aînés.

(51) Ms. Sauvé (Fabre) – **15 May 2019**
To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers
Answer tabled on **6 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 669-20190606)

In the last election campaign, the Coalition avenir Québec promoted a major commitment by producing a video that states the following:

“The CAQ introduces a new concept intended to replace the dreaded CHSLDs: the Maisons des aînés.

We want to give to those who worked selflessly and who gave their all to build our society the welcoming, peaceful and comfortable living environment they so deserve.

The Maisons des aînés will be smaller seniors’ homes equipped with air-conditioned rooms that will accommodate a maximum of 70 to 130 persons, including safe and lush circulation areas providing a comfortable place to live. The homes will have a human dimension, where meals will be adapted and sufficient staff will have time to take good care of their residents.

The Maisons des aînés, the project of a generation. To do more and better, now, for our parents and our grandparents”.

Can the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers table a copy of the plan for the implementation of the Maisons des aînés to which she referred during the consideration of her department’s estimates?

(52) Ms. Sauvé (Fabre) – **15 May 2019**
To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers
Answer tabled on **6 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 669-20190606)

Last 20 March in the Assembly, the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers stated that she had asked for a population-based assessment to determine where the Government will establish the Maisons des aînés to fill the 2,600 places that the Government must make by 2021.

Can the Minister table a copy of the said population-based plan?

(53) Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) – **15 May 2019**
To the Premier
Answer tabled on **14 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 724-20190614)

The Minister of Public Security is aware of my passion for law enforcement, public security, the fight against criminal organizations and everything the latter represent: organized crime, drug trafficking, procuring and border security.

Our American neighbours also share this passion for safe communities and are taking the measures necessary to protect their population.

Everybody knows that, in Canada, tobacco trafficking is a serious issue that impacts health, security and tax revenues. Organized criminal groups participate in the production, distribution and sale of contraband cigarettes in all manner of formats, including the infamous and mind-boggling 200-cigarette “baggies”.

These contraband cigarettes are manufactured at the border limits between Québec, Ontario and the State of New York, in a border zone where jurisdictions are uncertain, where nighttime crossings are commonplace and where criminal activity is carried on with impunity.

While Québec is a leader in repressing tobacco contraband thanks to its dedicated unit, led by the Sûreté du Québec, and to the “ACCÈS Tabac” program implemented by Revenu Québec in partnership with our national and municipal police forces, Québec’s neighbours have done a poor job in this area. Ontario, New Brunswick and the rest of Canada are struggling with tobacco contraband issues that they are barely managing to control due to a lack of political will, means and expertise on the matter.

The Americans, however, have the political will to act. Tabled in the House of Representatives last month by the Democratic Representative for Texas Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee and the Republican Representative for North Carolina Mr. Richard Hudson, Bill H.R. 1642 “Combating the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Act: To authorize actions with respect to foreign countries engaged in illicit trade in tobacco products or their precursors, and for other purposes” aims to put the screws on the countries that participate in or that are an important source of illicit tobacco, such as Canada.

The Prime Minister will soon travel to Washington DC to talk about the economy and trade. If the United States passes the Bill, I fear that it will undermine our credibility with the Americans as a reliable trade partner due to Canada’s lack of action and to the limited action taken by Ontario and New Brunswick on the issue, New Brunswick having, just last Wednesday, shut down its tobacco contraband-fighting unit.

As leader of the fight against tobacco contraband in Canada, does the Premier intend to make representations to the American leaders to alert them to the consequences that such exclusionary measures will have on trade with Québec?

Does the Premier intend to speak with his counterparts: the Premier of Ontario, the Premier of New Brunswick and the Prime Minister of Canada at the next Council of the Federation meeting in July 2019, so that they, too, may deploy efforts equaling ours to counter the burgeoning trade of illicit tobacco in our country?

(54) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **16 May 2019**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 794-20190917)

Over the past several years, market gardening has increased significantly in Québec. In fact, production has risen 1.5 times as much as in the agriculture industry as a whole, generating revenues of \$994 million. It also contributes \$4.1 billion to Québec’s economy, with its 62,000 jobs. With Canada’s new food guide, which now recommends that fruits and vegetables take up even more place in our diet, it is clear that this shift in approach will bring about an even greater increase in demand, and will therefore boost economic benefits for Québec. Not to mention the effect that this could have, we expect to see a 5% increase in the Canadian market over the coming years. Fruit and vegetable producers are ready to meet this increase in demand.

However, despite this favorable context for market gardening in Québec, certain essential conditions must be met for production to reach its full potential for economic development in the coming years. Market gardening is subject to global competition and is therefore greatly affected by the rise in the cost of labour, which is much lower in other countries that produce fruits and

vegetables for the Canadian market. The above-inflation rise has made this industry even more fragile.

It is with this in mind that the Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec urged me to ask the Government:

1. In the short term, does the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intend to establish a temporary program to counter the effects of above-inflation salary increases based on labour costs or tax credits?
2. In the medium to long-term, does the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intend to establish a horticultural market research, innovation and development investment program?
3. Concretely, what does the Minister intend to do to contain the impact of the recent minimum wage increases on the profitability of our market gardening businesses?

(55) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **16 May 2019**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 795-20190917)

Last 10 May, the Minister of Culture and Communications announced the officially approved museums.

From November 2018 to February 2019, 191 requests were lodged and analyzed and 149 museum institutions obtained the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications' approval.

This means that the department refused or withdrew approval for over 40 museum institutions in Québec just days before the start of their season.

Can the Minister table the list of requests that were refused and state the grounds for these refusals?

Has the Minister provided for a transition plan for institutions that were unable to obtain approval?

What is the amount set aside for 2019-2020 for the program "Aide au fonctionnement" for museum institutions?

When will the regional and national "Aides au fonctionnement" for museum institutions and "Aides au fonctionnement" for museum institutions managing heritage property protected under the *Cultural Heritage Act* be known following the new approvals?

- (56) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **28 May 2019**
To the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 796-20190917)

The Plan d'action ministériel pour la santé et le bien-être des hommes 2017-2022 (departmental action plan on the health and well-being of men) was implemented in 2017. This Plan came with a \$31 million envelope over a 5-year period and was to complement the plan on the health and well-being of women. Since 2015, there has been no action plan for the health and well-being of women. The last action plan concerning the health and well-being of women was that of 2010-2013, which had been extended to 2015. With women making up 50% of Québec's population and experiencing gender-related health and well-being issues, just like men, a new action plan is a necessity.

Considering that the consultation to develop the new plan was held in 2017 and that we are now in 2019, what is the Minister's timeline for the coming into force of the new action plan for the health and well-being of women? Can the Minister commit to providing the necessary financial resources for the action plan, by taking into consideration the women's health investments that were not made since there was no action plan in effect?

- (57) Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) – **28 May 2019**
To the Minister of Education and Higher Education
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 797-20190917)

The Government of Québec's Student Financial Assistance (SFA) loans and bursaries program is required to provide students with the necessary financial resources to pursue post-secondary studies, which includes accommodation measures for students with disabilities. However, since 6 August 2018, the SFA has not allowed students with an invisible disability (attention deficit disorder, non-episodic mental health disorder, autism spectrum disorder, learning disability, etc.) to access these accommodation measures.

By removing the residual category "Other" from the form 1015, Medical Certificate - Major Functional Disabilities and Other Recognized Disabilities, the SFA only recognizes accommodation measures for students with a physical disability. However, pursuant to the Québec Charter, all students should have fair access to SFA programs without distinction as to type of disability. In addition, this decision goes against the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur's efforts, which for the past twenty-odd years have allowed students with an invisible disability at the postsecondary level.

Does the Minister intend to reintroduce in form 1015 a category that would once again allow students with an invisible disability to benefit from the SFA's accommodation measures?

- (58) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **28 May 2019**
To the Minister of Justice
Answer tabled on **11 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 686-20190611)

In May 2018, Philippe Couillard's Government introduced a bill to reform the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*. An empty gesture, since, as the minister responsible for the bill, the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, conceded, the Liberal Government was well aware that there would not be enough time to pass the bill before the election of last 1 October owing to its being introduced late in the House.

After winning the election, the CAQ asserted its intention to adopt a communications strategy focussing on transparency and reform the *Act respecting Access to documents* so that Québec may once again be a leader among Canadian public administrations. Yet six months have gone by and no steps have been taken to this effect by the minister responsible for access to information.

My question to the Minister is as follows:

Will the Minister commit to introducing before the end of 2019 a draft reform of the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information* to establish a true culture of transparency and openness within the Québec Government?

(59) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **29 May 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 798-20190917)

Last 1 May, during the consideration of the estimates of expenditure, we asked the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Ministère for information concerning the inability to provide medical services due to lack of physicians.

No clear answers were given to our questions. We would like the Minister to answer the following questions:

- 1) Since 18 October 2018, has the anesthesia coverage plan been observed?
- 2) Have there been any situations of inability to provide services in the centres involved?
- 3) Have fines been levied against the Association des anesthésistes when there was inability to provide services?
- 4) The agreement entered into with anesthesiologists suspends Bill 130, An Act to amend certain provisions regarding the clinical organization and management of health and social services institutions. However, if no coverage plans are included in the basic medical specialties, physicians do not comply with the agreement. Why doesn't the Minister enforce Bill 130 in these cases of lack of provision of services?
- 5) What other specialties are included in the coverage plans and what are the timelines to achieve them?

(60) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **29 May 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 799-20190917)

Last 1 May, during the consideration of the estimates of expenditure, we asked the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Ministère for information concerning their Government's commitment to physician's rules of incorporation.

No clear answers were given to our questions. We would like the Minister to answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the Minister's timeline to amend the rules of incorporation?

- 2) How much money does the Minister believe she will recover in terms of millions by amending the rules?
- 3) What would the conditions be for amending the rules of incorporation?

(61) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **29 May 2019**

To the Minister for Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 800-20190917)

Last 30 April, during the consideration of the estimates of expenditure, we asked the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Ministère for information concerning the public awareness campaign “There’s no way cannabis can do this”.

However, certain answers were vague and some questions remained unanswered. We would like the Minister to answer the following questions:

- 1) Could you provide the focus group results that led to this public awareness campaign being chosen instead of another?
- 2) Could you provide the “encadrementcannabis.gouv.qc.ca” website visit data before and after the launching of the public awareness campaign?
- 3) Could you confirm the costs associated with this public awareness campaign?

(62) Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) – **30 May 2019**

To the Minister of Public Security

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 801-20190917)

The SAAQ’s alcohol ignition interlock device program allows 20,000 drivers who have been convicted of alcohol-impaired driving to use their vehicle without compromising the safety of other Québec road users.

Recently, the SAAQ changed subcontractor and turned the program management over to an American company whose record is rather worrisome. Abysmally bad customer service, long waiting times for appointments, lack of confidentiality. It’s even been said that a former SAAQ employee was involved in the awarding of the contract. Yet, there clearly were red flags: dissatisfaction expressed numerous times; even the State of Virginia suspended the installation of this supplier’s products owing to their poor quality.

But the SAAQ jumped in head first, boasting that the new supplier offered a bargain to users.

In its haste, the SAAQ urges program participants to have their ignition interlock device uninstalled to take advantage of the bargain offered with the new device. Believe it or not, this new installation must be carried out in a second garage. The SAAQ is unable to guarantee that these drivers are not driving without the ignition interlock device.

Yet, the Highway Safety Code is clear: the holder of a restricted licence cannot drive a road vehicle unless it is equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device. We are talking about 20,000 drivers convicted of alcohol-impaired driving who have the possibility of driving without their ignition interlock devices with the SAAQ’s blessing.

Knowing that drinking and driving still kills too many innocent Quebecers each year, what does the Minister of Public Security intend to do to ensure that no Quebecers are endangered due to the SAAQ's erratic and irresponsible behaviour?

- (63) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **3 June 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 802-20190917)

My riding office was contacted concerning the coverage of hearing aids for retired persons who are not covered by a private insurance plan.

Currently, the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec's Hearing Devices Program covers hearing aids according to certain eligibility requirements. Coverage of a first device is guaranteed for individuals who do not have a private insurance plan and whose average hearing loss is of at least 25 or 35 decibels, depending on the category.

However, the Régie will cover a second device only if a person is working, studying or in the process of getting a job. This restriction is akin to systemic discrimination of retirees and seniors who do not have private insurance coverage. In addition, many of them live under precarious financial conditions and only have a basic pension or benefits.

Will the Minister pledge to:

- Review the Hearing Devices Program and extend coverage as regards providing financial assistance to cover a second hearing device for seniors 65 and over who do not have private insurance coverage?

- (64) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **3 June 2019**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 803-20190917)

Considering that telework reduces commuting and its negative effects, particularly traffic congestion and pollution arising from vehicle GHG emissions;

Considering that telework lowers businesses' costs of maintaining physical work locations and that financial gains can accordingly be achieved;

Considering that telework facilitates work-family balance by offering households greater time management flexibility;

Will the Minister pledge to:

- Undertake a ministerial reflection to evaluate all measures and programs that may be implemented to support the development of telework?
- Undertake a legislative update of the *Act respecting labour standards* to integrate the telework reality into the basic legal framework for businesses and employees?
- Undertake the promotion of telework as a solution to address the three aforementioned issues?

(65) Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) – **3 June 2019**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **14 June 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 725-20190614)

Last 8 May, I clearly asked the Minister of Finance to confirm to us that the AMF would investigate Prometic as soon as possible. He admitted that he was concerned by the dilution of stakes held by certain shareholders; he told us that he considered the matter important and he confirmed to us that the AMF was active in this matter and was doing its work. The Minister repeated in the House that the AMF was investigating, that it was currently working on the case.

I found out this week that the AMF decided to close the case. So, on 8 May, the AMF is investigating and 20 days later, the investigation is completed, though the list of new twists keeps growing in this matter that is characterized by lack of transparency, on the part of both Prometic and AMF executives.

The former Prometic CEO, who was fired in December 2018, was a victim of two suspicious fires under investigation, the new CEO has moved to Europe and announced that several positions will also be transferred to Europe, members of the administrative board were forced to resign, and the list grows longer every day. There's something fishy about this, and if the AMF is not able to see that, then I seriously question the AMF's ability to take this matter in hand.

First, will the Minister clearly tell us how many documents were analyzed and how many witnesses AMF investigators met with, which justified terminating the investigation after 20 days?

Since the Government left no stone unturned regarding the case of Air Transat to keep its activities in Québec, it seems relevant to involve, in the case of Prometic, the Financial Markets Administrative Tribunal. Billions of dollars are about to leave Québec through a purchaser established in the Cayman Islands, and, contrary to AMF representatives, many legal advisors think that sections 263 to 265 of the *Securities Act* should be enforced.

Accordingly, I ask the Minister to seek a second opinion on the AMF's decision and provide an independent legal opinion on whether the AMF truly considered all the possibilities that the current Act allows for.

(66) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **3 June 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 804-20190917)

As you know, Doctr is a mobile application that gives access to Québec's emergency room occupancy rates as well as emergency room wait times in real time in the rest of Canada. Moreover, Doctr provides information on availabilities in walk-in clinics across Canada.

However, when we use the application to find out the wait times in Québec establishments, we get the following message: "The Québec Government currently refuses to provide Doctr with the required data to estimate wait times. This is why ER wait times are available only in other Canadian provinces. Please consider raising this issue with your local Government officer."

Several citizens approached me expressing their hope that Québec will also provide the required data. We have difficulty understanding why the rest of Canada has access to this type of information, while Québec patients are denied access thereto.

My questions are the following:

- Can the Minister of Health tell us if there is a particular reason why we do not have access to this data?
- Does the Government intend to provide applications such as Doctr with the required information to help in assessing wait times in our emergency rooms, considering that this would help citizens choose among different medical points of service based on the wait times indicated?

67) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière)– **3 June 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 805-20190917)

According to the Association pulmonaire du Québec, the number of persons with sleep apnea is underestimated, for this health problem is under-diagnosed by doctors. However, in Canada, more than one adult in four (26%) reported symptoms associated with a high risk of having or developing obstructive sleep apnea.

Furthermore, in Québec, many of these persons cannot be treated, mainly owing to the price of the continuous positive airway pressure machines that, with the supervision and training that patients require, may cost anywhere between \$1500 and \$3000.

At the present time, there is no specific tax credit for persons who must purchase this type of machine. Yet, in certain Canadian provinces as well as in other parts of the world, the cost of these machines and their accessories, which must be replaced annually, is totally or partially reimbursed. This is the case in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Spain, in particular.

My question is the following:

- Can the Minister of Health tell us whether the Government intends to help persons with sleep apnea – often persons in need –, by offering a partial or total reimbursement of continuous positive airway pressure machines?

68) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **3 June 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 806-20190917)

Before 1983, there were no requirements regarding the energy efficiency of buildings. Fifty-six percent of housing units were built before 1980. More than half of tenants are therefore paying an energy bill that is too high.

Moreover, as it is, owing to regulations, an owner must wait four decades before getting a return on his investment when he renovates his apartment building, which is far from being an incentive.

During the election campaign, the current CAQ Government had not only announced the renewal, but also the improvement of the program RénoVert, a very efficient program that encouraged a growing number of apartment building owners to renovate without having to resort to undeclared work.

Unfortunately, the Government instead chose to withdraw the program RénoVert, under the pretext that the program RénoClimat was much the same. In reality, RénoClimat is difficult to access, costly – owing to the required tests – and in no way curtails undeclared work.

My question is the following:

- Does the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs intend to bring back and improve the program RénoVert, as promised by her Government?

(69) Ms. St-Pierre (Acadie) – **4 June 2019**

To the Minister of Public Security

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 807-20190917)

The gaming establishment “Playground Poker Club” is located on the Kahnawake Native reserve, 27 kilometres from the Casino de Montréal. This establishment, which concentrated on the game of poker, recently extended its activities to include games such as slot machines.

We recently learned that a gaming establishment project is currently moving forward on the Wôlinak Native reserve, 24 kilometres from the Salon de jeux de Trois-Rivières.

Can the Minister, whose is also responsible for the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux, give us the Government’s position regarding such establishments?

Can she tell us if negotiations are underway with the Kahnawake and Wôlinak Native reserve authorities regarding this matter and, if so, what is the Government’s timeline to reach an agreement?

Also, can the Minister tell us if measures to protect compulsive gamblers exist and are in place in this type of establishment, as is the case in all Québec gaming establishments?

(70) Mr. Birnbaum (D’Arcy-McGee) – **4 June 2019**

To the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 808-20190917)

The Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones’ mission is to “coordinate all Government actions in aboriginal communities. It is responsible for ensuring coherency in the policies, interventions, initiatives and positions of the various departments and agencies of Québec involved in this action. With this objective in mind, the SAA works in close collaboration with ministerial aboriginal affairs coordinators with whom it meets on a regular basis”.

Considering the Secrétariat’s mission, we feel it is crucial for it to have in its possession any information regarding major health and social services projects in order to facilitate relations with communities such as the Huron-Wendats and the Inuit.

Can the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs table the studies, analyses and a progress report on health and social services projects, particularly as regards the Huron-Wendat Nation’s Tortue project and that of Ullivik lodging facility?

- (71) Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) – **4 June 2019**
To the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 808-20190917)

The Federal Government, the Huron-Wendat nation and Ville de Québec are currently negotiating the transfer of national defence lands in Sainte-Foy.

Since the final decision will have an impact on Ville de Québec's urban planning and land use and the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones plays a coordinating role between the departments and the Aboriginal nations, we would like to know the number of meetings that were held between the Secrétariat and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation on this subject.

Did the Minister and her cabinet as well as the MAMH conduct impact assessments in relation to the various scenarios for the Québec City population and the Huron-Wendat nation? If so, would it be possible to table the conclusions and relevant documents?

- (72) Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) – **4 June 2019**
To the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 808-20190917)

Within the context of the examination of the 2019-2020 estimates of expenditure, in reply to question 18 of the Official Opposition's specific requests for information, we learned that the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones had estimated its financial requirements at \$297,495 700. In volume 3 of the budget manual entitled "Estimates of the Departments and Bodies", on page 62 we find \$294,256,700 in total estimates, which is \$3.24 million less than the amount deemed necessary by the Secrétariat.

Among the three aspects of the Secrétariat's mission, namely the negotiation of agreements, the dissemination of information and support for various development projects, which of these aspects had to be cut back? What initiatives or programs will not see the light of day?

In the event that no aspect was cut back, how were the \$3.24 million requested by the Secrétariat spent?

- (73) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **4 June 2019**
To the Minister of Finance
Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 809-20190917)

The 2019-2020 budget's Additional Information, p. B.11, states that the Government will hold consultations in 2019 on ways to improve corporate transparency, particularly by evaluating the possibility of setting up a public register of ultimate beneficiaries in Québec.

Should Québec set up such a register, that would represent an important step toward corporate transparency and the fight against tax havens, for this would make public the identity of individuals who effectively control and benefit from the activity of businesses and other legal entities concerned.

Not only would that give Revenu Québec a powerful tool to track the circulation of money between various legal entities, but since this register would be public, it would strengthen public confidence in tax administration.

My questions to the Minister of Finance:

- 1) What method of consultation has the Minister envisaged?
- 2) Within which timeline?

(74) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **5 June 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **26 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 920-20190926)

Today I draw the Minister's attention to the special situation of persons with spinal cord injuries. They represent a relatively small percentage of the population, but they still require medical care and some of the most complex rehabilitation services in the field of traumatology. It is for this reason that the Centres d'expertise pour blessés médullaires (CEBM) were created, to concentrate the expertise of professionals and systematically direct persons diagnosed with a spinal cord injury to these centres.

On 1 February 2019, the organization Moelle épinière et motricité Québec sent the Minister a letter to sound the alarm as to the future of care and services provided to persons with spinal cord injuries. The letter denounced a decrease in the services and care provided by the Institut de réadaptation en déficience physique de Québec (IRD PQ), and more specifically the lack of general practitioners and urology resources, the reduction of the social integration-based rehabilitation budget (RAIS), the shortage of resources for the prevention of pressure sores as well as the difficulty in obtaining long-term follow-ups. The closure of beds at the IRDPQ, owing to a shortage of general practitioners, has dire consequences for persons with spinal cord injuries, who are forced to remain in hospital for a longer period and, in doing so, delay the start of rehabilitation, a crucial phase of the process.

Moelle épinière et motricité Québec asks the Government to act quickly so that:

- 1- measures may be taken to restore the lost quality of care and services at the Centre d'expertise pour les blessés médullaires de l'est du Québec (CEBMEQ);
- 2- measures may be taken to make up for the lack of urology services, the reduced social integration-based rehabilitation budget (RAIS), the shortage of resources for the prevention of pressure sores as well as the difficulty in obtaining long-term follow-ups;
- 3- persons with spinal cord injuries may quickly have access to IRDPQ general practitioners;
- 4- patients with a spinal cord injury may quickly have a bed at the IRDPQ so that they can begin the rehabilitation phase as soon as possible;
- 5- we stop discharging patients who haven't yet finished their rehabilitation and we guarantee a full and complete rehabilitation as agreed in the various protocols;
- 6- we guarantee quality of services and the safety of persons under rehabilitative care.

In a second letter dated 19 March 2019, Moelle épinière et motricité Québec also referred to a specific problem in western Québec. In this case, the organization denounced the non-compliance with procedure regarding persons with spinal cord injuries at the Centre d'expertise de l'ouest du Québec (CEBMOQ). Once a spinal cord injury diagnosis is established, persons should automatically be transferred to Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur (HSCM), since this establishment's medical team is specifically trained to provide stabilizing treatment for persons with spinal cord injuries, so as to minimize consequences and thus maximize potential rehabilitation gains. We would like to remind the Minister that this service procedure had been agreed by the Ministère de la Santé et des

Services sociaux. It appears that it is not always complied with, and this constitutes a serious breach that is likely to cause irreparable harm to persons with spinal cord injuries.

Moelle épinière et motricité Québec therefore asks the Government:

- 1- to do what is necessary to ensure that the CEBMOQ procedure is complied with at all times so that all persons with spinal cord injuries in western Québec will receive trauma care only and exclusively at Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur de Montréal.

Accordingly, my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are the following:

- Does the Minister intend to take the necessary measures to restore quality of care and services provided for persons with spinal cord injuries?
- What concrete measures does the Minister intend to take in order to redress the recurring problems experienced by persons with spinal cord injuries at the CEBMEQ?
- Will the Minister do what it takes to ensure that the CEBMOQ procedure, as of now, will systematically be complied with?

(75) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **5 June 2019**

To the Minister of Justice and Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 810-20190917)

My riding office was contacted on several occasions in recent weeks with regard to a broadening of the scope of legislation on medical assistance in dying as well as end-of-life care.

The first component of the desired broadening of the scope of legislation on medical assistance in dying specifically concerns situations in which patients suffer a neurological event resulting in a clinical diagnosis of brain death. Since these persons can no longer give their free and informed consent and that often families stand by powerless as their loved one is kept alive, even when death is imminent, a feeling of helplessness overwhelms the patient's family and friends as they wait for natural death, a waiting period that can last a few hours, but sometimes days, even weeks or months. This creates unbearable situations in which family and friends must put their entire life on hold during this period to be with their loved one, and they cannot start the grieving process. This is not to mention the healthcare system costs involved.

The second component concerns the concept of prior consent to receiving medical assistance in dying. While this raises specific ethical issues and it is partly regulated by the Federal Government, several Quebecers appear to be ready for us to collectively raise the debate on this specific point. Currently, the Criminal Code of Canada does not allow individuals to predetermine their end-of-life conditions. A growing number of Quebecers believe that legislation should allow for some openness with regard to this reality, so long as it is clearly defined.

Will the Minister pledge to:

- Brief me on the progress of the discussions held (if such is the case) by various Government bodies under her responsibility, concerning both aforementioned aspects?
- Begin discussions for the purpose of including these situations in a potential update to the *Act respecting end-of-life care*, if this process is not already underway?
- Consider the specific situations related to the sudden loss of cognitive abilities of individuals, so as to allow families the possibility of deciding to end the life of a loved one

who is clinically brain-dead, while considering the ethical issues related to conflicts of interest that certain families might have, in relation to a loved one's estate, for instance?

- Make the necessary representations to her Federal counterpart so that he may examine the possibility of extending the regulatory framework of the Criminal Code to open the door to authorizing very clearly defined prior consent?

(76) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **5 June 2019**

To the Minister for Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 810-20190917)

My riding office was contacted on several occasions in recent weeks with regard to a broadening of the scope of legislation on medical assistance in dying as well as end-of-life care.

The first component of the desired broadening of the scope of legislation on medical assistance in dying specifically concerns situations in which patients suffer a neurological event resulting in a clinical diagnosis of brain death. Since these persons can no longer give their free and informed consent and that often families stand by powerless as their loved one is kept alive, even when death is imminent, a feeling of helplessness overwhelms the patient's family and friends as they wait for natural death, a waiting period that can last a few hours, but sometimes days, even weeks or months. This creates unbearable situations in which family and friends must put their entire life on hold during this period to be with their loved one, and they cannot start the grieving process. This is not to mention the healthcare system costs involved.

The second component concerns the concept of prior consent to receiving medical assistance in dying. While this raises specific ethical issues and it is partly regulated by the Federal Government, several Quebecers appear to be ready for us to collectively raise the debate on this specific point. Currently, the Criminal Code of Canada does not allow individuals to predetermine their end-of-life conditions. A growing number of Quebecers believe that legislation should allow for some openness with regard to this reality, so long as it is clearly defined.

Will the Minister pledge to:

- Brief me on the progress of the discussions held (if such is the case) by various Government bodies under his responsibility, concerning both aforementioned aspects?
- Begin discussions for the purpose of including these situations in a potential update to the *Act respecting end-of-life care*, if this process is not already underway?
- Consider the specific situations related to the sudden loss of cognitive abilities of individuals, so as to allow families the possibility of deciding to end the life of a loved one who is clinically brain-dead, while considering the ethical issues related to conflicts of interest that certain families might have, in relation to a loved one's estate, for instance?
- Make the necessary representations to his Federal counterpart so that he may examine the possibility of extending the regulatory framework of the Criminal Code to open the door to authorizing very clearly defined prior consent?

(77) Mr. Proulx (Jean-Talon) – **7 June 2019**

To the Minister Responsible for the Capitale-Nationale Region

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 811-20190917)

Plage Jacques-Cartier in the Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge borough of the Capitale-Nationale is greatly appreciated by Québec City citizens and families. Each year, over 250,000 people visit the site and these numbers are growing. This site provides access to the river and nature, allowing citizens to enjoy hiking trails and various installations. In the past few years, shoreline erosion has been observed, resulting in the deterioration of infrastructures. To keep citizens safe, Ville de Québec has had to divert certain trails and temporarily redevelop certain sectors. In order for Ville de Québec to make permanent renovations, it needs the Ministère de l'Environnement's authorization, which has not been forthcoming.

It should be recalled that last July the Minister had pledged, in the context of the last general election, to support Ville de Québec in a potential project to revitalize Plage Jacques-Cartier. Not only had she made this commitment, but she had also promised an investment on the Québec Government's part, stating that Ville de Québec should not have to foot the bill alone.

Since summer is almost here, what steps is the Minister Responsible for the Capitale-Nationale Region taking with the Ministère de l'Environnement and what are the expected timelines to resolve this problem?

What actions has the Minister taken regarding this matter to support Ville de Québec in its dealings with the Ministère de l'Environnement?

Regarding the Government investment, what amounts are envisaged, how many years would the investment run for and when does the Government intend to make this announcement?

(78) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **12 June 2019**

To the Minister for Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 812-20190917)

The Ministère de la Santé et Services sociaux adopted an action plan on autism spectrum disorder (ASD) for 2017-2022. Two years after having introduced this plan, the organizations that were consulted find that there is no improvement in the field. Parents and organizations still deplore the lack of resources and specialized services for children, notably the excessively long waiting period to obtain a diagnosis, the long waiting lists to obtain services based on the real needs of each person rather than on diagnosis, insufficient qualified personnel, the high rate of employee turnover, over-medicalization, the gaps in home care and the lack of support for caregivers. As for adults aged 21 years and over with ASD, there is truly a discontinuity of services. This includes, among other things, lack of access to day centres providing challenging activities, suitable housing – particularly in crisis situations, employment opportunities and residential options.

According to the Fédération québécoise de l'autisme, the prevalence of autism in Québec is 1.4% of the population. Furthermore, according to the INSPQ, the annual prevalence of ASD in Québec is steadily growing, partly owing to better screening practices and the broadening of diagnostic criteria.

Many families are or will be facing this lack of services if measures are not rapidly implemented by the Government. The situation is critical and the pain suffered by parents is palpable, parents who often are obliged to quit their job to take care of their children, minors or of full age, owing to

gaps in public services. Moreover, we cannot ignore the headlines in recent weeks, which have sadly confirmed the urgency of acting to meet the desperate needs of children with ASD.

As you know, it is important for persons with ASD to maintain a stable routine and active participation in society to develop and maintain what they have gained. There is evidence that lack of services may cause regression, physical and mental health problems that may lead to suicide and important integration challenges.

My questions are the following:

- What concrete action will the Minister take in the short term to meet the desperate needs of children with ASD and to ensure their full participation in society?
- What is the Government currently doing to put in place specialized resources for persons aged 21 years and over with ASD?
- When will these specialized resources be available to the public and, in the meantime, how does the Government intend to support parents who are forced to put their career on hold and thus forego income to take care of their adult children with ASD or their underage children who have been suspended from school without a return date?
- In the action plan, the Government identified priority goals. Can the Minister tell us exactly what progress has been made toward achieving each of these goals?

(79) Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin)– **12 June 2019**

To the Minister of Education and Higher Education

Answer tabled on **17 September 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 813-20190917)

In 2018, the Minister responsible for Education and Higher Education mandated her department to conduct an investigation in order to shed light on the relationship between TÉLUQ and Institut MATCI. The department had noted irregularities that violated three laws, namely the Act respecting contracting by public bodies, the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses and the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level.

Another investigation had also been launched, again in 2018, on this university's management. According to the 3 June 2019 edition of *Le Soleil* newspaper, this investigation allegedly ended following an amicable agreement between TÉLUQ's former executive director and Université du Québec, the public network that TÉLUQ belongs to. This same article reported "minor irregularities" at TÉLUQ, quoting an anonymous source.

My question for the Minister:

- For the sake of transparency, will the Minister of Education and Higher Education release the findings of these investigations? If so, by when?

(80) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage)– **18 September 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **22 October 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1087-20191022)

September 15, 2017 marked the coming into force of Bill 92, requiring pharmacists to itemize their invoices, thereby allowing clients to know the price of the medication, the margin paid to the distributor and the pharmacist's fees. The latter includes the pharmacy's operating fees and the profit, among others.

According to section 19 of the *Health Insurance Act*, it is the Minister of Health and Social Services, with the approval of the Conseil du trésor, who enters into an agreement concerning the remuneration of insured services with the Association québécoise des pharmaciens propriétaires (AQPP).

The current Government renewed the agreement with the AQPP for the period of April 1, 2018 to March 20, 2020. One condition of that agreement, however, seems to defy all logic. When a prescription is renewed, pharmacists may, of course, charge fees. However, if a citizen covered by the public health plan wishes to renew their prescription for several months, the pharmacist may charge the citizen the pharmacist's service fees up to three times, even if only one service was provided.

In addition, the agreement creates inequality between two groups of citizens: those covered by the RAMQ and those covered by private insurance. For the first group, the Government negotiated fixed fees of approximately \$9.00 per prescription, but for the second group, pharmacists are free to set the amounts of their fees themselves. The amounts vary widely and are significantly higher than those required for people covered by the public plan. Furthermore, the amounts are difficult to analyze since they are decided arbitrarily, they are not fixed and do not represent a percentage of the medication's price.

My questions are as follows:

- Does the Government find it reasonable that several service fees are charged when only a single service has been provided?
- Can the Government explain to us why it chose to renew this condition in the agreement with the AQPP?
- In 2020, will the Government review its position and negotiate the agreement in such a way that a pharmacist may only charge a single fee, even when renewing prescriptions for several months, in order to encourage access to medication for citizens with fragile health and often a low income?
- Is the Government considering implementing a fully public prescription drug insurance plan that would solve the problem of inequity between publically- and privately-insured citizens?
- If the Government does not wish to commit to such a plan, how does it intend to ensure that Quebecers covered by private insurance are not financially disadvantaged compared to those covered by the RAMQ when they renew a prescription at the pharmacy?

- (81) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **18 September 2019**
To the Minister of Transport and Minister Responsible for the Estrie Region
Answer tabled on **7 November 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1152-20191107)

Municipalité de Canton de Potton adopted by-law 2018-453, which allows all off-highway vehicles to travel on all 170 kilometres of its municipal roads year-round. By turning all the public roads into off-highway vehicle paths, the new by-law puts not only off-highway vehicle users in danger, but all users of Potton roads (be they residents or visitors). By endorsing this by-law that is the only one of its kind in Québec, we are contributing to setting a precedent transferable to the provincial level. Manufacturers of off-highway vehicles are themselves opposed to the use of their products on paved and unpaved public roads. The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, the largest group of off-highway vehicle manufacturers, states that off-highway vehicles are designed and manufactured “for off-road use only”, and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission stated that all-terrain vehicles “can reach highway speeds, but with their low-pressure tires and high centre of gravity, they are more prone to tip over or go out of control”.

Beyond the semantic inconsistency in the by-law, the *Act respecting off-highway vehicles* is clear. The Act prohibits the operation of off-highway vehicles on public highways; aims to develop the safe use of off-highway vehicles on the trails designed for that purpose and only exceptionally allows municipalities to open segments of public highways for off-highway vehicle operation in order to secure the passage between off-highway vehicle trails, while protecting other road users through adequate signs and signals. Such a by-law goes against the principles of the *Act respecting off-highway vehicles* and risks to increase the number of accidents and deaths as studies have shown in jurisdictions that allow off-highway vehicle operation on public roads.

On behalf of Action Potton, a group of citizens from Canton de Potton, we ask the Minister of Transport and the Minister Responsible for the Estrie Region to please disallow by-law 2018-453.

- (82) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **19 September 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **22 October 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1088-20191022)

Established in 1995 in close cooperation with the Centre de Réadaptation Lucie-Bruneau, the mission of the Viomax centre is to improve the health, social participation and independence of people with physical disabilities. This organization constitutes added value for the community and operates without public financing. In light of increasing competition for private foundation funding, of their concern to maintain fair rates for their clientele and provide decent working conditions for their staff, and of the unique nature of their field, Viomax must raise \$50,000 on a recurring basis to continue to offer its services to its more than 600 members.

In addition to its positive contribution to the community, Viomax makes optimal use of the various facilities (pool, gymnasium, fitness room) of the Centre Lucie-Bruneau outside regular physical rehabilitation hours and has partnerships with other health network institutions (the Centre de réadaptation Marie-Enfant, the Constance-Lethbridge centre) and Ville de Montréal, which allow Viomax to use certain facilities. As a result of these partnerships, Viomax is able to deliver 8,000 hours of services each year. Nonetheless, it is Viomax’s adapted equipment and specialized staff that make it an essential part of the health service delivery stream for a clientele for whom physical activity would otherwise be inaccessible or poorly adapted. A single visit is all one needs to understand how vital these facilities are for users, and also just how key physical activity is to preventive health care.

The Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur's funding programs for sports and leisure activities are not adapted to Viomax's services. In addition, Viomax does not qualify for funding under the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux's PSOC program because it charges registration and enrollment fees for its activities. Viomax considers these fees important because they lower the risk of stigmatization that some might associate with receiving free services. In addition, registration and enrollment fees represent 52% of the organization's income. What's more, Adaptavie, a Québec City organization that provides services equivalent to those of Viomax, qualifies for PSOC funding for historical reasons, rendering the situation even more unfair.

In this context and in light of this information, my questions for the Minister for Health and Social Services are the following:

- 1) Will the Minister commit to providing recurring funding for the Viomax centre to ensure that it can continue to carry out its essential mission in the health service delivery stream for people with physical disabilities?
- 2) Does the Minister intend to provide financial support for other initiatives which, like Viomax, optimize the use of public infrastructures and, through the preventive nature of their services, contribute to the common good?

(83) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **24 September 2019**
To the Minister for Government Digital Transformation
Answer tabled on **22 October 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1089-20191022)

I have received questions respecting the lack of accessibility to various government department services for people with visual impairments or who are functionally illiterate. Many citizens have pointed out to me that the digital shift in many government services has gradually moved complaint taking processes from telephone services to digital platforms. This has made these citizens feel discriminated against because they have to use a medium that is not adapted to them, since they are visually impaired or unable to provide written accounts of complex situations.

Remember that, unlike the private sector, the Québec Government must ensure universal access to its services for all Quebecers.

Therefore, my question is the following:

- Will the Minister commit to introducing measures to ensure citizens' free choice as to the medium used in their communications with the public and parapublic sectors, namely, the choice to use either writing or voice, particularly when a citizen's special situation requires it?

(84) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **24 September 2019**
To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
Answer tabled on **22 October 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1090-20191022)

I have received questions in connection with AQLPA's defunct Faites de l'air! program. It ensured that old polluting vehicles were recycled while promoting the use of sustainable modes of transport. This program ended in 2014 even though it was very popular, with more than 50,000 vehicles having been recycled ecologically thanks to it.

Therefore, my question is the following:

- Will the Minister commit to examining the possibility of reinstating the Faites de l'air! program or developing a new equivalent program?

(85) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **24 September 2019**

To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor

Answer tabled on **22 October 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1091-20191022)

Québec's speech language pathologists and audiologists are grouped into a single profession in both the public and private sectors. The profession is predominantly female: close to 96 % of those practising are women. This is therefore a perfect example of the type of occupation for which the Pay Equity Act was passed in 1996 to correct inequities between various professions.

Currently, the remuneration for this profession is assessed in the category of classification 22, based on its initial assessment in 2001, carried out during the application of the Pay Equity Act. Since that time, the profession has experienced a pay gap relative to the Canadian average, even though it requires obtaining a higher degree than other professions in the same category, such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy. In this regard, the unions representing these professionals filed a complaint with the Conseil du Trésor in 2011. To date, this complaint has not been addressed.

Therefore, my questions are the following:

- Will the Conseil du trésor respond to the complaint filed in 2011 by the various unions representing the members of the Quebec Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists with respect to the reassessment of the job classification in the context of the application of the Pay Equity Act? This complaint was based on a marked change in the profession's duties during the reference period from 2001 to 2010.
- Will the Conseil du trésor consider the importance of closing the pay gap between the remuneration of Québec's speech language pathologists and audiologists and those working in the rest of Canada, which was 12.3% for the 2015–2016 period, in order to determine a new, more appropriate job category, in the context where several other professions have received adjustments proportional to the Canadian average over the same period?
- Will the Conseil du trésor, when assessing the job category, take into consideration the level of education required to practise the speech language pathologist or audiologist profession, which is a master's degree, while its current job category is comprised mainly of professions that require only a bachelor's degree?

(86) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **25 September 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **6 November 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1146-20191106)

I was contacted about a situation related to the direct allocation program (service employment paycheque) which, in my view, seems problematic as regards the legal liability of the actors concerned.

Indeed, the program has a major flaw: from a legal point of view, the service recipient—who should be recognized as a client—is in fact recognized as an employer in the eyes of the CNESST, as well as under the Act respecting labour standards.

This inadequate interpretation of the laws was also raised by the team of the La facture television show last 19 March. Given that the service recipients are predominantly individuals suffering from a loss of autonomy who should normally be receiving public services, it is not only illogical from a legal standpoint to qualify them as employers, but also immoral to impose such a burden on them.

In this context, my question is as follows :

- Will the Minister of Health promise to correct this error in the direct allocation program?

(87) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **25 September 2019**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
Answer tabled on **6 November 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1146-20191106)

I was contacted about a situation related to the direct allocation program (service employment paycheque) which, in my view, seems problematic as regards the legal liability of the actors concerned.

Indeed, the program has a major flaw: from a legal point of view, the service recipient—who should be recognized as a client—is in fact recognized as an employer in the eyes of the CNESST, as well as under the Act respecting labour standards.

This inadequate interpretation of [the laws] was also raised by the team of the La facture television show, last 19 March. Given that the service recipients are predominantly individuals suffering from a loss of autonomy who should normally be receiving public services, it is not only illogical from a legal standpoint to qualify them as employers, but also immoral to impose such a burden on them.

In this context, my question is as follows:

- Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity promise to correct this error in the direct allocation program?

(88) Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) – **3 October 2019**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Answer tabled on **7 November 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1153-20191107)

Within the framework of the order of initiative on pesticide use, several disturbing testimonials were given as to the potential impacts of pesticides on human health. In order to evaluate the impacts of pesticides on Quebecers' health, experts and researchers need access to pesticide use data to complete their studies.

Therefore, I am asking the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to provide the following as soon as possible:

- 1- All the data relating to the use of pesticides.
- 2- The quantity of pesticides used per region.
- 3- The types of pesticides used per crop and per region, and the temporal data linked thereto.
- 4- The health risk indexes and environmental risk indexes for all pesticides used in Québec.
- 5- The level of progress of the revision table as regards the evolution of the risk indexes.
- 6- The data available to date on pesticide prescriptions for 2018 and 2019.

(89) Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) – **3 October 2019**
To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
Answer tabled on **7 November 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1154-20191107)

Within the framework of the order of initiative on pesticide use, several disturbing testimonials were given as to the potential impacts of pesticides on human health. In order to evaluate the impacts of pesticides on Quebecers' health, experts and researchers need access to pesticide use data to complete their studies.

Therefore, I am asking the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change to provide the following as soon as possible:

- 1- All the data relating to the use of pesticides.
- 2- The quantity of pesticides used per region.
- 3- The types of pesticides used per crop and per region, and the temporal data linked thereto.
- 4- The health risk indexes and environmental risk indexes for all pesticides used in Québec.
- 5- The level of progress of the revision table as regards the evolution of the risk indexes.
- 6- The data available to date on pesticide prescriptions for 2018 and 2019.

(90) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **24 October 2019**
To the Minister of Transport
Answer tabled on **3 December 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1200-20191203)

Route 117, which links Montréal to Rouyn-Noranda, is one of the deadliest highways in Québec. According to public data, at least 8 people lost their lives in fatal collisions in 2018, and 7 of the deaths were due to accidents in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue area alone. It was Route 117's heaviest toll since 2012. During the last election campaign, the CAQ assured us that improving the safety of the section of the 117 connecting Val-d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda would be one of its Government's priorities. Over a year has gone by since the election, but there has still been no plan or measure announced by the Québec government to make good on that promise.

More recently, the Minister Responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region and the Nord-du-Québec Region even suggested that it was in fact the federal government's responsibility to finance future safety work on Route 117, since it is part of the Trans-Canada Highway network. The Government is perfectly aware that the federal level will not intervene in the Québec highway network unless the provincial authorities expressly request it to do so and that such a request would have to take the form of applying for funding from Infrastructure Canada. Until the Government of Québec submits an application, no funding from the Canadian government will miraculously fall into the coffers of the Québec State.

My questions to the Minister of Transport are the following:

- What is the Government's plan to improve safety on the section of Route 117 between Val-d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda?
- Since the Government now seems to claim that it is the federal level's responsibility to finance work on Route 117, has the Minister of Transport submitted official funding applications to the federal government, for example, through Infrastructure Canada, to obtain the funds necessary to make that section safe?
- If so, on what date did the Minister submit that application and to which federal body was it submitted?

(91) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **31 October 2019**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **28 November 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1189-20191128)

The report to the Minister on the implementation of Chapter VI.1 of the Cultural Heritage Act (chapter P-9.002) regarding Ville de Québec's exercising of powers of the Minister was tabled in the National Assembly on 18 September 2019.

The report was tabled following the passage of the Act to grant Ville de Québec national capital status and increase its autonomy and powers in December 2016.

The Act amended the Cultural Heritage Act to allow Ville de Québec to exercise certain powers of the Minister with respect to protection areas, land areas declared heritage sites and classified heritage sites in its territory. In general, Ville de Québec can issue authorizations for work other than the total or partial demolition of a building, the erection of a new building, and the excavation of ground, even within a building, in connection with such a demolition or erection. In addition, Ville de Québec is now responsible for carrying out inspections and instituting penal proceedings for offences under this Act related to the exercise of the powers conferred upon it.

On page 8 of the report, at the bottom of a table specifying the number of authorizations Ville de Québec has issued while exercising the Minister's powers conferred upon it, the report states that the information on inspections verifying compliance of the work carried out under such authorizations is unavailable at this time.

Can the Minister tell us when she expects to receive the information on the compliance inspections and can she commit to tabling that information in the National Assembly as additional information to the report dated 18 September 2019?

In addition, the report proposes a number of solutions to facilitate the exercise of the powers conferred on Ville de Québec. Can the Minister indicate her timetable for that work and what follow-up will be made on those recommendations?

- (92) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **31 October 2019**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **4 December 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1231-20191204)

The Ministère de la Culture et des Communications adopted a 2016–2020 sustainable development action plan that provides for action to implement the process for taking into account sustainable development principles in all the Department’s transformative actions.

The Department’s 2018–2019 annual management report shows that implementation has slowed considerably. Following implementation results of 46% in 2017–2018, sustainable development principles were taken into account in only 50% of the transformative actions in 2018–2019.

This increase of only 4% in the last year suggests that the Department will not attain the target of 100% by 31 March 2020, which has prompted the Department to indicate that the rate of implementation is “To be monitored”.

Can the Minister tell us what action she has taken to ensure the objectives of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications’ 2016–2020 sustainable development action plan are attained, and can she confirm that sustainable development principles will be taken into account in all the Department’s transformative actions by 31 March 2020, as planned?

- (93) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **31 October 2019**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **4 December 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1232-20191204)

The Centre de conservation du Québec provides artefact and artwork restoration services as well as expert services with respect to preventive conservation, training and documentation.

The fees for such services amount to \$76 per hour for private non-profit organizations, such as community organizations, historical societies and private archival centres. That represents a rate increase of 5.5% compared with the previous rate of \$72 per hour.

Regarding any rate increase, the Premier stated on October 3: "What we are telling Quebecers, and what we promised during the election campaign, is that in Québec from now on taxes and tariffs will not be increased by more than the inflation rate. That is a promise and, like all our promises, we will keep it."

Since inflation in Québec in 2018 was 1.8%, how does the Minister intend to reconcile the 5.5% increase with the Premier’s formal commitment?

- (94) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **5 November 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **28 November 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1190-20191128)

In the Legault Government’s first budget, a significant increase to the amount spent on the global mission support component of the Support Program for Community Organizations was announced, bringing it from \$1.5 million to \$7.5 million. However, Québec’s housing NPO federations are still waiting for what was promised in the announcement to materialize.

To date, the only payment they have received is the usual amount.

My question is the following:

- When will the announced amounts be made available to the housing NPO federations?

(95) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 November 2019**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1289-20200204)

I have been contacted a number of times about certain matters regarding the CNESST's mission and procedure.

According to the citizens I have heard from, the CNESST has strayed from its original mission by using a private insurance model as a guide for its practices. It seems that it is attempting to focus on the consolidation of worker's injuries, while neglecting to ensure that workers are completely healed before they re-enter the labour market.

In addition, many people consider the procedure for contesting medical second opinions complex and opaque. As a result, the administrative processing of files is increasingly leading to abusive and unnecessary litigation, while injured workers must face their employer's and the CNESST's teams of experts.

My question is as follows:

Will the Minister commit to considering the following elements in the next labour law reform?

- Re-centering the CNESST's mission in order to prioritize the healing process for injured workers and thus make their return into the labour market more successful?
- Simplifying the procedure for contesting CNESST second opinions in order to limit litigation.

(96) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 November 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1290-20200204)

Many families have problems obtaining access to the services of a speech therapist or audiologist. For families with children with delayed language development, the situation is even more concerning.

There are still regional disparities today. Some children spend over a year on a waiting list. Each year of early childhood is critical to a child's linguistic development and will impact each subsequent life stage.

The Government says that early childhood is one of its top priorities.

My question is as follows:

- Does the Minister intend to work jointly with her colleagues, the Minister of Education and Higher Education and the Minister for Health and Social Services, to put in place a unified national program for access to speech therapist and audiologist services and thus ensure that the entire population has access within a reasonable 3-month period?

(97) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 November 2019**
To the Minister of Education and Higher Education
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1290-20200204)

Many families have problems obtaining access to the services of a speech therapist or audiologist. For families with children with delayed language development, the situation is even more concerning.

There are still regional disparities today. Some children spend over a year on a waiting list. Each year of early childhood is critical to a child's linguistic development and will impact each subsequent life stage.

The Government says that early childhood is one of its top priorities.

My question is as follows:

- Does the Minister intend to work jointly with his colleagues, the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister for Health and Social Services, to put in place a unified national program for access to speech therapist and audiologist services and thus ensure that the entire population has access within a reasonable 3-month period?

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(99) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **12 November 2019**
To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1291-20200204)

In your reply to the petition signed by 8,252 citizens of Québec on reducing advertising flyer annoyance, you recognize that we must be more responsible with regard to our consumption of short-lived and single-use products. I am delighted to read that we share the same desire to reduce the perverse effects of this mass distribution.

You are aware that the city of Mirabel has taken a position on this issue by prohibiting the distribution of printed advertising flyers when there is no pictogram authorizing it. For its part, since 25 October, the city of Montréal has been hearing opinions on the topic in the context of citizen-initiated public consultations on regulating flyers. Clearly, there is no longer consensus on the method of systematic distribution. Sooner or later these municipalities and others considering taking action must be able to count on a clear universal directive, which could be incorporated into the Municipal Powers Act in order to better regulate this practice throughout Québec.

You also mention that, in the 2019–2020 Budget, you announced \$100 million over five years to improve waste management in Québec. These monies were expected and will be welcome. However, determining how flyers should be packaged by making a regulation under section 53.28 of the Environment Quality Act would reduce the inefficiency of our sorting centres at the expense of the companies concerned.

In this context and in light of this information, my questions for the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change are the following:

- (1) Will the Minister commit to rapidly standardizing the regulations on distributing flyers so as to reduce waste?
- (2) Does the Minister plan to set out clear guidelines to regulate advertising flyer packaging?
- (3) In the event that these proposals are not considered by the Minister and considering the importance of this issue, what are the Minister's intentions and when does he plan to transform his intentions into actions?

(100) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **20 November 2019**

To the Minister for Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **3 December 2019** (Sessional Paper No. 1201-20191203)

In September 2018, in the middle of the election campaign, the Premier promised to reinstate free first-cycle in vitro fertilization (IVF) as of 2020. He also showed that he was open to extending public coverage to second treatment cycles.

In May 2019, the Minister of Health and Social Services announced the creation of a committee of experts mandated to define, based on scientific parameters, criteria for access to assisted procreation reimbursed by the Government. The committee was to take inspiration from the recommendations of the Health and Welfare Commissioner and those of the Collège des médecins.

We should recall that the World Health Organization considers infertility a disease. It is defined as the inability to conceive a child after 12 months of unprotected sexual intercourse. More and more couples suffer from infertility and IVF is the last stage of their treatment. In Canada, 10–15% (some 330,000) couples go through this difficult ordeal.

Since the government program ended in 2015, after the passage of Bill 20, the number of requests for IVF has dropped dramatically in Québec, by around 60%. This reproduction method costs thousands of dollars and is therefore not easily accessible to couples, even with the tax credit.

My questions are the following:

- Can the Minister give us a report on the work the committee of experts has done to date, including on how often the committee has met and what topics have been discussed?
- Who are the members of the committee and what are their areas of expertise?
- According to our information, infertile couples may be members of the committee or may be consulted by the experts. Given the vastly diverse situations of infertile couples, can the Minister give us, while respecting the privacy of those couples, some information on their profiles (age, problems they have faced, stage of treatment)?
- Given that many couples are waiting for the government program to be able to start a family and that, in the case of infertility, time is a major factor, can the Minister state, as precisely as possibly, when the said program will be available to the public?
- Since the current tax credit, which costs the State \$35 million per year, is already rather restrictive and the cost currently estimated by the Government for making the treatment free is \$16 million, should we anticipate that the criteria for access will be tightened further?
- Considering the success rate of one cycle of IVF, does the Minister intend to cover the cost of second and third cycles of IVF?

(101) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **27 November 2019**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1292-20200204)

Recently, three applications made by constituents for compensation from the SAAQ were brought to my attention. These three applications highlight different situations, which nonetheless deserve to be examined as they affect the persons receiving indemnities.

The first constituent told me that under paragraph 4.1 of section 49 of the Automobile Insurance Act, compensation ceases when the person holds employment from which he or she derives a gross income equal to or greater than the gross income on the basis of which the SAAQ has computed the income replacement indemnity. In certain situations where persons receiving indemnities found themselves earning a little more than the income computed by the SAAQ, this provision is liable to discourage persons receiving an indemnity from maintaining their employment, as they do not wish to be penalized.

A second case focuses on the gradual cessation of the indemnities, under section 43 of that same Act, once one reaches the age of retirement. This situation can, for those who only receive the federal pension or who have little retirement income, result in a significant decrease in their income.

The third example concerns a self-employed worker's projected income. The constituent who raised the issue with us was working on a low-paying contract that would, however, give him visibility with a view to gaining new income. The indemnity that he received did not take into account the income he could reasonably expect to receive and was rather based on the income he had received up to that time. In a context where, according to the Institut de la statistique du Québec, the change in the percentage of workers between 2017 and 2018 is greater than the number of salaried jobs, and this trend is bound to intensify.

In light of these situations experienced by persons receiving various types of indemnities, my questions to the Minister of Transport are as follows:

- 1) Does the Minister intend to review paragraph 4.1 of section 49 so that persons receiving an indemnity who hold employment from which they derive a gross income equal to or greater than the gross income computed by the SAAQ see their indemnity decrease in a progressive manner (dollar for dollar) rather than have it cease completely, as is currently provided for when their income surpasses the income computed by the SAAQ?
- 2) Will the Minister consider accompanying the persons receiving an indemnity who cease to receive an income replacement indemnity when they turn 68 and have little or no retirement income, either by maintaining the SAAQ income replacement indemnity or through another program that would enhance their retirement income to fill the income gap that could be created when the indemnities cease?
- 3) Does the Minister plan to examine the new realities of the labour market, in particular as regards the increase in the number of self-employed workers, and the impacts that their situation may have on the payment or setting of indemnities?

(102) Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) – **28 November 2019**

To the Minister of Public Security

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1293-20200204)

The Gaspé Peninsula is facing a major coastal erosion problem, and climate change is accelerating this process. This phenomenon is affecting 69% of Gaspésie's coastlines, and more than 850 infrastructures are potentially threatened. According to the results of a 2016 study by the Ouranos consortium, damage caused by coastal erosion in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region could cost as much as \$776 million over 50 years.

Despite this, in the last three years, no monies have been allocated for the prevention of coastal erosion in Gaspesia. According to its last budget, the Government plans to spend a total of \$2.2 million over three years to address this problem. Taking into consideration all available data, it is clear that this is insufficient by far, and that it is vital to adopt a long-term vision to deal with this issue.

My question is the following:

- Will the Minister of Public Security commit to investing, with a view to prevention, the sums required to preserve Gaspésie's coastlines, and thereby also protect its infrastructure, businesses, buildings and citizens?

(103) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **29 November 2019**

To the Minister of Education and Higher Education

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1294-20200204)

According to information obtained by concerned citizens and forwarded to the Member for Rimouski's riding office, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) has undertaken a vast operation to follow up on a report by the Auditor General that expressed its dismay over the slow pace of the review of the Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) and the Diploma of College Studies (DEC) programs. As a result, the Comité national des programmes d'études professionnelles et techniques (CNPEPT) is attempting to complete its operations within 18 months.

Specifically, we are concerned with the cases of programs "410-001 – Gestion de commerces", "410-003 – Comptabilité de gestion", and "412 – Bureautique"; the CNPEPT intends to merge them to create a new program, provisionally named "Techniques de l'administration".

The CNPEPT developed its vision based on a biased and incomplete analysis and intends to impose that vision, even if stakeholders in the field are not on board. The latter were not consulted and were kept in the dark until recently.

The CNPEPT supports its decision with documents ("État de la situation") developed using mostly samples from the public sector, whereas the graduates of the programs in question more often end up working in the private sector. In addition, the CNPEPT draws conclusions from questionable statistics and does not attempt to understand what motivates the behaviour of young persons. Lastly, the CNPEPT, in its analysis, considered statements of skills made in 1999, whereas technical teachers are constantly adapting their courses to new realities.

My question is the following:

Can the Minister of Education and Higher Education specify whether he really intends to merge the programs *410-001 – Gestion de commerces*, *410-003 – Comptabilité de gestion*, and *412 – Bureautique* into a single college administration program?

(104) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **3 December 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1295-20200204)

The Service de Référence en Périnatalité pour les Femmes immigrantes de Québec (SRPFIQ), a community organization that guides expecting immigrant mothers toward perinatal resources and family integration support services, has received numerous accounts from vulnerable allophone women whose right to an interpreter's services has not been respected (at birth and post-partum), even after several days of hospitalization with their new-born baby.

Section 2 of the *Act respecting health services and social services* provides that "the distinctive geographical, linguistic, sociocultural, ethnocultural and socioeconomic characteristics of each region" must be taken into account and "to the extent allowed by the resources, access to health services and social services in their own languages for members of the various cultural communities of Québec" must be fostered. In reality, many allophone immigrant women who ask for the services of an interpreter in the context of birth or receiving post-partum care or when their children are followed in neonatology do not always receive those services.

Offering interpretation services is financially impossible for some community organizations that already receive inadequate basic funding or no government funding at all. This service, which is so essential in providing support to immigrant women and their allophone families, is financially out-of-reach for some community workers, even though they work on the frontline. The problem is compounded by the fact that these women are particularly vulnerable in the childbirth and post-partum contexts. It has been suggested to some organizations that due to recent changes (spring 2019), interpretation budgets are decreasing. Consequently, organizations are prevented from requesting interpretation services themselves, because they could find themselves responsible for paying expensive bills, despite working closely with CLSC personnel. Once again, community organizations are asked to make do with little resources.

My questions to the Minister are as follows:

- How does the Minister explain that this right is not always respected for these women who are already very vulnerable?
- What part can the government play in solving this acute problem which raises the issue of access to services in both the hospital environment and in community organizations which are working to meet needs not covered by the CIUSSS?
- Why are community organizations that are CIUSSS partners unable to request interpretation services directly from the CIUSSS and have it cover the cost?
- Many organizations, such as the SRPFIQ work closely with health-care providers in providing follow-up to expecting immigrant mothers and new immigrant mothers to help overcome barriers to obtaining resources, demystify the health system, break their isolation and support health-care providers (perinatal nurses, social workers, nutritionists) in accompanying these women. Why can't the CIUSSS provide these organizations access to interpretation services by creating a partnership that would facilitate access to an interpreter's services?

(105) Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) – **4 December 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1296-20200204)

Ste. Anne's Hospital, located at the heart of my riding, has a historical vocation of service to veterans. On 1 April 2016, the hospital, which was formerly administered by Veterans Affairs Canada, was transferred to the Government of Québec. It is now under the responsibility of the Montréal West Island Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre.

As we know, veterans are growing older and we must offer them a full range of medical and psychogeriatric care to best meet their physical and psychological needs.

In relation to this, an agreement is being negotiated with the federal government to add 10 new beds for veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have recently returned from deployments and require care at Ste. Anne's Hospital.

Can the Minister provide a report on the progress of the negotiations on this agreement and the planned date for adding the new beds?

(106) Mr. Benjamin (Viau) – **4 December 2019**

To the Minister of Public Security

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1297-20200204)

Considering that, on 30 September 2019, the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec released its report in which it referred to profiling of Indigenous people;

Considering that, on 7 October 2019, the Service de police de la ville de Montréal published a report on police stops in light of the racialized identities of people stopped, entitled “Les interpellations policières à la lumière des identités racisées des personnes interpellées”, in which alarming data on racial profiling was presented;

Considering that, on 18 November 2019, the city of Montréal unanimously adopted a resolution calling for an end to unwarranted police stops that have led to discrimination against ethnic minorities and to the Government of Québec passing a law to regulate police stops across the province;

Considering that, on 22 November 2019, the Commission de la protection des droits de la personne et de la jeunesse in turn requested an end to police stops without cause;

Can the Minister table the list of persons who make up the sectoral committee on racial profiling drawn from the policing community, the “Comité sectoriel issu du milieu policier sur le profilage racial”, with the corresponding area of each member (police, justice, university, community, etc.) and the number of meetings held since 1 October 2018?

Can she disclose the committee’s mandate and its work schedule timeframe?

Can she indicate whether she intends to follow up on the city of Montréal’s resolution and introduce legislation governing police stops?

(107) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **4 December 2019**

To the Minister of Education and Higher Education

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1298-20200204)

A petition on access to student financial assistance for persons with an emerging disability was recently tabled in the National Assembly. It was signed by 1,450 citizens of Québec. The petition provides a clear explanation of the problem:

“The Government of Québec’s Student Financial Assistance (SFA) loans and bursaries program is required to provide students with the necessary financial resources to pursue post-secondary studies, which includes accommodation measures for students with disabilities (SWDs).

The Minister of Education and Higher Education decided, effective 6 August 2018, to limit access to such accommodation measures by making changes to Form 1015, Medical Certificate - Major Functional Disabilities and Other Recognized Disabilities, so that SWDs with so-called “emerging” or invisible disabilities (such as an attention deficit disorder, non-episodic mental health disorder, autism spectrum disorder syndrome, intellectual disability or learning disability) would no longer be able to benefit from the measures.

The Charter of human rights and freedoms affirms the right to school-based accommodation measures for SWDs, including those with an invisible disability. The inclusion of individuals with so-called “emerging” disabilities has made it possible for a greater number of SWDs to continue their education at the post-secondary level, thanks to 20 some years of hard work at the primary and secondary levels.”

My questions for the Minister are the following:

- Does the Minister plan to modify Form 1015 to reinstate the right of students with invisible disabilities to accommodation measures with respect to financial assistance, as requested by signatories of the petition?
- Can the Minister explain to us the reasons for his decision?

(108) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **4 December 2019**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1299-20200204)

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ) has announced that it will provide a loan of \$313 million to the Colombian electrical power company Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM). The transaction will contribute to EPM’s overall growth, including the Hidroituango hydroelectric project. The CDPQ’s investment is part of a loan of US\$1 billion from the Inter-American Development Bank.

A lot of social and environmental controversy has arisen in connection with the project.

For many years, the regional organization Movimiento Ríos Vivos Antioquia has been warning of the project’s dangers and risks. Irregularities were noted as soon as the project’s social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts were studied.

For more than a decade, communities have been fighting against the Hidroituango dam, which threatens their homes and lives, destroys fragile ecosystems and has exacerbated the conflict zone violence.

One of the most symbolic human rights violations in relation to the Hidroituango crisis was the murder of Ana María Cortés on 4 July 2018.

In May 2018, Ríos Vivos Antioquia lost two of its members: Hugo Albeiro George Perez, murdered at the same time as his nephew, and Luis Alberto Torres, murdered with his brother. The CDPQ has been informed of these risks and serious human rights violations, and the CDPQ has a clear policy on investment!

My question to the Minister of Finance is the following:

Will the Minister of Finance ask the CDPQ to withdraw all current and future loans to the Hidroituango project in Colombia and to any other project likely to violate human rights?

(109) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **4 December 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1300-20200204)

Since the beginning of the current Legislature, in our parliamentary debates, not enough attention has been paid to the issue of farmers' psychological distress. Yet, according to the Quebec Association for Suicide Prevention, 51% of workers in the farming industry live with a high level of psychological distress and their suicide rate is twice as high as that of the rest of the population. Work overload, social isolation, extreme weather conditions and unpredictable crop yields: in the agricultural sector, these stress factors build up in a dangerous way. Winter's early arrival and the propane shortage caused by the CN strike are only the most recent examples of the omnipresence of these stressors in the daily lives of farmers.

Last June I sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and to the Minister of Health and Social Services to raise awareness of the mental health problems in the farming community and to ask them to invest in hiring "travailleurs de rang" (agriculture-sector mental health workers), that is, professional social workers trained to help farmers in situations of psychological distress. Nearly six months later, in early December, one-time funding of \$300,000 was finally granted to support the organization Au cœur des familles agricoles, which initiated the creation of the agriculture-sector mental health worker program.

While this is a step in the right direction, this one-time funding will not make it possible to consolidate long-term psychological assistance for farmers. Among other things, this support will benefit only one organization, which is not present in all administrative regions. This raises the issue of the fairness of the offer of services for agricultural workers.

Agriculture-sector mental health workers are essential to the health and vitality of our rural communities. However, at this point in time, only eight agriculture-sector mental health workers are trying to cover the whole of Québec. This is a derisory number for a population of 40,000 farmers. Calculating that an agriculture-sector mental health worker costs the Québec government around \$60,000 per year, the announced investment will add only 4 or 5 agriculture-sector mental health workers to the network, for only one year, which is not nearly enough to provide an adequate and sustainable answer to the request for psychological services.

My questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are the following:

- Will the Minister commit to sustaining and increasing the funding given to the organization Au cœur des familles agricoles to hire additional agriculture-sector mental health workers?
- Will the Minister undertake to fund, in the administrative regions where Au cœur des familles agricoles does not have a presence, other organizations with equivalent missions to ensure the fair development of the agriculture-sector mental health workers program throughout Québec?
- Lastly, for the current fiscal year, what amounts have been dedicated specifically, in each department and in each region, to mental health in farming communities?

(110) Ms. Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) – **5 December 2019**

To the Minister of Justice

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1301-20200204)

Considering that 1,700 individuals in Québec currently practice osteopathy even though it is still not regulated;

Considering that osteopaths have been convicted of unlawful practice of medicine because of the legislative vacuum created by the lack of a legal framework;

Considering the importance of providing adequate and standardized training;

Considering the work launched by the Minister of Justice and the Office des professions in 2017;

Considering that the Office des professions has finished its work and that all the information is now in the hands of the Ministère de la Justice;

Can the Minister tell us what her intentions are with respect to developing a legal framework for osteopathy and a time schedule for doing so?

(111) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **5 December 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1302-20200204)

According to the CIUSSSCN, the number of Quebecers registered in Québec Family Doctor Finder (GAMF) in the Capitale-Nationale region increased BY 44% from 2018 to 2019. The situation is likely to worsen in the next three years, as the DRMG estimates that 15% of retirements will occur among physicians providing care in that region. It must be taken into account that physicians on the verge of retirement generally have more clients than new billers can take at the beginning of their practice, which will increase the proportion of orphan patients on their departure.

According to the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, the number of citizens registered in the GAMF in the Capitale-Nationale region increased from 54,380 on 1 January 2019 to 64,947 on 1 July 2019. For the year 2020, 13 PREM (of which 2 PREM-GMF-U) will be allocated to this region. In comparison, the Outaouais region, which will receive 24 PREM (including 1 PREM-GMF-U) in 2020, saw its number of registrants increase from 18,490 to 19,702 for the same period.

According to a study entitled “Les inégalités sociales de santé dans Basse-Ville and Limoilou-Vanier” conducted by the public health directorate of the CIUSSS de la Capitale-Nationale and dated March 2018, we can observe a series of health-related social inequalities in the Capitale-Nationale region. The sectors targeted by the study include a particularly vulnerable portion of the population.

Based on a study carried out in 2017 by Tonino Esposito, an assistant professor at Université de Montréal’s École de service social and his colleague, Catherine Roy from McGill University, on identifying the areas where children are most at risk for social and economic poverty, Limoilou-Vanier ranks 7th in terms of socio-economic deprivation, behind 6 other Montreal neighborhoods.

As of 17 August 2019, the area comprised of Basse-Ville, Limoilou and Vanier has 11,106 orphan patients. At the present time, only 1 PREM will be added in 2020.

My questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are the following:

- Which clinics in the Capitale-Nationale region have benefited from a PREM exemption in 2019?
- Can the minister specify the reasons for these exemptions?
- What criteria does the Minister use to analyze an application for exemption?
- Does the minister believe that the distribution of PREMs in Québec for the year 2020 is fair and corresponds to the actual needs in the field?
- In addition to the mathematical calculation involving the number of physicians per region and the number of patients registered in the GAMF, what factors does the MSSS take into account when allocation a number of PREMs?
- Does the Minister believe that the DRMG should eventually modify its criteria for allocating positions according to the needs by sub-sector and favouring areas where there are fewer physicians to ensure the continuity of the services offered?

(112) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **5 December 2019**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1302-20200204)

On 13 March 2019, a GMF in the Limoilou-Vanier sector met with the Comité de direction du Département régional de médecine générale de la Capitale-Nationale (DRMG) to make a request for an exemption for their project which would make it easier to take charge of clients registered in the Québec Family Doctor Finder (GAMF) in the RLS Québec-sud region, while also helping to reduce P4s and P5s in hospitals. New billing physicians could incorporate into their practices specific medical activities in health care settings with major needs: IRDPQ, IUSMQ, palliative care and perinatal care. The DRMG supported this comprehensive coverage project, however could not respond to their request based on the principle of fairness.

On 19 June 2019, the same GMF met with Dr. Jacques Ricard, a medical expert at the Office of the Minister of Health and Social Services. The purpose of the meeting was to propose a new vision to the Minister for allocating PREMs and to present their project as a pilot project capable of ensuring the sustainability of health care and the retention of doctors in their places of practice. Dr. Ricard recognized that their proposal was close to what the Minister was seeking, but the GMF was nonetheless denied the exemptions. The reason given at the time was that the Capitale-Nationale region had too many doctors per capita compared to other regions.

My questions are the following:

- Why did the Minister award several exemptions in the Capitale-Nationale region shortly thereafter?
- How were they allocated?
- Why meet the needs of certain sectors, while Limoilou-Vanier is experiencing social inequalities in health care, as shown by statistics, and while the GAMF is also increasing?

- (113) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 December 2019**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1303-20200204)

Centre Sida-Amitié is an independent community organization that has been rooted in Saint-Jérôme, in the heart of the Laurentians, since 1990. Its mission is to offer reception, support and accompaniment services to Laurentian residents living with HIV/AIDS and/or the Hepatitis C Virus. To carry out this mission, the organization runs programs such as Clinique Santé Amitié, a community clinic focussing on infectious disease treatment. It plays a major role in support for, in particular, people who are marginalized because of their sexual orientation, sexual practices, homelessness, addiction, etc.

The Clinique Santé Amitié team receives and cares for patients with or without health insurance cards in order to help people suffering multiple health problems and experiencing stigmatization. Until just recently, its funding was based on pharmaceutical industry programs. However, today, that industry is moving away from such programs because the recovery rate for Hepatitis C has improved in recent years. Clinique Santé Amitié is now at risk of closing if it does not obtain new sources of recurrent funding since the amounts provided by the pharmaceutical industry programs represented two thirds of its working capital. With more than 5,000 consultations annually, Clinique Santé Amitié plays a major role in the Saint-Jérôme and Laurentians landscape. It is an effective model that meets the needs of a clientele having little or no access to the public health system. Professionals from many countries visit the CSA to take inspiration from its community health care model.

Currently, since the funds granted by the Québec Government through the Programme de Soutien aux Organismes Communautaires (PSOC) cannot be used to offer medical services, the organization cannot use that money to finance the operations of Clinique Santé Amitié, a program administered by the Centre Sida-Amitié.

What does the Minister of Health and Social Services intend to do to ensure the activities of the Clinique Santé Amitié are maintained, while also ensuring that the independence required to accomplish its mission of community medicine is upheld?

- (114) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 December 2019**
To the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1304-20200204)

Bill 34 eliminates Hydro-Québec's obligation to have its distribution network investments authorized. Considering that one of the bill's objectives is to maximize profits resulting from electricity tariffs, while temporarily freezing client rate increases, one may suppose that Hydro-Québec would be tempted to reduce its investments and its spending on maintenance since those items will no longer be directly considered in the rates. In addition, when the Régie sets the rates every five years, it will be required, under the Act, to take into account the assets added in the preceding years, despite the fact that it will have lost its power to authorize them.

Further, although the Régie will retain its power to fix rates for the transmission of electric power, there is a risk that transmission network investment and maintenance spending will not be on par with those of the distribution network. Since the core transmission costs are born by Hydro-Québec Distribution clients, there will likely be pressure to minimize those costs, once again to maximize profits from retail revenue.

As a result, contrary to the requests repeated after each major power failure, Hydro-Québec will have no incentive to install certain parts of its network underground. There is also a risk that vegetation maintenance activities would decrease, which would probably increase the number of power outages.

Under Bill 34, we could find ourselves in the same situation as that affecting certain private companies today: during their time on the board, directors do everything in their power to maximize investor profits without considering the impact of their actions on service quality or the company's viability after they are gone. What is at risk here is the safety and long-term reliability of Québec's electricity transmission and distribution networks. Those networks are vital elements of Québec's economic life. We seem to have forgotten that carelessness has been the source of major power failures in the past and that Hydro-Québec was forced to invest considerable sums of money to improve its network and regain the trust of Quebecers and that of our American neighbours, who no longer viewed it as a reliable business partner.

My questions to the Minister are the following:

- If the bill is passed, how does the Government intend to ensure that Hydro Québec does not under-invest in its transmission and distribution networks, thereby placing the longevity of our government corporation's electricity network at risk?
- What mechanism does the Minister intend to implement to allow the Régie to track five years of investments that it has not authorized?

(115) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 December 2019**
To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1305-20200204)

According to the Arrima platform, “Anyone wishing to immigrate to Québec under the Regular Skilled Worker Program must go through Arrima. The Arrima immigration application management system is based on an expression of interest and follows a three-step process:

- First, you must complete an expression of interest form online. You will need to enter certain information, such as your education, language skills and work experience.
- The Ministère reviews the bank of expressions of interest and issues invitations to applicants who meet certain criteria, based on labour market needs in the different regions of Québec. Those individuals can submit a permanent selection application (official immigration application) and pay the related fees.
- Applications will be evaluated using the selection grid in effect.”

My question to the Minister is the following:

- Will the Minister consider posting the jobs available in Québec on the Arrima platform so that people wishing to immigrate to Québec can apply directly for jobs in Québec, in the same way as Quebecers can apply for jobs on the Emploi Québec site?

(116) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 December 2019**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **4 February 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1306-20200204)

On November 25, Ville de Montréal introduced its budget for 2020 and its 2020-2022 three-year capital works program.

In the income column of its budget, Ville de Montréal provides for a one-time transfer of \$150 M for 2020 from the Quebec Government to help the city face important challenges related to green infrastructures. That investment contribution is made under the Montréal Reflex agreement and its purpose is to pay cash for certain capital works.

It is the first time, since its creation in 2016, that the agreement finances Ville de Montréal's budget through the "investments" component. Furthermore, as of December 4, 2019, we cannot find any trace of the authorization of such a transfer by the Cabinet, even less of an official announcement by the Government. Therefore, it seems that Ville de Montréal entered \$150 M in its budget financed by all Québec taxpayers without the Québec Government officially authorizing it.

Moreover, investment needs for green infrastructures are also serious in other cities in Québec, especially Longueuil, where my riding is located. A number of those cities must raise their taxes above inflation to finance those infrastructures, a trend that is sure to grow because of the climate crisis.

Therefore, my questions are the following:

- Can the Minister confirm if the Québec Government gave a \$150 M cheque to Ville de Montréal so that it can pay cash for certain capital works in green infrastructures?
- If that is the case, what are those capital works?
- May other municipalities, including Ville de Longueuil, also receive equivalent amounts to meet their equally serious needs for green infrastructures?

(117) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **4 February 2020**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **10 March 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1431-20200310)

Montréal pour tous is an organization in my riding that brings volunteers from across Montréal together to work to keep residents in their neighbourhoods. Since September 2018, they have been seeking a commitment from the Ministère des Finances that the Grant for Seniors to Offset a Municipal Tax Increase be adjusted in line with the skyrocketing increases in property taxes likely to displace homeowners who are seniors or whose income is not on the same upward trajectory. An initial letter submitted on 15 September 2018 was left unanswered by the outgoing Minister of Finance. A second letter sent on 14 December 2018 received nothing more than an acknowledgement of receipt.

The 2020–2022 property tax roll published by Ville de Montréal shows the average increases by borough. In the Plateau-Mont-Royal neighborhood, the variation in property values is approximately 16.7%, which is 4% more than the Montréal average. This significant variation, combined with municipal and borough tax increases, is making it more difficult for people whose income or pensions are increasing little or not at all. In this context of overheated property values, the existing grant is insufficient and must therefore be increased.

In light of this situation, which is untenable for a growing number of residents, my question for the Minister of Finance is the following:

- Does the Minister plan to increase the grant for seniors to offset a municipal tax increase in order to adapt it to current realities marked by sharp increases in property assessments in the most sought-after areas of the market that are forcing many citizens to have to leave their homes?

(118) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **4 February 2020**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **5 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1603-20200605)

As the Public Protector (Québec Ombudsperson) pointed out in her 11 October 2018 report on the Centre intégré de santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais – Hôpital de Hull: “. . . every person has the right to receive appropriate health care services in a personalized, safe manner . . .” Following the investigation, the Ombudsperson recommended that “a complete ban on wearing perfume apply to the emergency room staff of Hôpital de Hull”.

Many ingredients used in the composition of fragrances can cause or exacerbate health issues such as asthma, eczema, multiple chemical sensitivity, sinusitis and migraines. For example, some people who are ill experience difficulty accessing health care because they cannot tolerate the chemicals in various products such as cologne, aftershave, hairspray, soap and perfume.

In 2015, Statistics Canada identified 173,500 persons diagnosed as suffering from MCS/HCM in Québec alone. By 2016, this number had climbed to 230,500.

The Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse du Québec has declared that “. . . the definition of handicap in the Charter of human rights and freedoms that our Commission has adopted and the way it has been interpreted by the courts of Québec is sufficiently broad and open for people suffering from environmental hypersensitivity to invoke it”.

In its 3 November 2015 issue, the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) published an editorial in which the authors wrote: “There are many practices that are acceptable outside hospitals — but not inside. One of these is the application of artificial scents to our bodies. . . There is little justification for continuing to tolerate artificial scents in our hospitals. . . Hospital environments free from artificial scents should become a uniform policy, promoting the safety of patients, staff and visitors alike.”

According to the Environmental Health Association of Québec (EHAQ): “Policies have been implemented in several government and hospital facilities in Canada where visitors, patients, health-care professionals, and other staff members are asked to refrain from using any products containing fragrances.”

The EHAQ recently asked the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to create fragrance-free health care services in Québec. Last 13 November, Ms. Lucie Opatrny, Assistant Deputy Minister, responded that employers were responsible for adopting fragrance-free policies. On 2 December 2019, the EHAP received a new letter, signed by Mr. Yvan Gendron, Deputy Minister, refusing to meet with them under the pretext that the department had just given the “Institut national de santé publique du Québec the mandate to do a rigorous analysis of the scientific literature”.

My questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are the following:

- Does the Minister acknowledge that at least 3.2% of Quebecers suffer from environmental hypersensitivity?
- Does the Minister believe it is wise to rely solely on employers when the health of many citizens of Québec is at stake?
- Could the Minister envisage establishing fragrance-free policies for Québec's health care institutions?
- If so, what reasons would the Minister give for not moving forward with such a policy that could facilitate appropriate access to health care for such people?
- If not, what measures does the Minister intend to take so that these vulnerable people can have access to health care system?
- In 2012, the Minister of Health, Mr. Yves Bolduc, gave Dr. Gaétan Carrier of the INSPQ the mandate to prepare a literature review on multiple chemical sensitivity; can the Minister inform us of what stage the writing of that review has reached?
- Can the Minister inform us of the deadline the Institut national de santé publique du Québec must comply with for filing its report?
- Since expertise in this field is rare and it is vital that the literature review be peer reviewed, can the Minister give us the names and areas of expertise of the reviewers?

(119) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **4 February 2020**

To the Minister of Justice

Answer tabled on **10 March 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1432-20200310)

I have been made aware of a fact concerning the recycling of automobile parts. Considering that the purchase and use of a vehicle is a significant household expense, it seems justified that auto repair shops be required to systematically offer their clients a choice between purchasing new auto parts and purchasing recycled or re-used auto parts, particularly given that the two latter options are more ecological choices in the climate crisis context.

Today, there are no norms or standards in this sense, leaving this choice to the discretion of the auto repairer, whereas it should be systematically left to the consumer. The possibility of choosing a new or a second-hand part would allow consumers to better manage their household budgets and would be consistent with circular economy principles.

My question is the following:

- Will the Minister of Justice commit to incorporating into the *Consumer Protection Act*, for obvious economic and ecological reasons, an obligation to offer consumers functional recycled or second-hand products when repairing their vehicles?

(120) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **5 February 2020**

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

Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1507-20200526)

Last January, Conservation de la nature Québec (CNQ), a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve Québec's natural settings, asked the Government of Québec to participate in the Héritage naturel Québec nature conservancy project (PHNQ 2019–2023), which aims to take advantage of \$100 million in matched funds from CNQ partners, provided \$100 million is invested by the provincial government in its land conservation project.

My question for the Minister of the Environment is the following:

To meet the commitments made in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), namely to protect 17% of its land and inland waters, will the Government of Québec, which currently protects just under 10% of its land and inland waters, seize the opportunity offered by the CNQ to protect the equivalent of \$200 million of territory for only \$100 million?

(121) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **6 February 2020**

To the Minister of Education and Higher Education

Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1508-20200526)

Last December, the Minister of Economy declared that education would be one of the most important sectors to act on to fight the labour shortage in Québec. In January, the Minister of Finance mentioned education as a means to generate long-term wealth in Québec.

Although the Government is following the 2017 Policy on Educational Success, that policy fails to take into account a good number of adult education sectors. The most recent adult education policy dates back to 2002 and its related action plan expired in 2007. The review of the 2002 policy highlighted its shortcomings and the issues relating to adult learning.

My question is as follows:

In this context, will the Minister of Education and Higher Education commit to giving Québec a real adult education policy?

(122) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **6 February 2020**

To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration

Answer tabled on **10 March 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1433-20200310)

Since over 18,000 immigration application files were terminated as a result of Bill 9 being passed, the department has proceeded to refund the costs related to those applications. Although a form is now available online for the applicants who want the refund, there is yet no procedure for mandataries who have already paid the required fees.

These mandataries made a payment on behalf of an applicant for various reasons, such as difficult or inexistent access to a bank account in the applicant's country of origin, or because of economic sanctions limiting banking transactions, as is currently the case in Iran. Mandataries have been waiting for months for their refund, often without a reply from the department. Moreover, communications with the department, when they are established, take place exclusively with the applicant and not the mandatory to whom the refund is however due.

These unreasonable delays and the lack of communication cause a great deal of anxiety, frustration and uncertainty for these citizens and residents, for whom the payment of hundreds of dollars can put great strain on their personal finances.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Minister commit to putting in place a procedure for refunding the mandataries, as soon as possible?
 - If so, can he inform us of the timeline for putting the procedure in place?
- In addition to communicating the reimbursement procedure to the immigration applicants, will the Minister promise to communicate the procedure directly to the mandataries, in those cases where the department has their contact information?

(123) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **18 February 2020**

To the Minister of Justice

Answer tabled on **2 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1589-20200602)

Public confidence in our justice system is largely dependent on having access to justice. Although the situation has been improved somewhat in recent years, the eligibility threshold for free legal aid is still well below the level of viable income for a single-person household.

According to an IRIS study, the weighted average viable income for a single person was \$26,721 in 2019, whereas the threshold to be eligible for free legal aid for a single person has been \$22,750 since 2019. A person whose earnings are just on the viable income cutoff point has to spend \$400 to get access to legal aid. Hence, justice is too often becoming a luxury that is difficult for the poorest in society to access.

My question is as follows:

- Will the Minister commit to raising the eligibility thresholds for free legal aid?

(124) Ms. Dorion (Taschereau) – **19 February 2020**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1509-20200526)

In November 2016, then Minister of Culture, Luc Fortin, announced the creation of a working committee on promoting Québec's modern-day religious heritage.

My two questions for the Minister of Culture and Communications are as follows:

- What follow-up has been given to this committee's work?
- Can the report of the committee be made available to the public?

(125) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **19 February 2020**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1510-20200526)

An entrepreneur brought to my attention certain practices in the hair stylist industry and in the personal care industry as a whole.

Speaking from personal experience, that person said it is common practice for people in the industry not to declare their work and many employees are paid their commissions "under the table".

Through other popular schemes, such as leasing chairs in salons, many salons and workers in the industry declare less than \$30,000 a year in income to avoid paying taxes. This two-tier system creates unfair competition that discourages and harms the interests of honest entrepreneurs in the industry, particularly in the context of a labour shortage where it would be more advantageous for an employee to work partially or entirely under the table.

The fears of the entrepreneur in my riding appear to have been confirmed by a 2014 study by the workforce sectoral committee on personal care services. In that study, Revenu Québec estimates losses due to tax evasion at around \$280 million per year in the personal care sector, ranking it third among the sectors most affected by tax evasion, right between the restaurant industry and contraband tobacco. Since then, new measures such as the introduction of compulsory sales recording modules (SRM) have helped to fight tax evasion in the restaurant industry, but no similar measure has been put in place for the personal care industry.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Minister commit to tightening controls on the personal care industry, in particular, by
 - Increasing oversight of companies operating in the personal care sector?
 - Implementing measures on invoicing and requiring the use of SRMs?
- If so, what is the Minister's timeline for taking action related to this matter?

(126) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **19 February 2020**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1511-20200526)

An entrepreneur brought to my attention certain practices in the hair stylist industry and in the personal care industry as a whole.

Speaking from personal experience, that person said it is common practice for people in the industry not to declare their work and many employees are paid their commissions “under the table”. Through other popular schemes, such as leasing chairs in salons, many salons and workers in the industry declare less than \$30,000 a year in income to avoid paying taxes. This two-tier system creates unfair competition that discourages and harms the interests of honest entrepreneurs in the industry, particularly in the context of a labour shortage where it would be more advantageous for an employee to work partially or entirely under the table.

What is more, newcomers are the main victims of the lack of oversight in this industry and the subsequent disinformation. Recruiting abroad to offset the labour shortage is common practice, and some entrepreneurs exploit these newcomers and their lack of knowledge of Québec laws by offering them conditions that do not comply with labour standards.

My question is as follows:

- How does the Minister intend to go about better protecting employees who are being exploited in the personal care industry?

(127) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **20 February 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1512-20200526)

On 6 November 2018, the government announced the discovery of the Beaucours ramparts wooden fortifications in Québec City's old quarter.

At the time of the announcement, the Premier declared that the entire population of Québec could rejoice at this news because our cultural heritage, which is something we can be so proud of, had just been further enriched, as had also our knowledge of our past and our history. In addition, you, yourself, declared that you wished to acknowledge the exemplary collaboration of all those who made it possible for us to, today, appropriate another piece of our history – another legacy of our ancestors.

In addition, the press release issued on 6 November 2018 by the Minister of Culture and Communications also mentioned the following highlights:

- The vestige discovered in the Old Québec heritage site is approximately 20 metres in length. It is part of the fortification erected according to plans drawn up by French military engineer Josué Dubois Berthelot de Beaucours around 1693 to 1694. It was the second fortification erected on the Plains of Abraham. Built by 500 military troops, it replaced the initial temporary fortification system built in 1690 according to plans drawn up by military engineer Robert de Villeneuve.
- The Historic District of Old Québec contains the most complete and well-preserved ensemble of urban colonial fortifications in North America. The city's fortifications were built from 1608 to 1871, starting with the founding of Québec City by Samuel de Champlain through to the departure of the British garrison. Within the current fortifications footprint, which extends over more than four kilometres, portions of previous fortifications remain. All of these fortifications bear witness to the development of Québec's defensive system.
- Québec's fortifications have been considered a heritage asset of Québec City, Québec and Canada since 1872. They are also an integral part of the Old Québec heritage site, whose boundaries were decreed in 1963 and a reason for its inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985.

Last 19 January, we learned in a news report by Mr. Sébastien Tanguay of Radio-Canada that we were not dealing with a rampart and that it did not date back to 1693. An analysis by Université Laval revealed that construction date was most likely 1775 at the earliest, a difference of more than 80 years from the date announced at the 6 November 2018 press conference.

Will the Minister tell us what actions she intends to take in order to ensure that archeology management in Québec is conducted in compliance with best practices, particularly when establishing the dating of historic finds?

(128) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **20 February 2020**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1513-20200526)

In a letter dated last September, the Premier confirmed to me his desire to include the Autoroute 20 project between Notre-Dame-des-Neiges and Rimouski in the Québec Infrastructure Plan (PQI) again. The population is expecting this project to move forward and those concerned would like to see the proposed routes and understand the project's impact in that area. But to do this, the project must first be reintegrated into the PQI.

In the same context, a public announcement was made in relation to this matter and reported on by several media outlets in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, which reported the Premier stating that Autoroute 20 is indeed a commitment made during the electoral campaign and as I have been repeating for a year, all our electoral commitments will be respected. Further in an interview with Radio-Canada on 13 September, the Premier stated that it was the Liberal party that removed the Autoroute 20 project from the PQI, but that his party was going to reintegrate it into the PQI.

My question is the following:

On the eve of the budget, will the citizens of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region pay the price for an unfulfilled election promise, or will the Minister of Transport finally reintegrate the Autoroute 20 project between Notre-Dame-des-Neiges and Rimouski into the PQI?

(129) Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) – **11 March 2020**

To the Minister of Education

Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1514-20200526)

The learning paths offered by community education centres are just as essential as traditional academic paths. The proof of this is the fact that community education is recognized in adult education policies – a recognition that UNESCO recommends Member States adhere to and that implies:

- considering community education as one of the three pillars of any national adult education policy;
- recognizing the mandate of public education networks in this area and therefore granting them the means to offer such educational services;
- promoting community education activities within community networks.

Since 2012, despite the ongoing strong mobilization of the population served by InterCEP members, successive ministers have failed to come up with a sustainable solution, yet all have acknowledged the importance of taking action in this area to protect Montreal's most vulnerable communities.

The six community education centres are now entering a critical phase because as of 1 April 2020 there will be no funding to cover their operating costs and they will be required to pay even higher rent starting in June 2022.

My questions for the Minister of Education are the following:

What actions do you intend to undertake for their survival by 1 April 2020?

What sustainable solution do you intend to offer them by 1 April 2020 to ensure their survival?

Do you intend to

1. respect their mission and thus maintain their funding within your department;
2. renew the 3-year agreement covering their operating costs;
3. complete phase two (2) of the renovations; and
4. proceed with a financial catch-up for CEDA and the Carrefour to achieve equity among the community education centres?

(130) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **11 March 2020**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1515-20200526)

On 12 February 2020, the CIUSSS Center-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (Montréal regional public health directorate) announced that 8 persons who have an intellectual disability or an autism spectrum disorder with serious behavioral problems will be moving into a unit at Montréal's Institut Philippe-Pinel for a 3-year period. These individuals have been living in unit 44 of Hôpital Rivière-des-Prairies, under the supervision of incident control officers.

The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux is currently working on a residential and long-term care policy, the guiding principles of which are self-determination, dignity and well-being. Given Institut Philippe-Pinel's quasi-prison environment, one must ask what kind of security and stability this establishment will provide to the eight individuals who will be placed there.

My questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are the following:

- Does the Minister believe that this housing solution is the best suited for the social reintegration of these individuals?
- Can the Minister list the reasons for her choice of CIUSSS?
- Can the Minister specify which other establishments were considered and the reasons why they were not chosen?
- Can the Minister certify that the CIUSSS selected has obtained the approval of intervention experts for persons with severe behavioural disorders before authorizing this transfer?
- Can the Minister guarantee that the residents of unit H2 will never, under any circumstances or pretext, even in the event of an evacuation or an emergency situation, have contact with Institut Philippe-Pinel's other clients?

(131) Mr. Lebel (Rimouski) – **12 March 2020**
To the Minister of Families
Answer tabled on **26 May 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1516-20200526)

In March 2019, the Minister of Families showed openness to the action plan I proposed on the urgent need for educational childcare services. A year later, many parents find themselves in stressful situations because they will not be able to return to work, given the acute shortage of childcare places in Rimouski.

This situation is jeopardizing our economy and Rimouski-Neigette's ability to attract workers. Various stakeholders – such as the Centre intégré de la santé et des services sociaux, the Collectif régional de développement and the Office d'habitation de Rimouski – wish to get involved to develop new educational childcare spaces in CPEs. Furthermore, a campaign to promote the work of home day care educators is needed to fill vacant home day care educator positions, thereby making it possible to use the 250 additional spaces already available. In short, the situation is unbearable. We absolutely must come up with a plan to accelerate the development (and use) of childcare spaces.

My question is as follows:

Can the Minister implement, in collaboration with the stakeholders concerned, an emergency plan to accelerate the development of childcare spaces for the greater Rimouski region?

(132) Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Economy and Innovation

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1668-20200915)

On 15 April 2020, emergency assistance for Québec's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was announced following the realization that SMEs were not adequately covered under the Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses Programme (CTAPB). The current situation of some businesses suggests that available assistance is still not enough, and that some businesses that were financially sound before the pandemic crisis began may now have to close their doors due to cash flow shortages.

What criteria did the Government use to determine the amounts of emergency financial assistance distributed under this program? Why were these specific criteria used?

How many businesses to date have received financial assistance loans through this program?

In which sectors of activity do these businesses operate?

Of the \$150 million earmarked for this, what amounts have already been disbursed?

Is there any provision for some of this assistance to be forgiven for SMEs, as the Federal Government has done?

(133) Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Economy and Innovation

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1669-20200915)

The Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses (CTAPE) was established by the Government of Québec on 20 March 2020.

Under this program, the Government plans to make available loans and loan guarantees worth more than \$50,000 through Investissement Québec—its financial arm. However, this financial assistance is not suitable for all Québec businesses; for example, a start-up or a family-run SME would not necessarily garner an additional \$50,000 of credit, without any regard for its financial health.

Therefore, can the Minister tell us how many enterprises have benefited from these loans or loan guarantees granted through Investissement Québec?

What is the average amount of the individual loans or loan guarantees granted to date?

What is the rate of loan approvals under this program?

What is the average size of the enterprises that have obtained a loan or a loan guarantee?

Are there any plans to review this program with a view to forgiving a portion of these loans, as the federal government has done?

(134) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Public Security

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1670-20200915)

Québec's detention centres have to consider prison realities when dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite some measures being put in place, outbreaks quickly occurred, putting inmates, correctional officers and other professionals who work in prisons in danger.

The Minister announced that she had put in place certain measures, but it is clear that those measures were not enough to effectively deal with the situation.

The Syndicat des agents de la paix en services correctionnels du Québec says it fears for the safety of its members on account of both the pandemic and prison violence in certain institutions.

Will the Minister tell us what measures have been put in place since 13 March 2020 to increase the safety of the peace officers and other professionals working in these institutions?

(135) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1671-20200915)

On 3 April 2020, after waiting several months, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change released an action plan for sustainable solutions to protect land against flooding, the “Plan de protection du territoire face aux inondations : des solutions durables pour mieux protéger nos milieux de vie”.

The plan contains 23 measures and involves an investment of \$479 million.

Recently, some regional county municipalities have passed resolutions asking that the funds earmarked for flooding in the Plan be maintained. They had learned that the Government planned to cut funding allocated to certain measures, including measure No. 10 of the Plan, which provides for the implementation of resiliency and adaptation measures to deal with flooding.

Can the Minister confirm whether funds have already been cut from her action plan and indicate in detail which specific measures will be affected?

(136) Mr. Barrette (La Pinière) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister for Transport

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1672-20200915)

Thanks to the unanimous support of all National Assembly parliamentarians, expressed on two occasions since 2017, Québec will soon become part of the National Shipbuilding Strategy. With a budget of over \$100 billion, it is the most ambitious federal fleet renewal program since World War II.

The Federal Government is clearly very ambitious when it comes to the Canadian shipbuilding industry, but what plans does the Québec Government have for its own shipbuilding industry?

The budget recently tabled by the Government contains no specific measures with regard to the shipbuilding industry. However, given the number of ferries that will have to be built in the next few years, it is legitimate to ask what importance the Québec Government is giving to shipbuilding in the new Québec Maritime Strategy it has been slow to reveal.

Obviously, Québec must do more to promote its maritime industry expertise in Canada and in North America as a whole. This additional effort must be rooted in a coherent and sustained Québec policy that promotes its own maritime industry, in particular, shipbuilding.

The success of this strategy will require creating a maritime industrial cluster that includes equipment suppliers, ship designers, external professional services and, more broadly, the support of the Québec Government in research and development as well as in educating the public about maritime issues.

Will the Minister confirm what importance will be given to the shipbuilding industry in her new Québec Maritime Strategy?

(137) Ms. Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grace) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Justice

Answer tabled on **2 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1590-20200602)

The emergency situation the current pandemic has created justifies the decision taken by the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Education and Higher Education to advance graduation for certain students whose skills are needed in the front-line collective effort. This is why some colleges and professional orders have had to deal with the major problem of ensuring these students nonetheless obtain all the skills and knowledge required to exercise their professions and even though final internships were cancelled due to education establishment closings.

Final internships can often be a key component in a student's education, and while it is currently urgent for some students to enter the job market, it is nevertheless fundamental from a public protection point of view to ensure, in the medium term, that these students have acquired all the skills necessary to exercise their professions.

The Minister of Health and Social Services has stated several times that agreements to this effect have been reached with the professional orders concerned.

Can the Minister detail the steps that have been taken to ensure and to verify that these students have acquired the necessary skills?

What actions has the Office des professions taken to ensure that measures are equitable, consistent and uniform for all newly graduated students?

Which professional orders have been allowed to prescribe additional conditions for graduates?

- (138) Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) – **13 May 2020**
To the Minister of Justice and Minister Responsible for the Fight against Homophobia
Answer tabled on **2 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1591-20200602)

The current pandemic has left many Quebecers feeling isolated. This situation has raised important questions and heightened levels of stress, anxiety and panic among many citizens, with LGBTQ+ people facing unique challenges.

A study also shows that LGBTQ+ communities experience more layoffs, mental and physical health effects, and often have more precarious financial situations.

Given the history of their difficult struggles, LGBTQ+ people often prefer to turn to local community services for assistance in times of need, whereas the current pandemic has significantly increased demands on such organizations. In addition to providing specialized interventions for LGBTQ+ communities, the employees and volunteers of these organizations have become frontline workers during this public health crisis and have had to adapt the services they offer considerably.

Faced with urgent needs and significant income losses, many organizations fear for their survival.

Can the Minister tell us what specific assistance for LGBTQ+ communities the Government of Québec has granted to adapt services and cope with income loss since the start of the pandemic?

Will the Minister commit to creating a COVID-19 emergency fund for LGBTQ+ organizations in order to ensure that these communities, among Québec's most vulnerable, receive adequate support and services?

- (139) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **13 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1673-20200915)

The Québec Government tabled the Québec cultural policy on 12 June 2018. In addition to providing for more than \$600 million in funding over a five-year period, this policy also provides for a review of the two statutes that deal with the status of artists.

Last 9 December, the Minister announced that the Honourable Liza Frulla and Ms. Louise Beaudoin would conduct consultations. It was specified that their mandate would be to meet with groups concerned by this legislation review and to gather their points of view, requests and recommendations. In addition, it was mentioned that the co-chairs would have to table a report during the summer of 2020 proposing solutions to the Minister of Culture and Communications.

Last March, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications announced on its website that preliminary consultations, including online consultations and witness hearings, were being postponed until further notice.

Given the current situation, can the Minister tell us what repercussions this postponement will have on the review and submit a scenario for the resumption of proceedings including a timeline?

(140) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1674-20200915)

When reading the 2020–2021 Budget, the Minister of Finance announced a plan to enhance Québec's heritage buildings. Budget documents specify that buildings will be acquired, restored, converted and fitted out for cultural purposes.

Can the Minister detail the type of buildings this measure targets, the list of buildings to be acquired, the acquisition plan and the timelines?

(141) Mr. Rousselle (Vimont) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

Answer tabled on **11 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1626-20200611)

Between 2 April 2020 and the beginning of May, the Government announced various wage increases for a temporary period of time. The next day, it put in place the Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers (IPREW) making \$100 per week available to those most in need.

Let me recall, the IPREW is a temporary measure announced on 3 April, which is applicable only as of 27 May. Later, there were suggestions that some increases would remain permanent for some workers. Another interesting measure is the Concerted Actions for Job Retention Program (PACME), however, several companies are questioning how the training aspect of the program works. The list posted on the program website is incomplete.

1. Why does it take more than 7 weeks to implement the IPREW, a program that simply aims to put money in the pockets of those who need it most?

2. Given that the Premier has indicated that he wants to improve the working conditions of our “guardian angels” in a sustainable manner, what measures will be maintained as basic conditions?

3. On the subject of the PACME, why not update the eligible educational institutions and training as they have requested?

4. What are the CNESST certification deadlines for the training centres who want to offer their services to companies under the PACME?

(142) Mr. Rousselle (Vimont) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1675-20200915)

As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected everyone involved in the health network, both directly or indirectly. With regard to those workers now referred to as “guardian angels”, the Premier has once again apologized for not improving their working conditions more quickly.

Several temporary measures have been announced, however it appears that some major application problems and injustices are taking hold. While the current context requires collaboration and the Premier is asking everyone to show solidarity, there do appear to be tears in the social fabric. Several well-intentioned employment agencies are penalized, feel let down by the Government, thus disadvantaging our guardian angels. Indeed, media reports indicate there may be potential regulatory or legal remedies from the Minister of Health and Social Services.

On 7 May, the Chair of the Conseil du Trésor indicated that the activities of employment agencies aimed at filling these job positions were a “necessary evil” which was very poorly received by some employment agencies. In January, the Minister of Labour amended the regulation governing employment agencies and it appears as though that regulation is incompatible with the current context and the new temporary measures announced. At that time, the regulation was already being challenged in court. Furthermore, while in a context where the Government is committed to increasing guardian angels’ wages, the Chair denounces that some agencies already offer a higher rate.

My questions for the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity are as follows:

1. Given the impact of decisions made and yet to come, does the Minister consider that this regulation is ill-suited or at risk of being so and therefore should be amended?
2. In the same vein as the Premier’s call for cooperation and solidarity, should this regulation be reviewed in collaboration with employment agencies in order to find a consensual solution to this conflict that has been going on for several months?
3. Do the guardian angels who work for employment agencies have access to the measures announced? If so, how does this work?
4. Following the words of the Chair of the Conseil du trésor, I would like to know the Minister's vision regarding the future of Québec’s employment agencies?

(143) Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) – **13 May 2020**

To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks

Answer tabled on **2 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1592-20200602)

The forest industry was negatively affected by the last railway crisis. Now, the health crisis is hitting it hard on many levels. The Government has taken several decisions to lessen these negative impacts, for example, by considering the wood products sector and silvicultural work essential services. However, a general decline in the demand for wood for construction and for paper along with border closings and a slowdown in economic trade are considerable. Many workers are still laid off as a result of this economic downturn.

A new threat looming is the recent decision announced by the Société de protection des forêts contre les incendies et les maladies (SOPFIM), Québec's forest protection society against insects and diseases, to cancel the upcoming spruce budworm treatment season. While Québec may be temporarily slowed down but gradually resuming activities, this insect will not slow down its damage to our forests.

While the Government is making decisions about loosening quarantine measures and initiating the reopening of several sectors of society, such as schools and the labour market in general, the SOPFIM is moving in the opposite direction when it comes to its June to July activities. Unions, municipalities, environmental organizations and others have criticized this decision. Last year, the department revealed that over 9.6 million hectares have been infected and that the infection has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years.

In November 2019, there was talk of limiting spray treatments in mature forests in order to protect the habitat of the Woodland Caribou.

So, I would like the Minister to explain:

1. Why does the SOPFIM not appear to be considered an essential service when silvicultural work is?
2. Why allow the SOPFIM to cancel its activities at a time when most of the province will be gradually resuming its activities?
3. This government department and the SOPFIM both share the view that one less year of treatment won't have a substantial impact; if that is the case, why do we bother with yearly interventions to fight this growing problem?
4. What is this decision's expected impact on the protection of the Woodland Caribou and what decisions are being considered to protect Québec's herds?
5. What are the anticipated impacts to this industry in terms of wood loss and financial losses?

(144) Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks
Answer tabled on **12 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1642-20200612)

Since February 2018, the municipality of Grande-Vallée has been concerned about the future of the wildlife protection office located in its territory. It has repeatedly asked the Government about this issue, but received no response.

Let us recall that this concern stems from the retirement of a first wildlife protection agent, who has never been replaced. Since then, a second agent also retired. Consequently, the Grande-Vallée wildlife protection office is now staffed only by agents who come from the Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts offices, located some 95 and 122 kilometres from the municipality, respectively.

In response to the concerns of regional elected officials, who are calling for the return of a wildlife protection service worthy of the name to Grande-Vallée, the department evoked a staff shortage affecting all Québec regions, and assures that Grande-Vallée office services will not be adversely affected.

However, we know that despite all the efforts and reminders made, the department has not yet renewed the office lease. Further, no new agents have been hired for this area, which is highly frequented by hunters and fishers. All this, you will agree, raises serious doubt as to the department's actual commitment to keeping this office open.

My question is as follows:

- Will the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks agree to sign, as soon as possible, a lease for the Grande-Vallée wildlife protection office, and to put in place the resources necessary for the deployment of adequate services in the territory?

(145) Mr. Benjamin (Viau) – **26 May 2020**

To the Premier

Answer tabled on **12 June 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1643-20200612)

The coronavirus pandemic, putting Québec “on pause” as well as the many resulting health and prevention measures represent a highly unusual situation for all Quebecers. And this situation is having an impact on young people and all youth-related issues.

According to a Québec population health survey published by the Institut de la statistique du Québec, young people represent a vulnerable group from a mental health standpoint since the transition to adulthood is rarely a stress-free experience. In 2014–2015, 36% of young people aged 15 to 24 demonstrated high levels of psychological distress. Today, in the midst of a global health pandemic, the percentage of young people in distress could be even higher.

On 24 April, the Québec Government created a temporary component in the Mille et Un Fund for Young People in order to help organizations affected by the COVID-19 crisis. That financial assistance, to which one million dollars is being added, will be available to assist organizations facing financial difficulties.

Considering that the 2016–2021 Québec Youth Action Strategy includes five main axes, including a significant health component, what assistance specifically targeted at youth has the Québec Government offered to mental health services organizations?

What is the Government's new vision and strategy to provide them with assistance?

Can the Premier commit to injecting more money into the health component of the Québec action strategy for youth?

(146) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1677-20200915)

The La Presse newspaper is asking for help from the Québec Government to stabilize its cash flow, finance employee salaries and support other current business expenses.

Is the Minister comfortable with this request?

Will the Government agree to help the NPO La Presse?

- (147) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1678-20200915)

Radio-Canada informed us on May 5 that Quebecor is in the process of buying the Capitoile de Québec. As it is classified as a heritage building, the Minister must approve this transaction.

Will the Minister consent to this transaction?

- (148) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1679-20200915)

The Government has signed an agreement worth more than US\$10 million with an American production company. When filming resumes, we know there will be a high demand for film sets, equipment and tradespeople.

Given that resources will be limited and that the Government now has a financial stake in U.S. productions, when the recovery comes, which productions will the Québec Government prioritize when it comes to Québec and U.S. productions?

- (149) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1680-20200915)

In the circus sector, many companies made 90% of their own-source income through international tours.

Does the Minister first have a plan to support the business model during the COVID-19 crisis and second, a plan to revive the circus sector once the crisis is over?

- (150) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1681-20200915)

During the summer season, festivals are an economic engine for several regions. Given that the Government has announced the cancellation of festivals up to 31 August 2020, when will a plan be announced to help them ensure their sustainability?

- (151) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1682-20200915)

The movie theatre industry wants to reopen in mid-June. Will it be able to count on the Government's help to apply the rules that will be prescribed by public health and offer help if its business model is affected, in particular by physical distancing?

- (152) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1683-20200915)

Recently, the Association des professionnels de l'industrie de l'humour pressed the Government to make known its intentions with regard to deconfinement for the performing arts and reflections on the resumption of activities.

Is the Minister working on a re-opening plan and does she intend to make known the policy directions that broadcasters will be required to follow in the coming months?

- (153) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1684-20200915)

On 10 May 2020, the charity event “Une chance qu'on s'a” was broadcast on TVA and Télé-Québec. We have learned that this event was held in partnership with the Government of Québec.

Can the Minister give us the details about this partnership?

- (154) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1685-20200915)

On 28 April 2020, the Olivierie bookstore announced that it was closing for good after 35 years of existence.

Has the Minister worked on a plan or offered help to save this long-standing institution?

- (155) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1686-20200915)

The City of Québec will be setting up free drive-in movie theatres for its citizens this summer.

Does the Minister intend to support this initiative and to promote the deployment of free drive-ins in other cities and municipalities in Québec?

- (156) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1687-20200915)

When we re-open, the cultural sector will need health protocols to ensure everyone's safety.

Has the Government been in touch with the various cultural associations in order to set up protocols for each of them?

- (157) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1688-20200915)

This spring, the Minister proceeded to pay out investments ahead of time, notably through the SOCED and CALQ.

Which fiscal year do the amounts committed belong to and what proportion of investments are attributed to the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 fiscal years, respectively?

- (158) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **26 May 2020**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1689-20200915)

On 14 May 2020, the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor and the Minister of Finance announced that \$2.9 billion in investments provided for in the 2020–2030 Québec Infrastructure Plan would be paid out ahead of time for the fiscal year 2020–2021.

In relation to that announcement, can the Minister indicate the proportion of the investments that will be dedicated to culture and provide a list of the projects that will be moved forward?

- (159) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **28 May 2020**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1690-20200915)

On 17 April, the RQOH, Québec’s network of non-profit housing organizations (Housing NPOs) sent the Minister a letter explaining their financial needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This letter followed a previous correspondence sent on 6 April to her colleague, the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers.

Many Housing NPOs provide social housing for seniors. These organizations have made a considerable effort to protect their residents’ health. The measures, in compliance with public health recommendations, have resulted in unforeseen expenses. These range from hiring additional staff to purchasing adequate personal protective equipment to prevent infection.

Many Housing NPOs got their start thanks to financial support available under Component 2 of the AccèsLogis Program specifically targeting seniors. The Société d’habitation du Québec therefore has a responsibility toward these organizations’ sustainability and their quality of housing.

My question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the following:

- Will the Minister financially support Housing NPOs in their efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

(160) Ms. David (Marguerite-Bourgeois) – **5 June 2020**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1691-20200915)

In response to the health crisis declared on 13 March 2020, the Cowansville CLSC birth planning clinic was relocated to Sherbrooke. It is the only facility in Québec that has completely ceased to deliver this public outreach service.

This represents a significant distance and fails to meet the needs of women in the west of the Estrie region, who must now drive at least one hour to get there. Some women do not have the means, financially or logistically, to travel three hours to obtain birth planning services.

The transportation service currently offered cannot fully compensate for the distance of these services.

The extended closure of this essential outreach service constitutes a physical and mental health risk for the women in the Cowansville area. Access to safe, birth planning services also hinges on the delivery of such services locally.

Can the Minister tell us when the Cowansville CLSC birth planning clinic will be reopened?

(161) Mr. Barrette (La Pinière) – **10 June 2020**
To the Minister of Transport
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1692-20200915)

On 14 June 2019, the National Assembly unanimously passed Bill 26, *An Act respecting the Réseau structurant de transport en commun de la Ville de Québec*.

Section 25 of the Act stipulates that “*The Minister of Transport must, not later than 45 days after 30 March and 30 September of each year and until the work for the Network project is completed, make public a progress report indicating whether, on each of those dates, the work is on schedule and within budget.*”

Can the minister explain to us why he has not complied with this legal obligation and tell us whether he intends to comply with this accountability measure by the end of this parliamentary session on 12 June 2020?

(162) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **12 June 2020**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1693-20200915)

On 17 February 2014, the Ombudsman tabled in the Committee on Health and Social Services of Québec a brief on the living conditions of adults staying in residential and long-term care centres. Noting that 11% of users living in public and private long-term residential care centres (CHSLD) under agreement were under 65 years of age, the Ombudsman highlighted the lack of information available regarding this specific clientele as well as the problems regarding accessibility to a living environment that is adapted to their special needs. Two recommendations were then made:

S-7 Ask the Minister of Health and Social Services to designate an institutional stakeholder or a recognized research group that will be able to establish the clientele profiles of persons under 65 years of age staying in residential and long-term care centres under agreement.

S-8 Ask the Minister of Health and Social Services to promptly take the necessary measures to tailor the living environment approach to the profiles of persons under 65 years of age staying in residential and long-term care centres under agreement as well as the available service provision by means of tools such as the individualized service plan.

Six years later, the conclusion is clear: as no concrete action has been taken to address the recommendations issued in 2014 and the rare residential resources for this seemingly orphan clientele are hardly able to meet demands and ensure their sustainability, questions arise:

- Did the Ministère de la Santé et des services sociaux put measures into place to address recommendations S-7 and S-8 in the Ombudsman's report dated 17 February 2014?
- Did the Ministère provide for recurrent budgets to address the Ombudsman's S-7 and S-8 recommendations?
- What is the Ministère's action plan and time frame to specifically address the needs of this particular clientele having to stay in residential and long-term care centres, owing to the lack of residential resources subsidized by the health network?
- According to the latest available data, what number and what percentage of the clientele living in residential and long-term care centres under agreement are under 65 years of age?
- According to the latest available data, what number and what percentage of persons waiting for a place in a residential and long-term care centre under agreement are under 65 years of age?
- What is the Ministère's estimate of the number, per year, of new cases of young adults under 65 years of age who cannot live alone?

(163) Ms. Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) – **12 June 2020**

To the Minister of Justice

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1694-20200915)

On 26 May 2020, a petition signed by 1,555 citizens was tabled in the National Assembly formally asking the Québec Government to transfer orthotists and prosthetists into a health-related professional order to ensure adequate protection for persons with disabilities with regard to the services they receive.

The current situation means that the title of orthoptist-prosthetic is not reserved and therefore individuals can advertise themselves to be such and receive patients, even though they are not a member of the professional order. Currently orthotists and prosthetists find themselves affiliated with a professional order in which they are the only group of professionals in the health sector.

This situation is all the more worrying given that 76% of people aged 15 and over with a disability use a technical aid and are therefore likely to end up at a retailer who is not a member of any professional order.

Can the Minister commit, without delay, to making the necessary changes to the regulatory system to adequately protect Quebecers who need orthotics, prostheses or any other orthopedic device?

(164) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **12 June 2020**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **15 September 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 1695-20200915)

The Association des orthésistes-prothésistes du Québec has been working closely for several months now with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and the RAMQ regarding the reform of the Tariff for insured devices which compensate for a motor deficiency and related services. However, although the work is still in progress, the department has unilaterally decided to implement elements of the reform before it was even completed, as of 1 April 2020.

In the current context, where the measures relating to the health emergency have taken their toll on service providers such as orthotists and prosthetists, patient services are in jeopardy more than even, especially in the regions.

Can the Minister commit to continuing the work of the committee tasked with reforming the Tariff for insured devices which compensate for a motor deficiency and related services until a consensus is reached with the service providers?

(165) M. Lebel (Rimouski) – **15 September 2020**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

Answer tabled on **5 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2065-20201105)

During the examination of the 2020–2021 estimates of expenditure of the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (Employment and Social Solidarity component), the Member for Rimouski Harold Lebel raised the issue commonly referred to as the “Right to love”—which is the possibility for a social assistance recipient living with someone as a couple or with a roommate to receive their benefits—with the Minister Jean Boulet.

Minister Boulet indicated during the committee proceedings that the Right to love issue was one of the issues addressed by the *Comité consultatif de lutte à la pauvreté et à l'exclusion sociale* and that the principle of “one person, one cheque” was being considered by the committee and that announcements regarding this matter would be forthcoming.

On this issue, my questions to Minister Boulet are as follows:

- Can the Minister provide us with a progress report as regards the work of the *Comité consultatif de lutte à la pauvreté et à l'exclusion sociale* relating to the Right to love and, if applicable, its conclusions and recommendations regarding this issue?
- Does the Minister plan to implement the “one person, one cheque” principle in the allocation of social assistance, without taking into account the number of persons living in the recipient’s home?
- Can the Minister confirm that he will be making announcements concerning the Right to love and tell us if such announcements will be made before the end of 2020?

(166) Mr. Zanetti (Jean Lesage) – **17 September 2020**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **11 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2078-20201111)

On 18 August 2020, the Government announced a \$106 M investment in public health.

To hire 1,000 new full-time employees in the Public Health Directorate in order to increase tracing capacity in preparation for the second wave. Their work will involve responding to outbreaks and conducting contact investigations of infected individuals.

My questions for the Minister are the following:

For each CISSS-CIUSSS:

- How many individuals were assigned to this task as of 1 March 2020?
- How many individuals were assigned to this task as of 17 August 2020, before the announcement on 18 August 2020?
- Between 18 August and 15 September, how many individuals were hired and began working?

(167) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **17 September 2020**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **3 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2057-20201103)

During the pandemic, Ms. McCann suggests we turn to family doctors and CLSCs to avoid overcrowding in emergency rooms. While this suggestion has helped to free up emergency rooms, it does not take into account the saturation of front-line services and the fact that many Montrealers do not have a family doctor (32.41% of residents in CIUSSS Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal region), as of 31 March 2019).

In December 2018, I asked the previous Minister of Health a question about access to health care through our community's CLSC network. At that time, the CLSC St-Louis du Parc and the patients being treated there lost a family doctor who had worked there for 40 years. Later in June 2019, the La Cité general family doctor clinic closed its doors because five of the ten practicing physicians were retiring, which jeopardized access to a family doctor in my riding.

Despite the proximity of specialized care at the CHUM and the MUHC, our residents struggle for access to family physicians and front-line services. One 73-year-old citizen has actually developed and recovered from cancer while waiting on the Québec Family Doctor Finder (GAMF) list. The health of another 80-year-old is deteriorating because he does not have a regular doctor to do proper follow-ups. When they call family doctor clinics and CLSCs as advised by Minister McCann, they are told that new patients are admitted from the GAMF list and that unfortunately they only have access to care through walk-in appointments.

According to regional plans for medical staff (PREM) in family medicine, the RLS des Faubourgs–Plateau-Mont-Royal–Saint-Louis-du-Parc only had one place available for 2020. It's hard to believe that just one more doctor will be able to fill the need for care. The CIUSSS Centre-Sud de Montréal

also reports in its 2018–2019 annual report that doctors practising in the Jeanne-Mance territory have vulnerable downtown clients, which limits the number of patients registered with each of them.

In the context of a pandemic, we should be encouraging access to family physicians, not the opposite. For vulnerable individuals and senior citizens, access should be immediate or at least much faster than what is seen in the field.

My questions for the Minister are the following:

- During the pandemic, can regional plans for medical staff be adapted to better ensure access to family physicians in regions that are struggling more, such as for the CIUSSS Centre-Sud Montréal?
- More broadly, can the regional plans for medical staff be adapted to give more weight to Montréal's complexity when allocating resources and thus combat Montréal's shortage of family physicians?

(168) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **23 September 2020**
To the Minister of Transport
Answer tabled on **27 October 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2024-20201027)

The Regroupement des associations de personnes traumatisées craniocérébrales du Québec has appealed to the Ministère des Transports, for months now, to begin a call for projects within the Fonds de la sécurité routière, a highway safety fund financial assistance program, which was originally slated for April 2020.

This program has allowed nearly a thousand people living with craniocerebral trauma to receive various services, such as assistance at home, adaptation of premises and psychosocial support meetings for informal caregivers.

Today, the groups benefiting from this fund are still waiting for the call for projects to begin. Because these projects currently employ specialized workers and provide services to a vulnerable clientele, the longer the Ministère delays launching the call for projects, the greater the risks are for employee lay-offs and cuts in these supplemental services.

My question the Minister of Transport is as follows:

When will the Government launch a new call for projects for the highway safety fund, which, notably supports organizations that help road accident victims, thereby providing invaluable help to vulnerable persons with a disability?

(169) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **24 September 2020**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **27 October 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2025-20201027)

Tyrosinemia Type I is a common hereditary disease in Québec. It is characterized by the liver's inability to produce an enzyme required to metabolize an amino acid found in several animal and plant proteins called tyrosine,

In order to allow children to live with the disease, they are given a medication combined with a diet that is highly protein restricted. However, for many patients, this treatment results in a significant decrease in the level of another essential amino acid called phenylalanine. This deficit can lead to delays in cognitive development. In order to counter these delays, it is recommended to take a phenylalanine supplement.

As Ms. Sophie Taillon indicated in the June 25th edition of *Le Quotidien*, the cost of this supplement is a major obstacle. For the parents of a child with tyrosinemia, the cost is over \$100 a month. Some families cannot afford this amount for one or more children. Since phenylalanine is not considered a drug or a dietary supplement, some private insurance companies and Québec's Public Prescription Drug Insurance Plan do not cover it. Efforts to obtain exceptional recognition have been unsuccessful, for both the drug and patients.

For several years, the Hereditary Tyrosinemia Group and medical teams have been making the Ministère de la Santé aware of this reality and requesting reimbursement of the cost of the phenylalanine supplement used to treat tyrosinemic patients. So far, no response has been provided by the Minister of Health.

My question is as follows:

- When will the Government live up to its reputation as a world leader with respect to tyrosinemia treatments by making phenylalanine accessible to all patients through Québec's Public Prescription Drug Insurance Plan?

(170) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **29 September 2020**

To the Minister of Education

Answer tabled on **3 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2058-20201103)

The passage of Bill 40, An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance, resulted in removing the concept of spiritual development from the *Education Act*. To address the concerns of spiritual care and guidance and community involvement (AVSEC) animators who work in the network, in January 2020 the Minister of Education gave his assurance that the profession was not in jeopardy and that it would be redefined as a personal development and community involvement animator position under an amendment to the Basic school regulation, as reported in a *Journal de Québec* article dated 14 January 2020.

Since that time, AVSEC animators have not heard from the Minister. We ask that the Minister tell us what his timeframe is for amending the Basic school regulation, what the next steps to be taken are toward changing the profession, and when he expects the change to come into effect.

(171) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **29 September 2020**

To the Minister of Education

Answer tabled on **3 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2059-20201103)

Since the start of the 2020–2021 school year, there has been an unprecedented interest in homeschooling. The significant increase in the number of enrolments has given rise to numerous issues, including families’ access to resources as well as the ministry’s capacity to provide support to families and to monitor their learning projects. The Ministère de l’Éducation already has a provincial advisory panel on homeschooling whose mandate is to advise the Minister of Education on matters in this area. However, the panel has not been called on since 2018.

My question is as follows:

When does the Minister of Education intend to bring this advisory panel together again to examine the new realities of homeschooling?

(172) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **30 September 2020**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **5 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2066-20201105)

On 21 August 2020, the Société des loteries du Québec (Loto-Québec) announced that the gaming hall in Québec City, the Salon de jeux de Québec, would be moved from the Vanier sector to Beauport. We have noted that this move would entail \$10 million in costs, despite the fact that no call for tenders had been made for the selection of the new location in Beauport.

The decision is based on an analysis by KPMG, which was commissioned to carry out a study to assist Loto-Québec in choosing a new site. The study states that a regulatory analysis carried out by Loto-Québec initially identified a number of potential sites.

However, the CAQ made an election promise to move the establishment to a tourist zone and not a residential area, like Beauport.

Can the Minister explain to us why he went against his party’s election promise by moving the Salon de jeux de Québec to a residential area?

Also, can the Minister table all the documents leading to this decision, in particular Loto-Québec’s regulatory analysis, which allowed it to identify potential sites?

(173) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **8 October 2020**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **8 December 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2177-20201208)

We have received a citizen's testimony regarding certain aspects of exchange traded funds, mutual funds and defined contribution pension funds—aspects that he considers to be anomalies. In his opinion, certain income distributions (capital distributions, capital gains and dividends) are not made. We can provide all the documents supporting his claims.

The issue we want to bring to the Minister of Finance's attention is the transparency of discount brokerage firms and financial institutions. The current regulations allow these institutions to display only certain information on the detailed statements sent to investors and retirees, which makes it more difficult to monitor the different movements of capital in their accounts. Discount brokerage firms and financial institutions therefore seem able to avoid displaying certain amounts that, often, would be relevant for investors and retirees to know. This situation is all the more worrisome in that it potentially affects a large number of people who do not regularly monitor their investments or pension funds. For example, it is not possible to know the income distribution details, whether it be regarding capital distributions, capital gains, Canadian-source interest income or dividends.

Given this situation, our questions to the Minister of Finance are as follows:

Will the Minister of Finance commit to shedding light on these aspects of exchange traded funds, mutual funds and defined contribution pension funds?

Will the Minister of Finance commit to amending the regulations in force to increase transparency in the statements issued by brokerage firms and financial institutions, and require that the brokerage firms and financial institutions display all capital movements on the detailed statements for investors and retirees?

(174) Mr. Arcand (Mont-Royal–Outremont) – **21 October 2020**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **11 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2079-20201111)

Ever since the "pausing" last fall, many public transit authorities have experienced a major decline in ridership. For example, the Réseau de transport de la Capitale (RTC), the Société de transport de Lévis (STLévis), the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) and numerous others have seen their ridership cut in half compared to last fall. The Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain (ARTM) is currently expecting below-average ridership until at least 2021. In light of the government's upcoming decisions, the second wave and its potential complications, it would appear that this trend will continue.

The pandemic has forced citizens to rethink their habits. Many have doubts and are afraid of being infected, and they prefer to drive their cars alone. According to one survey, 75% of Québec's public transit users plan to go back to buses once the crisis is over, while 25% say they will never take a bus again. According to the experts, after a breakdown of trust in public transportation, for example as in the case of the Madrid and Brussels attacks, it takes approximately one year to return to similar levels of ridership.

The overall decline has caused financial losses, which have been amplified because similar service levels have been maintained. In the greater Montréal region alone, there is a shortfall of nearly \$870 million over three years. For example, since the start of the pandemic, the STM has lost around \$75 million each month. For the future, the ARTM has asked the STM to review its expenses, reduce its services and reconsider its plan to acquire 300 vehicles due to a 60% drop in ridership and expert forecasts predicting that it will be several years before business picks back up again.

The questions are as follows:

- 1- The Minister has announced assistance to offset operating losses, so will he ask the STM to reconsider its bus acquisition plan, in order to ensure that the delivery cycle and fleet expansion are more in sync with the resumption of business?
- 2- The STM intends to hire 200 drivers, which will only increase its future operating losses. Can the Minister commit to compensating the agency for the upcoming shortfall with respect to the new services?
- 3- Considering the collapse of public transit throughout Québec and the increasing use of cars, what is the Minister's strategy for public transportation?

(175) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **22 October 2020**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

Answer tabled on **10 December 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2198-20201210)

The organization RightOnCanada and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment called on the Premier by sending him a letter dated 21 September 2020, for the second time in the past year, to share their concerns regarding the actions of the International Chrysotile Association (ICA), an asbestos lobby group registered in Québec as a non-profit organization. I share the concerns of these experts and scientists, and I want to discuss them with you.

First, not a single member of the ICA board of directors resides in Québec, which is contrary to the *Companies Act*. Further, while asbestos has been scientifically shown to be a carcinogenic substance and has been banished in some fifty countries, the ICA continues to promote it all over the world as a safe product and which can be used in the form of cement in the construction of buildings, including schools.

Let us also recall that the BAPE inquiry commission on the state of affairs and management of asbestos and asbestos mining residues submitted to the Government last July asks the Government to take various measures to protect the public's health and safety against the harmful effects of asbestos. While we want to protect the general public and Québec workers, we also have a moral obligation to protect the populations in developing countries. However, the fact that the ICA, whose members' have practices that put the health and safety of the world's most vulnerable populations at risk, is associated with Québec by having its head office here, tarnishes our reputation on the international stage.

The ICA is registered in Québec as a non-profit organization. However, on the website of the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, it clearly indicates that a non-profit organization is a group of natural persons who pursue a moral or altruistic goal and who do not intend to make any monetary gains to be shared among its members.

If we examine the actions of the ICA, it does not pursue either moral or altruistic goals.

- Have you or has a member of your office ever held meetings with the ICA? If so, on which dates and what were the subjects discussed at these meetings?
- Do you intend to order an administrative inquiry into whether ICA's constitution as a non-profit organization is compliant with the *Companies Act*? If the inquiry reveals that the ICA is non-compliant, will you take appropriate legal action?

(176) Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) – **22 October 2020**

To the Minister of Education

Answer tabled on **24 November 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2102-20201124)

The sustainability of funding popular education centres (InterCEP), while fully respecting their mission and the principle of autonomous community action, has been a longstanding demand since the creation of PACTÉ. During a telephone meeting with the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on 30 June 2020, you affirmed your willingness to resolve the main issues before the start of the 2020 school year, namely, the payment of operating costs and the sustainability of CEP funding. Given that the timeline was exceeded and the lack of funds, last week we learned that InterCEP members have decided to suspend payment of their operating costs.

During a recent telephone discussion with Diane Dupuis, spokesperson for InterCEP, your political attaché Sophie Côté informed her that the operating costs for this year would be adopted at a meeting of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor on Tuesday, 20 October 2020. We received confirmation of this yesterday. We welcome this first step, which demonstrates your commitment to this issue. However, it remained vague as to the sustainability of CEP funding.

Considering the above:

- 1- Can the Minister reaffirm his commitment to resolving InterCEP's longstanding demands, as was done during his meeting with the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, particularly regarding the sustainability of its funding?
- 2- If this is still the will of the Minister, and since the deadline for the start of the 2020 school year has passed, what timetable does he recommend to resolve this issue that is in line with CEPs' mission and the principle of autonomous community action?

(177) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **28 October 2020**
To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks
Answer tabled on **1 December 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2130-20201201)

On 24 July of this year, the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) announced that it had signed a service agreement with Sécurité Nature. Among other things, the agreement provides for changes in the offering of courses for Québec hunters. Thus, since August 2020, the two introductory hunting courses may be completed entirely on-line. Also, the Practical Bow Test has been eliminated as a requirement for successfully completing the Introduction to Hunting with a Bow or Crossbow course.

A number of stakeholders and hunting specialists in Abitibi-Témiscamingue have raised concerns about the provisions of this new training framework. For example, that eliminating the Practical Bow Test would be comparable to eliminating driving lessons and could have harmful consequences, including:

1. an increase in the number of inexperienced hunters who will go hunting without necessarily being fully prepared or qualified;
2. an increase in the number of accidents and injuries due to poor arms use;
3. an increase in the number of animals slain incorrectly or unnecessarily injured.

My questions to the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks are as follows:

1. What are the reasons behind eliminating the Practical Bow Test?
2. Have analyses or studies been carried out to assess the potential impact of this decision, including the possible impacts on animal herd populations?
3. Were Indigenous communities consulted and involved in the process leading to this decision?

(178) M. LeBel (Rimouski) – **29 October 2020**
to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **1 December 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2131-20201201)

On 6 October 2020, the governments of Canada and Québec announced they had entered into an agreement for nearly \$3.7 billion over 10 years for housing. If we look at the terms of that agreement, it “provides for total federal funding of \$1.84 billion and involves a financial commitment from Québec equivalent to the federal commitment for the three components covered by the Agreement:

- \$272.25 M for the “Quebec Priorities” component;
- \$1.12 B for the “Canada Community Housing Initiative” component; and
- \$454.3 M for the “Canada Housing Benefit” component.”

We understand that the shared objective of the agreement is to reduce the number of households in housing need. However, we would like to clarify the following points:

- As concerns the \$272.25 M, how does the government of Québec intend to break down that sum according to “Quebec’s priorities”, and how many housing units in addition to those already announced does it intend to build?
- Given that the Canadian government’s National Housing Strategy was developed on the basis of a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), that it was included in the Federal Plan for Gender

Equality and that it therefore allowed 25% of the sums earmarked for the Strategy to be directed to projects targeting the special needs of women, girls and their families, will these targets remain among the priorities established by Québec? If so, how will the sums be allocated, and will you conduct a Gender-Based Analysis from an intersectional perspective (GBA+) in the programs, policies and actions funded by these sums for social housing?

(179) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **3 November 2020**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **8 December 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2178-20201208)

During meetings held with municipalities in my riding, two main issues were raised with regard to the transportation network: insufficient financial assistance for the maintenance of local roads and concerns about safety in certain sectors.

Since the responsibility for local roads was transferred in 1993 from the Ministère des Transports (MTQ) to the municipalities, local road network maintenance has been weakened due to a lack of indexation of the amounts provided for under the Programme d'aide à la voirie locale, with the exception of an investment included in the 2018 budget. The problem is exacerbated in the regions, where rural municipalities have difficulty benefiting from the program, mostly because they have to compete with the needs of larger cities. For some small municipalities, the program represents the only assistance available for local road network maintenance.

In addition, the transport department's network encompasses local municipalities in which a variety of user needs coexist, such as schools, local services, residential sectors. In these communities, the most vulnerable users (pedestrians and cyclists) sometimes develop a sense of insecurity. Some municipalities in my riding turned to the Minister's department to lower the speed limits or to add a pedestrian crossing or a beacon, only to be told that the road situation met the norms in place and thus that no intervention was necessary. I have therefore respectively concluded, Minister, that there is at times a huge divide between Transports Québec's norms and what is actually experienced on the ground.

My questions are as follows:

1. Do you plan on significantly increasing the budget of the Programme d'aide à la voirie locale and what assistance do you intend to give municipalities for their road network maintenance?
2. What actions could be taken to improve users' sense of safety in communities when your department deems that there is no such problem?

(180) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **12 November 2020**

To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks

Answer tabled on **1 December 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2132-20201201)

After having announced a special budget for the transport of lumber to Windsor and paying for a short-term integrator in the Laurentides region, the Minister's office received the results of a year of committees, discussions and reports. Obviously, the measures did not yield any results; the region is still suffering the consequences of the Fortress plant closure.

When will the Minister respond to the glaring needs of the industry in the Laurentides and Outaouais regions? Does he intend to manage the forestry regime reform by dealing with it from crisis to crisis and from committee to committee?

(181) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **12 November 2020**

To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks

Answer tabled on **1 December 2020** (Sessional Paper No. 2133-20201201)

By asking forest planners to plan 300% of sectors by December, without taking into account the needs of the forestry industry, does the Minister believe that he will solve the problem of predictability, essential for investment in the forestry sector and for economic recovery?

When will we see the reform necessary for efficient forest management, that is in line with the reality on the ground, that respects forest entrepreneurs, and that meets the needs of our regions and takes their specific needs into account?

(182) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **24 November 2020**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

Answer tabled on **2 February 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2223-20210202)

On 15 November, the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers announced additional investments of \$100 million for the coming year and \$65 million for the following five years, amounts that are to be used to improve home services and care. Of these amounts, around \$10 million will be allocated to improving the conditions of workers in the sector. The minimum hourly wage, which is currently \$14.25, will increase to \$16.00.

This increase of \$1.75 per hour is a first step, but it is important to remember that there is a significant wage gap between the public and private sector for the same job as a personal care attendant; this has caused labour availability issues for years. In fact, with the recent increases that have been granted, level-one personal care attendants working in CHSLDs and hospitals now earn \$20.55 per hour.

For the well-being of the elderly, the sick, those who must deal with a temporary or permanent disability as well as caregivers, it is essential to find a way to reduce the significant wage gap between essential workers in the public and private sectors. In this regard, the Member for Rimouski has repeatedly called for the establishment of a collective agreement decree so that we can legislate on the conditions of workers in the home care sector.

We would therefore like to ask the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity the following questions:

- Will the Minister quickly put in place a collective agreement decree to establish the minimum conditions of employment—that is, conditions equal to those of public workers—for home care attendants and private nursing home attendants? Can we expect this decree in 2021?

- When interviewed, the Minister's press secretary said "[...] that different avenues are being explored. It's important to improve working conditions for the dedicated employees in these sectors. To do this, we must analyze the various means available to us." Could you tell us what are these different means, what are the objectives for improving the working conditions of these employees as well as the expected timeframe?

(183) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **24 November 2020**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **2 February 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2224-20210202)

What amounts have been disbursed by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications since 10 March 2020 to support artists under the La culture à l'école program and who are the beneficiaries?

How many students have been affected by the measure, broken down by region and by grade level?

How many schools were visited by region?

How many different artists participated in the measure, by region?

How much money has been invested to promote the measure to artists?

How much money has been invested to promote the measure in schools?

(184) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **24 November 2020**

To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration

Answer tabled on **2 February 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2225-20210202)

As part of the Program for Refugees Abroad, a collective sponsorship program, many Québec citizens and residents turn to organizations to sponsor refugees by committing to facilitate their integration and cover costs related to their establishment.

There were some problems with this program during the most recent application period last January.

On 28 October, the Minister put an end to a tradition of collaboration between the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration and sponsoring organizations. The Minister has discredited all of the organizations and groups sponsoring refugees in Québec and decided to exclude all organizations from the collective sponsorship program for the year 2021. This decision will increase wait times that are already too long.

My questions for the Minister are as follows:

- What actions will the Minister take to renew the dialogue and take into account the needs of refugees under the sponsorship program?
- Why prohibit all sponsoring organizations from submitting applications in 2021, when only a few organizations are under investigation?

(185) Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) – **24 November 2020**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
Answer tabled on **2 February 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2226-20210202)

The 2017–2023 Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation provided for increasing the benefits of all last-resort financial assistance programs up to a certain percentage of the Market Basket Measure (MBM), i.e. 55.1% for Social Assistance, 77.6% for Social Solidarity, and 90.1% for Social Solidarity 66/72.

However, Statistics Canada has just revised the MBM so that the amount to cover the basic needs of a person living alone in Montreal has gone from \$17,820 to \$20,080 (2018 base).

In this context, the MBM coverage percentages of the different programs is evidently not the same.

My questions for the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity are as follows:

- Does the Minister intend to adjust the amount of the benefits paid under these programs so as to maintain the planned MBM coverage percentages?
- If not, can the Minister explain why these coverage percentages were initially considered relevant, but no longer now?

(186) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **1 December 2020**
To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration
Answer tabled on **2 February 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2227-20210202)

The pandemic and the reform of the Programme de l'expérience québécoise (PEQ – Québec experience program) have resulted in significantly longer processing times to obtain a Québec selection certificate (CSQ). The processing times have increased from 25 days to more than 6 months, leading to increasingly intolerable situations for those who hope to obtain a CSQ to pursue their dream of settling in Québec.

In addition to the much longer processing times, we have seen an increase in the number of applications returned to applicants where the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIFI) refers to the absence of documents or an inability to collect the processing fees. Returning these applications obviously causes additional delays. We understand that the MIFI cannot process incomplete applications, but when this department requests documents to update a file that was already complete when it was received six months earlier, it is hard for us to understand how immigration candidates can be penalized for delays that the MIFI is responsible for. We would also like to point out that the COVID-19 context has made it more difficult to obtain these non-essential documents because some people have lost their job, been laid off or have an implied status.

For these people, the processing of their case is urgent and critical for them to return to a sense of normalcy. In fact, the CSQ is required to establish permanent residency in Québec and, in many cases, to renew a work permit while waiting to obtain permanent residency. Similarly, we are concerned to see immigration applications rejected due to a lack of rigour by the MIFI, which loses track of items that have been properly mailed by immigration candidates in a timely manner, as mentioned by the Québec Ombudsperson in her 2019–2020 report.

We have also found that the mechanism for payment of fees, which requires the availability of \$812 for a continuous period of six months, is not suitable for a context where many are in difficult financial situations.

In light of these real-life situations we have heard through citizens' requests at riding offices, the questions for the Minister are as follows:

- Will the Minister commit to accelerating application processing by hiring additional agents?
- Will the Minister also commit to mitigating the impacts of increased processing times, in particular by ensuring that there will be no further delays due to requests for documents to update files that were already complete when the application was filed by the immigration candidate?
- Will the Minister commit to ensuring more flexible and human processing of immigration applications, in particular by allowing immigration candidates to provide the missing or lost documents to the MIFI by email, as recommended by the Ombudsperson in her 2019–2020 report?
- Will the Minister commit to ensuring flexible processing for the payment of required fees, so that this is no longer a reason for returning an entire application?
- What concrete action will the Minister take to address the findings outlined in the Québec Ombudsperson's 2019–2020 annual report, which are that the Department clearly displays administrative rigidity regarding its rules, a lack of openness regarding the candidates' version, and very little empathy regarding the individual and family issues at stake?
- With the prospect of an extended health emergency and in relation to the government's 2019–2023 digital transformation strategy, will the Minister also commit to modernizing the method for receiving PEQ applications by developing an online platform to reduce the processing times and mailing fees resulting from these back-and-forths?

(187) Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) – **1 December 2020**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **2 February 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2228-20210202)

With regard to the directive issued by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux that paramedics not resuscitate people in cardiac arrest:

When did the Minister become aware of the directive?

On what legal basis was the directive issued?

Why was the directive maintained beyond what was necessary, that is, until 21 September 2020?

Why was this directive, unlike the 260 other directives issued last spring, never published on a government website?

Was the directive reassessed between 4 April and 21 September, by who, and how many times?

(188) Ms. Charbonneau (Mille-Îles) – **11 December 2020**
To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks
Answer tabled on **2 February 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2229-20210202)

The continued existence of woodland caribou in the Val-d'Or area is greatly endangered due to the fact that the herd is now too small in number to ensure its survival without the implementation of significant measures to ensure its protection. A number of other herds exist in Québec and, although their situation is not as precarious as that of the Val-d'Or herd, there is obviously pressure on these cervid populations..

In this sense, as shown by the data, the Charlevoix herd now only has 19 individuals, the herd in Gaspésie is down to only 50 individuals, and it appears necessary to take preventive steps to slow down the decline in the number of caribou in these herds.

Can the Minister tell us what measures have been put in place to slow down the decline of these populations?

What sums will be allocated to the preservation of these populations?

What protection measures are envisaged for the future?

What indicators will be taken into account in order to ensure the effectiveness of the measures implemented?

(189) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance
Answer tabled on **6 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2530-20210506)

On 10 November 2017, Québec's Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly's Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Two recommendations in the CPF report were not retained by the Québec government in the Minister of Finance's Action Plan (recommendations 5 and 6):

“5. Tax dividends received in Québec that have been subject to foreign deductions.

6. Grant a tax credit equal to the foreign income tax paid rather than allowing the income to be brought back into Québec tax-free.”

The Action Plan states that “In 2017, 29 of the 35 OECD member countries had a tax system allowing the repatriation of earnings through tax-exempt dividends or provided some exemption for such dividends.” (Action Plan, p. 157)

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 5 of the action plan are as follows:

- What is the assessment of losses Québec will incur by refusing to adopt these two recommendations?
- What is the assessment of the impacts of collecting the tax on dividends imposed by six of the 35 OECD member countries?
- Has Québec entered into discussions with the federal government and the other provinces in order to form a united front with respect to the taxation of these dividends?

(190) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **6 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2530-20210506)

On 10 November 2017, Québec’s Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly’s Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Measure 2 of the Action Plan states that “Québec asks the federal government to send it the information obtained under bilateral tax treaties with other countries.”

In February 2018, the Minister of Finance testified before the CPF members that under the current tax agreements, only information obtained from France and the United States could be transmitted to Québec by the Canada Revenue Agency. However, these tax agreements would allow Québec to obtain information on Québec companies conducting business abroad.

Measure 3 of the Action Plan states that “In order to make full use of the information obtained through measures 1 and 2, Québec is setting up the Intervention Group specializing in international tax planning to use the financial and tax data”.

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 2 of the action plan are as follows:

- To what extent does the government of Québec currently obtain from the federal government the information obtained by the latter under,
 - the tax agreements Canada is a party to?
 - the country-by-country reporting implemented in the context of the OECD BEPS initiative, which Canada has been receiving since 2017?
- Does the information provided to Québec by the federal government make it possible, on the one hand, to determine the volume of business and profits being made by transnational corporations in Québec and, on the other hand, to determine the profits diverted to jurisdictions elsewhere for lower tax rates?
- Given its sovereignty in fiscal matters, how does Québec intend to address the situation if it has not received information to ensure tax fairness for Québec companies compared to transnational companies?

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 3 of the action plan are as follows:

- For each year since the publication of the Action Plan, how many people have been part of the intervention group specializing in international tax planning (full-time equivalent employees – FTEs)?
- What is the actual amount of money spent by Revenu Québec for this specialized intervention group?
- What objectives have been set for hiring personnel for this group, particularly for professionals specializing in international tax planning?
- Have those objectives been achieved for each of the years since the publication of the Action Plan?
- Is a progress report on this group’s work available and if so has it been tabled before the Committee?

- What is the proportion of the personnel assigned to work on businesses compared to personnel assigned to work on individuals, keeping in mind that only 5% of the funds that transit through tax havens belongs to individuals?
- Considering this proportion (the 5% mentioned above), should the focus be more on tax planning for businesses than for individuals?

(191) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **6 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2530-20210506)

On 10 November 2017, Québec’s Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly’s Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Measure 5 of the Action Plan states that “Québec will support the Canada Border Services Agency to ensure collection of Québec sales tax on tangible properties from abroad and sold by companies without a physical or significant presence in Québec”.

We know that Measure 5 has not yielded the expected results. However, a pilot project on border tax collection will be established in 2021 in accordance with what was announced in the context of the presentation of the 2020 budget: “Given the shared determination of both governments, Québec will work with the federal government to implement in 2021 harmonized rules for the collection of the QST and the GST/HST by foreign suppliers”. (Source: Budget 2020–2021, Additional Information, p. B.4)

My questions to the Minister of Finance regarding Measure 5 of the action plan are as follows:

- What is the status of discussions with the federal government regarding this pilot project and what are the main issues?
- Has the Ministère des Finances updated its 2017 estimate for Québec sales tax revenue losses on tangible properties from abroad sold by companies without a physical or significant presence in Québec? If so, what are the estimated losses for 2020?
- Has the Ministère des Finances studied the negative impacts of this privilege for local stores and businesses? If so, what are the conclusions?

(192) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**

To the Minister of Finance

Answer tabled on **6 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2530-20210506)

In 2013, member governments of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the G20 initiated a major overhaul of international tax rules, which resulted in the creation of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project. The objective of this project was to revise the rules in force so that they would be better adapted to the world economy and in harmony with it. The goal was therefore to ensure that profits are taxed in the countries where economic activities are carried out. One of the main issues identified as being at the root of the BEPS phenomenon is the lack of coordination between national rules. In addition, the constantly changing global economic environment often leads to gaps in international rules. Lastly, significant widespread gaps in data and information knowledge were also found.

The 2013 Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting identified 15 actions, along three fundamental pillars: “introducing coherence in the domestic rules that affect cross-border activities, reinforcing substance requirements in the existing international standards and improving transparency, as well as certainty for businesses that do not take aggressive positions”.

In October 2020, the Inclusive Framework on BEPS (grouping of over 125 countries and jurisdictions collaborating on the implementation of measures arising from the BEPS project) released the work programmes of the two pillars resulting from the BEPS project, namely:

1. Solutions to better allocate taxing rights across jurisdictions (nexus and profit allocation);
2. Development of a system to ensure that multinational corporations pay a minimum level of tax on profits.

My questions to the Minister of Finance are as follows:

- Has the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec carried out an analysis of how Québec would be affected by the proposal made by the OECD last October (pillars One and Two)?
- Has the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec carried out an assessment of the revenue that could be generated for Québec if the OECD proposal (pillars One and Two) were implemented?
- Considering how difficult it is to reach a multilateral agreement on digital economy taxation, would it not be wise for Québec to introduce a new temporary tax on the turnover of companies in the digital sector, as certain jurisdictions such as France have done?
- Given that harmonization of such a temporary tax on the digital economy with the federal government would be desirable, have the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec entered into discussions with their federal counterparts on this subject?
- In the context of major budget deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concomitant increase in the revenues and profits of the giants of the digital economy, does the Minister consider it appropriate that the government of Québec explicitly request that the federal government implement a temporary tax on digital economy businesses?

(193) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **9 February 2021**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **4 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2523-20210504)

Many elderly people who live in private seniors' residences (PSRs) in my riding and throughout Québec are being affected by a dramatic increase in their rent costs exceeding the inflation rate. I understand that PSRs are experiencing higher operating costs due to the pandemic, as are many businesses, however not all seniors live in luxurious residences and the vast majority simply cannot afford this increased burden. Some seniors do not have family support and the elderly often fear reprisals. Senior citizens have a limited ability to pay because 60% of those aged 65 and older have an income of less than \$30,000 per year.

My question is the following:

Can the Minister quickly implement specific measures to protect seniors from these unacceptable increases by implementing an assistance program to support small residences experiencing financial difficulty or by raising incomes for seniors living in these residences?

(194) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **10 February 2021**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications
Answer tabled on **9 March 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2338-20210309)

We have been informed of the upcoming demolition of two primary schools and old houses in the downtown area of La Malbaie in preparation for the expansion of the La Malbaie hospital.

The municipality of La Malbaie has significant built heritage resources. In recent years, fire has demolished or destroyed several heritage buildings in this area. It is important to note that the tourist appeal of this region is due to the exceptional quality of its landscapes and cultural heritage. This is why we would like to point out that objective 3.2 of Québec's cultural policy entitled "Politique culturelle du Québec" includes principles that promote capitalizing on the potential of cultural heritage. Québec has an impressive stock of heritage buildings, rich collections of historical objects and many documents, including digitized documents, and will take exemplary care of its heritage to ensure it is passed down to future generations. Québec is clearly adopting a sustainable development approach that is in line with major international trends.

In addition, the wording of Bill 69 that amends the Cultural Heritage Act tabled by the Minister of Culture and Communications clearly states the importance of promoting "State exemplarity regarding government immovable cultural heritage".

In light of the elements brought to the attention of the Minister of Culture and Communications, we would like her to answer the following questions:

1. How does this destruction demonstrate the government's integrity in protecting built heritage and set an example for municipalities in this regard?
2. How can this destruction be reconciled with the clear guidelines in Bill 69 tabled by the Minister of Culture and Communications, which stipulates that the State must be exemplary with respect to the preservation of built heritage?
3. Can the Minister ensure us that discussions have taken place between the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to find an arrangement to preserve buildings rather than destroy them?
4. How can the Minister justify the destruction of historic houses while claiming to prioritize the protection of our cultural heritage?
5. How can the Minister reconcile the destruction of two functional primary schools with the principle of sustainable development?

(195) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **10 February 2021**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **11 March 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2357-20210311)

Many families and persons living alone in my region, as well as throughout Québec, are being affected by a housing shortage. Rimouski's 0.9% vacancy rate is an example of why it is extremely difficult to find housing, even in Québec's regions. This situation is causing significant psychological distress for the many people who must deal with the problem. I have found that households are often unable to find adequate housing because they lack sufficient income. Yet housing is a fundamental right in our society and everyone should have a clean and safe living environment that corresponds to their income. In addition, it is totally unacceptable that it is so difficult for tenants and property owners in my region to access the Tribunal administratif du Québec's services. For these reasons, it is urgent for the Government to invest heavily in social and community housing and in timely access to the conflict management process. This investment will create collective wealth, promote economic recovery and above all ensure the right to adequate housing for all.

My question to the Minister is the following:

Has the Minister been in contact with her Finance colleague to ensure that major investments are made in social housing in the March 2021 budget, particularly in the AccèsLogis Program? In addition, given the great difficulty in gaining timely access to the Tribunal administratif du Québec's services in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, will the Minister make an urgent request for a report on the situation and take the necessary corrective measures?

(196) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **16 February 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **23 March 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2383-20210323)

According to an annual survey conducted by the Association des pharmaciens des établissements de santé (APES), 13 of the 45 pharmacist positions in our Bas-Saint-Laurent region are vacant and 8 of the 23 positions in Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine are to be filled. In addition, Côte-Nord is lacking 8 pharmacists out of a possible 23.

This shortage is due to competition from the private sector, where the salaries are higher. APES is asking the government to improve their salary conditions in order to address the shortage of pharmacists in our health institutions.

The premiums granted to pharmacists to retain them in the public sector are temporary but represent half their salaries. That is huge. These salaries are therefore unreliable and not attractive to young pharmacists.

The situation is critical, as the CISSS spends on average \$1,000 to \$1,500 per day to cover the cost of each replacement pharmacist from the private sector, including travel, lodging and meal expenses. In Bas-Saint-Laurent, depending on where the replacement pharmacist is coming from, the travel expenses can be even higher.

According to APES, the CISSS in Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine had to call on the services of replacement pharmacists for 822 days between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. In Côte-Nord, this number was 933 days, while in Bas-Saint-Laurent, it was 239 days.

My question is as follows:

The situation is more than alarming because the shortage of pharmacists in the public network results in an excessive workload for pharmacists in that sector and risks for patients. Given the context of the renewal of its work agreement with public-sector pharmacists, does the Québec government intend to remedy this situation and ensure there are enough pharmacists in eastern Québec's health institutions?

(197) Mr. Lebel (Rimouski) – **18 February 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **27 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2505-20210427)

The past year has been challenging for a large number of Québec's elderly population. Our shortcomings in how we perceive aging and the services we need to offer to seniors have been exposed for all to see. Without pointing fingers, we must come to the realization that things must change and that it is necessary to rethink our idea of what "aging well" means in Québec.

We must make the right decisions to adapt Québec society to the aging of its population. This is a major societal issue that requires vision and concrete actions.

It is clear that people are living longer lives, with average life expectancy being much higher due to better overall health. However, it is much less clear that we will be living better lives. Our ability to meet the challenges of this new paradigm will depend on society's ability to adapt. This new reality requires that we thoroughly examine the ways in which we view aging, retirement, the various stages we go through in life, and the contribution of each individual to society

In my riding, already one in four people is over age 65. In October 2019, I held a symposium where seniors, elected officials and stakeholders became more aware of the situation. Together, we identified concrete actions that could be taken to make longevity a good thing and not a problem.

Now all Quebecers must be made more aware of the situation because our society is one of most affected by aging in the world. We must take urgent action. I know that we all agree on the why, but now we must mobilize all Quebecers to reflect on the how.

(198) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2456-20210413)

Sollio Groupe Coopératif (formerly La Coop fédérée) operates a grain terminal on the site of the Port of Quebec, at Anse au Foulon. The Québec Port Authority (QPA), operates a rail yard next to it. The port activities planned for this sector will not all be fully operational until early 2022. The final project includes conversion of the wood pellet terminal, construction of four 15,000 tonne (t) silos, four smaller 1,000-tonne silos, covered conveyors, two grain handling and cleaning towers, a grain grading laboratory, two electrical substations and one grain car unloading station. The marine and land terminal will have the capacity to accommodate two moored ocean-going vessels, 110-car trains in sections in a rail yard, and around 100 trucks a day. The grain storage capacity will increase from 75,000 tonnes to 109,000 tonnes. The project's anticipated export volume is 1,290,000 tonnes of grain per year via 47 ships. The terminal's annual supply will be transported by 23 ships, 45 110-car trains, and 4,210 30-tonne trucks.

Nearly 1,200 homes are located less than one kilometre from the project. Although the project has not yet been carried out to its full potential, the area's residents have already been suffering from the noise and air pollution for two years. The environmental impact analyses paid for by Sollio Cooperative Group and the Quebec Port Authority clearly show that, once the project is 100% operational, noise levels will exceed standards and fine particles will almost exceed standards. It should be noted that the analyses do not include all the fine particles or all the noise that will be emitted by the terminal. And the completed impact studies do not take into account the noise from ships that will be docked at the wharf. Despite all these omissions, the study clearly indicates that the guideline values used will be exceeded. The noise from railway activities will almost always be above the standards (variance between +3 and +5). During train handling and railcar unloading—for approximately 12 hours—the noise levels for residents on Champlain Boulevard would be two times higher than the guideline values, while at the Jardins Mérici complex, the noise would exceed the guideline values. The impact assessment data shows that total fine particle concentrations will be just below Québec's environmental standard. In fact, the report states that there will be 29.3 µg/m³ while the standard of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux changements climatiques is 30 at the limits of the industrial zone. Moreover, and what is most worrisome, the assessment report takes into account only particles emitted from grain handling and cleaning. If the fine particles emitted by ships, trains and trucks on the project site are included, the current environmental standards will surely be exceeded. We would like to point out that as a result of this project, in a single

day, there may be two ships moored at the wharf, as many as 100 trucks, and the dismantling of a 110-car train in the rail yard. And we know nothing at all about the fine dust emitted by the current Sollio Cooperative Group facilities located nearby, which will be linked to the project.

The ruling by the Court of Appeal in the case of the *Attorney General of Québec vs. IMTT-Québec inc* (2019 QCCA 1598) clearly specifies the applicability of provincial environmental legislation to activities or enterprises governed by a federal authority: “[278] In principle, until proven otherwise, provincial laws and regulations of general application aimed at controlling contaminants apply within the port of Quebec. The same is true of the general prohibition set out in s. 20 EQA, which deals with the release of contaminants into the environment likely to adversely affect the health of human beings or cause damage to or otherwise impair the quality of the environment, and of the Quebec civil law doctrine of neighbourhood annoyances with which this general prohibition accords. [238] Citizens of Quebec have just as much of a right to an environment free of contaminants within the port of Quebec as they do elsewhere in Quebec. [279] It is appropriate, within this context, to point out that the federal legislation underscores the importance of effective and harmonious cooperation among all levels of government when dealing with environmental protection. In this area, collaboration rather than confrontation is needed.”

In light of the information brought to the attention of the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, my questions are as follows:

1. Can the Minister confirm that the project under way at Anse au Foulon complies with Québec environmental standards?
2. If it does not, why is the Minister not demanding compliance with Québec laws, in particular the Environment Quality Act, on the Anse au Foulon territory within the framework of the project developed by the Québec Port Authority and Sollio Groupe Coopératif?
3. After being alerted by citizens in the sector, as early as June 2020, why did the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change not send his own experts into the field to verify if the environmental standards were being complied with?
4. Considering that the Government recently petitioned the Supreme Court to have its law applied to the Port of Québec, how can the Minister justify his inaction in the Anse au Foulon sector given the Québec Court of Appeal ruling validating Québec’s jurisdiction in the matter?

(199) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2457-20210413)

Sollio Cooperative Group (formerly La Coop fédérée) operates a grain terminal at the Port of Québec, at the Anse au Foulon site. The Québec Port Authority (QPA) operates a rail yard right next door. The port activities planned for this sector will not all be fully operational until early 2022. The final project includes the conversion of the wood pellet terminal and the construction of four 15,000 tonne (t) silos, four smaller 1,000 tonne silos, covered conveyors, two grain handling and cleaning towers, a grain grading laboratory, two electrical substations and one grain car unloading station. The marine and land terminal will have the capacity to accommodate two moored ocean-going vessels, 110-car trains in sections in a rail yard, and around 100 trucks per day. The grain storage capacity will increase from 75,000 tonnes to 109,000 tonnes. The project’s anticipated export volume is 1,290,000 tonnes of grain per year via 47 ships. The terminal’s annual supply will be transported by 23 ships, 45 110-car trains and 4,210 30-tonne trucks.

Nearly 1,200 homes are located less than one kilometre from the project. Although the project has not yet been carried out to its full potential, the area's residents have already been suffering from the noise and air pollution for two years. The environmental impact analyses paid for by Sollio Cooperative Group and the Quebec Port Authority clearly show that, once the project is 100% operational, noise levels will exceed standards and fine particles will almost exceed standards. It should be noted that the analyses do not include all the fine particles or all the noise that will be emitted by the terminal. Additionally, the completed impact assessments do not take into account the noise from ships that will be moored at the wharf. Despite all these omissions, the study clearly indicates that the guideline values used will be exceeded. The noise from railway activities will almost always be above the standards (variance between +3 and +5). During train handling and railcar unloading—for approximately 12 hours—the noise levels for residents on Champlain Boulevard would be two times higher than the guideline values, while at the Jardins Mérici complex, the noise would exceed the guideline values. The impact assessment data shows that total fine particle concentrations will be just below Québec's environmental standard. In fact, the report states that there will be 29.3 µg/m³ while the standard of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux changements climatiques is 30 at the limits of the industrial zone. Moreover, and what is most worrisome, the assessment report takes into account only particles emitted from grain handling and cleaning. If the fine particles emitted by ships, trains and trucks on the project site are included, the current environmental standards will surely be exceeded. We would like to point out that as a result of this project, in a single day, there may be two ships moored at the wharf, as many as 100 trucks, and the dismantling of a 110-car train in the rail yard. And we know nothing at all about the fine dust emitted by the current Sollio Cooperative Group facilities located nearby, which will be linked to the project.

Furthermore, the total cost of the grain terminal and rail yard project is estimated at \$100 million. The Québec government has announced a financial contribution of \$30 million, which includes a \$10 million investment from Capital Logistique Québec and a \$20 million subsidy from the Ministère des Transports (MTQ) Programme de soutien aux investissements dans les infrastructures de transport maritime. However, one of the conditions of the subsidy program is compliance with Québec laws and regulations, failing which the subsidies may be withdrawn: “[Translation] Program beneficiaries must comply with the laws, regulations and standards in force and obtain the required authorizations before carrying out the project. The MTQ may withdraw from its commitment, reduce its contribution or require repayment of amounts paid if the applicant fails to comply with the conditions of the program or with Québec laws and regulations.”

In light of the matters brought to the attention of the Minister of Transport, we would like him to answer the following questions:

1. Why is the Minister of Transport not enforcing the rules of the subsidy program he administers by withdrawing the subsidies allocated to this project since it does not comply with Québec's current environmental regulations?
2. What use are the rules of his Programme de soutien aux investissements dans les infrastructures de transport maritime if it is possible to fail to comply with them without consequences and still receive subsidies?
3. How does the Minister of Transport justify that the task of ensuring compliance with the laws in force in Québec is left to the subsidy recipients, and that the government is not conducting any compliance audits?
4. Considering that citizens alerted the Ministère des Transports as early as February 2020, how does the Minister justify his inaction on this matter?
5. How does the Minister respond to citizens in the area who denounce the fact that public money is allocated to developers who then cause harm to citizens?

(200) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **9 March 2021**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2458-20210413)

In 1995, following proposals made by the Association des groupes de ressources techniques du Québec (AGRTQ) and the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation (CQCH), the Programme d'achat-rénovation en coopératives et OSBL (PARCO) was created.

A little over 1,000 housing units have been developed through the PARCO program. However, most of the agreements with the Société d'habitation du Québec for these housing projects will expire at the end of 2022, along with the rent supplement (PSL) subsidies that make it possible for those who are most vulnerable to live in these homes.

At a time when Québec is experiencing one of the worst housing crises in decades, with skyrocketing rents and an alarming vacancy rate, and when the current health crisis and resulting confinement have once again revealed the importance of having adequate housing, it is more important than ever that low-income households, and especially those living in housing created through the PARCO program, be able to have peace of mind about their future housing situation.

In light of the above, my question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the following:

Will the Minister immediately commit to maintaining the rent subsidies for co-operatives and non-profit housing, in particular those granted through the PARCO program?

(201) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **9 March 2021**
To the Minister of Transport
Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2494-20210422)

The Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques issued an order in council (890-2010) for the Turcot Complex reconstruction project in the cities of Montréal, Montréal-Ouest and Westmount to ensure that this major project is carried out properly from an environmental perspective.

One component of the Order in Council, condition 8 regarding the Saint-Jacques Escarpment, requires mitigation of the damages that will be caused to the wetland and trees in the area.

Instead of creating basins and a pond as presented to the public, the department wants to create a ditch that would require the removal of between 400 and 625 trees, even though most of them are healthy. The MTQ's explanations that this work is necessary “[Translation] to facilitate maintenance, ensure adequate drainage and guarantee the long-term stability of the Saint-Jacques Escarpment and the mound of the green strip” are confusing because the trees’ roots play an important role in maintaining soil stability.

The Escarpment is a major route for migratory birds, for which these trees are essential, and home to 65 species of birds, including species such as the wood thrush and the barn swallow, which are threatened, as well as the brown snake, which is on the way to becoming threatened.

In light of these points, we would like the Minister to answer the following questions:

1. Why is the Minister of Transport not complying with condition 8 of Order in Council 890-2010, as regards the Saint-Jacques Escarpment?
2. Why was the group Sauvons la falaise not notified about the Minister of the Environment's approval of tree removal or the start of work, despite a promise to do so?

What does the Minister intend to do to comply with condition 8?

(202) The Member for Verdun – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2459-20210413)

On 27 October 2020, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity tabled Bill 59, An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime. Various groups representing women, as well as all bodies representing the rights of Quebecers and Québec, condemned the Government's haste to move forward with a reform that will have significant impacts on the health and safety of women.

As regards this bill, please tell us whether the Secrétariat à la Condition féminine or the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale have conducted a gender-based analysis, or any other analysis to take into account the impacts on women?

Will the Minister also table the opinion produced by the Secrétariat à la condition féminine regarding this bill or any comments made before the tabling of this bill?

(203) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2460-20210413)

On 10 December 2020, the Minister of Justice tabled Bill 84, An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery. Various groups representing women condemned the Government's haste to move forward with a reform that could have significant impacts for women.

As regards this Bill, can the Minister tell us if the Secrétariat à la condition féminine or the Ministère de la Justice has conducted a gender-based analysis?

Can the Minister also table the opinion produced by the Secrétariat regarding this bill or any comments made before the tabling of this bill?

(204) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2461-20210413)

For victims of domestic and family violence, the pandemic has been a major ordeal that has brought to light all the suffering and isolation of victims.

Can the Minister tell us, since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, how many additional places have been opened for women who are victims of domestic violence and their children, broken down by region?

Can the Minister also tell us how many additional places have been offered to women who are homeless since the start of the pandemic, broken down by region, and tell us whether these places are exclusively for women?

(205) Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister of Education

Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2495-20210422)

In April 2020, the Premier affirmed that herd immunity was one of the reasons for students' return to the classroom.

Can the Minister table the public health notices on this subject?

(206) Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister of Education

Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2496-20210422)

On 8 January 2021, the Minister of Education announced that a mobile application would be created to give young people access to resources, testimonials, videos, etc. The Minister also announced that discussion forums on themes designed to meet the needs of young people would be set up to help mitigate feelings of isolation and offer ways to manage stress, in addition to a messaging service (chat) to be accessible throughout Québec.

For each of these announcements, can the Minister specify the progress of the work, the deadlines, the partner organizations responsible for implementing these measures and the contracts awarded to the organizations?

(207) Ms Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) – **9 March 2021**

To the Minister of Education

Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2497-20210422)

On 8 January 2021, the Minister of Education announced the implementation of a tutoring program and, according to the press release, the launch of various tutoring programs slated to begin at the end of January.

Can the Minister specify the list of tutoring programs put in place, the amounts allocated, the dates of allocation and a breakdown of the amounts by school service centre?

(208) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **10 March 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2462-20210413)

Saturday, 20 February 2021, marked the World Day of Social Justice. Celebrated each year, this day represents an opportunity to remember that, now more than ever, it is necessary to intensify the battle to eradicate poverty and reduce social inequalities and social exclusion. In this period of restriction and confinement, there is no doubt that equal access for all to health services, education, affordable housing and safe and suitable employment is threatened.

Indeed, for many of our fellow citizens, in particular seniors and people with disabilities, living conditions have deteriorated. The current social programs are no longer adequate and, in many cases, have been inadequate for a long time.

On 13 December 2002, Québec passed the Act to combat poverty and social exclusion following an unprecedented social mobilization that included the tabling of a petition signed by 215,307 people and more than 1,500 organizations. This Act is not perfect, but it has the merit of stipulating that in the fight against poverty, government action requires political responses and concerted actions.

I am proud to have participated in the drafting of this Act as head of the Minister's Office. However, 20 years later, we must ask ourselves if the various action plans have allowed us to meet the objectives clearly identified in the Act, that is, to progressively make Québec one of the industrialized nations with the least number of people living in poverty by 2013. It is clearly time to update our objectives.

My question is the following:

Would the Government agree that after 20 years it is advisable to review the Act, consult the groups again in order to assess its impact and determine the objectives to be achieved for the next 10 years?

209) Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) – **10 March 2021**

To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor

Answer tabled on **24 March 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2408-20210324)

Last year once again revealed that the work performed by women in the public sector is not sufficiently recognized. Nearly 300,000 women struggle to keep the health, education and social services networks in operation. However, pay equity has yet to become a reality.

The first public sector pay equity process was finalized in 2006. The first pay equity audit was performed in 2010. More than 3,000 complaints were filed with the pay equity commission, because the Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor (SCT) had not recognized the changes for certain job titles. In 2015, the SCT performed its second pay equity audit; again, it failed to recognize all the job title changes. More than 9,000 complaints were filed with the commission. The complaints filed in 2010 were transferred to the CNESST investigations unit in 2017 and the investigation process began in 2018. The unions again participated in a conciliation process from July 2019 to January 2020, but it yielded no conclusive results. In addition, the Government has repeatedly committed to paying orderlies an entry-level salary of \$26 an hour. If the job title issue were settled, 29,000 women would have a better salary. And if we include only the orderlies for 2015, nearly 60,000 women would have more decent conditions.

Considering the above,

1. Can the Chair of the Conseil du trésor explain why the SCT does not undertake to settle the job titles for which there is agreement and have the rest of the disputed cases settled by the CNESST, as the unions have suggested?
2. Why does the Chair not issue a mandate to settle the pay equity issue?
3. Why does the Chair not issue a mandate to settle the orderlies' 2015 pay equity complaint?

(210) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **11 March 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2463-20210413)

On this March 11, National day of remembrance for victims of COVID 19, I need not remind you that the impact the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing measures are having on social, community and economic services in all our ridings may continue for another year or more. One could surmise that the fallout will continue even after the public health situation has been restored.

The pandemic is not over and there are still needs to be met. The Government has rightly tripled the 2020–2021 budget made available to Members through the Soutien à l'action bénévole program, in order to better meet the requests of groups given the current public health emergency.

When we get access to funds quickly, it makes a big difference and it helps the community sector a lot. The Premier himself said that he was increasing the amount budgeted for the Soutien à l'action bénévole program because Members are the ones who are best positioned to quickly decide what their ridings need most to fight the pandemic. We have to admit that this was a good reaction on the part of the Premier, as the additional financial assistance has been very helpful for our communities.

This discretionary envelope makes it possible to meet the increase in financial requests from organizations in sectors related to poverty-reduction, food banks, health care, culture, services for seniors, families, education, and immigration.

As the time to table the next budget approaches, I hope that Québec's intentions are not to return the program's financing to pre-pandemic levels.

My question is the following:

We will survive this crisis, however I believe that our socio-community needs will continue to be affected for some time. We must continue. Can the Government assure the Members of the Assembly that they will be able to count on the same budget for the Soutien à l'action bénévole program as the one for 2020–2021?

(211) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **16 March 2021**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2464-20210413)

Since Mr. Réjean Bacon's hunger strike in January 2019, road accident victims and the Association pour les droits des accidentés that represents them have been waiting for changes to the Automobile Insurance Act. This reform, desired and announced by the Minister of Transport and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), was to address the alarming issue of compensation being reduced starting at age 65 and completely terminated at age 68. Those receiving compensation do not contribute to the Régie des rentes du Québec and are unjustly penalized when they retire. This injustice is also perpetuated because, according to the Institut de la statistique du Québec, life expectancy increased by 7.2 years for women and 11.3 years for men between 1977 and 2020.

In a written answer on 18 December 2019, the Minister of Transport expressed his concern and mentioned that he was waiting for solutions from the SAAQ. Since then, my office has been regularly following up on this matter with the office of the Ministère des Transports to see if there has been any progress.

Given the slowness of the process, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport the following questions:

1. On behalf of the road accident victims who are hostage to the slow pace of the proposed changes, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport what he intends to do in the short term to ensure they do not continue to suffer the injustice resulting from the reduced compensation?
2. Since the creation of the Régie de l'assurance automobile du Québec in 1978, the situation of those receiving compensation has continued to deteriorate because they must live for longer and longer periods of time with unjustly reduced income. Given the urgency of their situation and the extent of their needs, when does the Minister intend to introduce his bill?

(212) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **16 March 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **27 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2506-20210427)

People living in poverty in the regions and the organizations that stand up for them are complaining that they no longer have access to denturist services.

The Québec government is mainly responsible for this problem, according to the Association des denturologistes, which specializes in the manufacture, installation and adjustment of dentures.

Let us recall that being deprived of these services can cause health problems for the people affected or exacerbate problems they already have.

I don't think we should blame denturists. The problem is that the Government reimburses only two-thirds of the bill for denturists, who must also deal with a huge bureaucracy and a lot of State-imposed paperwork. In many regions, this situation results in a complete refusal by denturists to provide care to some of our most vulnerable population.

Denturists are under pressure, and this has significant impacts on the health of Quebecers who are on social assistance, which is unacceptable.

My question is the following:

Is the Government aware of the situation? What will it do to remedy this situation? It is a question of health and social justice.

(213) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **18 March 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2465-20210413)

Street outreach workers work in various organizations throughout Québec and their job is to provide support to individuals with kindness, professionalism and integrity. This work has existed for over 50 years, but unfortunately is not well understood and goes largely unseen by the general public.

Our society is not always able to properly care for people who are socially excluded. Street outreach workers provide a regular ongoing presence in the community for these vulnerable individuals serving as a point of reference and helping to reduce marginalization and social exclusion. They also provide support by integrating themselves into their daily lives and the spaces these individuals occupy with a non-repressive and tolerant approach. Their role is also to increase people's awareness who live in the streets by encouraging them to adopt and maintain safe and non-abusive behaviour with regard to their

health, all while carrying out actions of an informative, preventive and educational nature both for individuals and the community. Street outreach workers have the expertise to help individuals experiencing different problematic situations while making personalized referrals to services and demystifying the role of public health and social workers. They also promote cooperation amongst various organizations and resources in the community.

The impacts of the pandemic on mental health have demonstrated that needs are becoming increasingly dire within the general public. For this reason, the Government intends to deploy a network of scouts throughout Québec. Social workers and community workers will become the eyes and ears of communities in order to reach those suffering in silence. The Government cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach for all regions of Québec, rather it must take into account services that are already established in communities. In Bas-Saint-Laurent, the organization En Tout C.A.S. works hard to maintain what it has achieved. This new initiative will change the picture and limit access to financing, which is already difficult. The Government's efforts should instead be complementary while also increasing financial assistance.

My question is the following:

Street outreach workers must be considered and their work must be funded adequately to meet the needs of the communities in each region. Why not consolidate the outreach work already being done in the streets, rather than start a new project?

(214) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) - **18 March 2021**

To the Minister of Tourism

Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2498-20210422)

On 11 June 2020, the Minister of Tourism announced a tourism recovery plan with an emergency assistance envelope under the Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses (PACTE) of \$446 million in loans, including forgiveness of an amount equal to 25% of the loan repayment, up to a maximum of \$100,000. This represents direct assistance of only 8%. This low proportion will increase the financial burden on Québec's establishments and tourist attractions and hamper the industry's recovery.

Last November 10, the Minister announced that the forgivable portion of a loan under the tourism recovery plan would be increased from 25% to 40%, without however changing the ceiling, which is maintained at \$100,000.

On February 12 of this year, the Minister announced a new modification to the PACTE program, this time increasing the ceiling on the forgivable portion to \$250,000 and adding 100% coverage of monthly energy costs incurred between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021, up to \$35,000 per month, subject to an overall maximum of \$210,000 per establishment.

Further to the changes set out above, can the Minister tell us what proportion of the \$446 million of the tourism component of the PACTE program will be dedicated to establishments and tourist attractions?

(215) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) - **18 March 2021**

To the Minister of Tourism

Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2498-20210422)

In recent weeks, the Minister announced an action plan for responsible and sustainable tourism. In a related press conference, the Minister affirmed that the first measure she wants to quickly put in place is an electric car circuit to visit vineyards and farms in the Estrie region.

In connection with this statement and objective 2.2 of the action plan, can the Minister specify which regions will be targeted by the deployment of such circuits first, the planned investments that will be required to establish these circuits and the timetable for putting them in place?

(216) Mr. Tanguay (LaFontaine) – **18 March 2021**

To the Minister of Justice

Answer tabled on **4 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2524-20210504)

On 14 April 2020, the Honourable Judge Claude Dallaire made an important judgement (*A v. Attorney General of Quebec*, 2020 QCCS 3375) in which he ordered the Attorney General of Quebec and Ms. France Rémillard to pay damages to the plaintiff as a result of the actions of a public servant of the Ministère de la Justice.

Once the facts of this case were made public by the newspaper *La Presse*, the Minister mandated Ms. Lise Verreault to conduct an internal investigation into the compliance of the current management mechanisms and procedures of the Autorité centrale du Québec (ACQ). The report was submitted to the Minister on 17 December 2020 and subsequently made public.

With regard to this matter, I would like to ask the Minister the following questions:

- What actions have been taken to follow up on each of report's recommendations so far?
- How many people are currently employed by the ACQ? Can he provide their names and functions, a description of their duties and who they report to?
- Can he tell us what procedures have been put in place to ensure control and accountability mechanisms?
- Lastly, can the Minister tell us what Ms. France Rémillard's current functions are within the Ministère de la Justice?

(217) Ms. David (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) – **18 March 2021**

To the Minister Responsible for the French Language

Answer tabled on **4 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2525-20210504)

On November 4, 2019, the Conseil supérieur de la langue française released a study entitled "Pratiques linguistiques des ministères et organismes publics du gouvernement du Québec". The report contains an analysis of the governmental language policy adopted in 2011. The report reveals that just under 40% of government employees are aware of the existence of this language policy. Therefore, a large proportion of government employees cannot apply the policy in their day-to-day work and in their interactions with Québec citizens.

The day after the publication of this report, the Minister Responsible for the French Language issued a press release in which he stated that he had read the report and that he wanted to rectify the situation quickly.

Now that 16 months have passed since the Minister's commitment to rectify the situation, can the Minister tell us what actions have been taken to improve language practices within government departments and agencies?

- (218) Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) – **18 March 2021**
To the Minister of Justice
Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2499-20210422)

Last January 28, the Superior Court, in the Centre for Gender Advocacy v. Attorney General of Quebec case, declared certain articles of the Civil Code discriminatory against trans and non-binary individuals. Following this ruling, the Government has until December 31 to amend these articles.

These legislative changes are very important for Québec's LGBT+ community and will require the sensitivity and expertise necessary to be able to carry out this legislative work.

In order to accomplish this, will the Minister commit to setting up, as of now, a working table on the necessary amendments with the relevant groups, in particular, LGBT+ Family Coalition, Gender Creative Kids Canada, Conseil québécois LGBT and other experts?

- (219) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **23 March 2021**
To the Minister of Finance
Answer tabled on **22 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2500-20210422)

On 13 June 2018, 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, was passed and assented to. It brought about changes to legislation governing in particular commercial leasing brokerage.

One of the amendments that was introduced led to a certain loosening of the commercial real estate brokerage industry since the requirement to obtain a licence issued by the real estate self-regulatory organization known as the Organisme d'autoréglementation du courtage immobilier du Québec (OICAQ) to practise certain brokerage activities was withdrawn. The requirement to obtain a broker's licence is now linked to the aspect of professional representation rather than that of practice, which is paradoxical. Only individuals holding the title of broker and operating under this designation are required to have a broker's licence. This situation allows any player to enter the market without the need for a licence, despite the fact that transactions are often complex and delicate, and the legal obligations place all of the burden and risk on the tenants. In the past, the issuance of a licence at least ensured that industry players had the skills necessary to operate while ensuring the protection of the public.

The OACIQ interprets this legislative amendment as follows with respect to its practical application: "Licence holders performing leasing brokerage transactions are subject to the obligations of the REBA even when carrying out a leasing transaction. Other companies or individuals who do not hold a licence may now carry out leasing brokerage transactions, but cannot use a title leading others to believe that they are real estate brokers." The organization also received these changes with caution.

Taking into consideration these facts, it is important to enhance the norms and standards governing the practice of commercial leasing brokerage for the purpose of protecting the public. Therefore:

- Will the Minister of Finance commit to intervene by decree or regulation to rectify the situation by demanding that from now on a broker's licence issued by the OACIQ be required to practice commercial leasing brokerage?

(220) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **23 March 2021**

To the Premier

Answer tabled on **13 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2466-20210413)

In a letter dated September 2019, the Premier confirmed to me his desire to include the Autoroute 20 project between Notre-Dame-des-Neiges and Rimouski in the Québec Infrastructure Plan (PQI) once again. Anticipation for this project is high and the populations concerned would like to see the proposed routes and learn the project's impact in that area. But to do this, the project must first be reintegrated into the PQI.

In the same context, a public announcement was made in relation to this matter and reported on by several media outlets in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. In a Radio-Canada interview on September 13, the Premier stated that Autoroute 20 was indeed an electoral campaign commitment and that, as he had repeated for a year, they would keep all their electoral promises. The Premier added that it was the Liberal party that removed the Autoroute 20 project from the PQI, but that his party was going to reintegrate it into the PQI.

In the meantime, we have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic and the Québec government will have to position itself to put in place projects to help revive the economy of Québec and all its administrative regions.

Issues related to the environment and landscape protection are important and will necessitate that the planning of consultations and work begin sooner rather than later.

My question is the following:

- With the tabling of the budget just around the corner, can the citizens of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region count on the Premier to fulfil his election promise and will his Government finally reintegrate the Autoroute 20 project between Notre-Dame-des-Neiges and Rimouski into the PQI plan to help revive the economy in Eastern Québec?

(221) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **25 March 2021**

To the Minister of Higher Education

Answer tabled on **29 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2516-20210429)

In recent years, several controversies have erupted in Québec due to the absence of chemical validation. A recent example is the fire at a chemical plant in Trois-Rivières that resulted because no chemist was employed by the company.

Despite the fact that almost 3,000 chemists are members of the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (OCQ), it is reasonable to assume that a large number of individuals practise chemistry in Québec illegally and without adequate controls. This phenomenon has dramatically increased in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular with regards to the production of hydroalcoholic gel.

In addition, the professional practice of chemistry has evolved considerably in recent years and today has many ramifications that are not considered in the *Professional Chemists Act* (the Act), currently in effect. The lack of a defined framework for practising a field of biochemistry is also problematic. In this sense, the microbiologists represented by the Association des microbiologistes du Québec (AMQ) recently stated that they wished to be integrated into the OCQ. In order to ensure the independence of the analysis process and the competence of the individuals employed who are responsible for carrying on activities

related to the profession of microbiology, it is important that this be supervised without further delay by the OCQ, which already offers to its members the levers and tools required to practise in the field of microbiology.

In addition, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 98, An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system, the OCQ obtained the support of the Minister of Justice for updating the Act. The Minister, who was a member of the Opposition at the time, had urged the Government in place to proceed with the update quickly.

It is therefore essential that the Act be updated without delay for the good of the Québec population.

Given the above, our questions to the Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions are the following:

- In light of this information, will the Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions commit to updating the *Professional Chemists Act*?
- If so, within what time frame?

(222) Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) – **25 March 2021**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **27 April 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2507-20210427)

Regarding Québec's universal hearing screening program:

Screening for hearing impairment of newborn babies is essential in order to quickly identify possible learning disabilities or language disorders.

Considering that in the rest of Canada nearly 95% of newborns are screened, my questions to the Minister are the following:

- At what stage are we in implementing the program in Québec hospitals and birth centres?
- What are the targets by region and what is the timetable for implementation?
- What measures does the Minister intend to put in place to make this screening mandatory for each newborn and what is the timetable?
- Lastly, what percentage of newborns in Québec have been screened in recent years?

(223) Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) – **30 March 2021**

To the Minister of Public Security

Answer tabled on **6 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2531-20210506)

On Friday, 21 August 2020, during the period of appropriations for the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, I had asked the Minister what actions had been taken after her office received complaints about favouritism in what had become known as an organized system of political appointments for the promotion of Sûreté du Québec officers.

Based on the answers obtained, I had asked the Minister to inform the members of the Committee on Institutions of the following elements and to get back to us with the answers:

1. Who handled the complaints received by her office;
2. If the Minister had verified the Sûreté du Québec's officer promotion process;
3. How many complaints had her office received;
4. Were those in charge who were the subject of these complaints of favouritism informed of the allegations against them;
5. What did the Minister intend to do to ensure a fair promotion process for everyone.

Following this publicly made request, the basis of which is in the day's debate transcripts, the members of the Committee on Institutions have been waiting more than seven months for answers from the Minister and her department to these five questions.

During question period on 24 March 2021, I asked the Minister if her executive secretary, Mr. Cédric Lavoie, had had the time to inform her of the matter and the complaints he had received in November 2019.

Can the Minister inform and tell us what specific actions have been taken following the receipt of these complaints and provide answers to the five questions previously asked during the appropriations for the Ministère de la Sécurité publique on 21 August 2020?

(224) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **30 March 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **6 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2532-20210506)

The situation in western Bas-St-Laurent continues to deteriorate, with an increasing number of new COVID-19 cases. We are even reaching a record number of cases since the pandemic started. More and more people are worried that the region will become a red zone.

If that should happen, I wonder whether public health would penalize eastern Bas-Saint-Laurent which has an epidemiological record similar to that of our neighbours in the Gaspésie region, which is at the yellow level. Before the holidays, the CAQ government had decided to divide eastern and western Bas-Saint-Laurent in two. It is therefore possible to do the opposite at a time when the situation seems to be getting worse in the regional county municipalities in the western part of the region.

But according to the regional director for public health, it was the Minister of Health and Social Services who decided that the regions would not be split this time, contrary to before the holidays when KRTB remained orange while the regional county municipalities of Rimouski-Neigette, La Mitis, La Matapédia and La Matanie had become red zones.

The director was clear, stating that it was a political decision and that they had been told it would be like that for all regions this time: no divisions.

Therefore, my question is the following:

At a time when the region is concerned about becoming a red zone, with an increasing number of cases in the regional county municipalities of western Bas-St-Laurent, can the Minister explain to us on what basis he decided that it is no longer possible for a part of the region to remain an orange zone, contrary to before the holidays?

(225) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **31 March 2021**

To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
Answer tabled on **4 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2526-20210504)

Last October 7, the Coalition des opposants à un projet minier en Haute-Matawinie (COPH), a coalition of citizens from various sectors of the municipality of Saint-Michel-des-Saints, sent a letter to the Minister concerning the Matawinie mining project and progress on recommendations made by the BAPE commissioner in report 353 released in June 2020. To date, the COPH has not received a response from the Minister.

In his letter of introduction accompanying the commission's report, BAPE president Philippe Bourke stated that the commission of inquiry examined the project from a sustainable development perspective and that in this regard, the report brings to the attention of the decision-making bodies concerned various elements that require commitments, actions or modifications, before the possible issuance of government authorizations.

For the sake of transparency, we would like to know the state of progress and the results of the recommendations made by the commission in its report.

In the report's conclusion, the commission states that given the social acceptability issues important at the time of the public hearing, but recognizing the complexity of integrating this project into an inhabited resort area, it believes that Nouveau Monde Graphite (NMG) should carry out the recommended assessments to reduce uncertainty about aspects the area considers valuable, in particular, water quality, quality of life, cohabitation, property values and mining legacy effects. Based on the results of these assessments, improvements should be made by the project developer and then evaluated by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC) before authorization of the project.

In its report, the committee also states that the MELCC must ensure that it obtains nine additional assessments from the project developer.

I would therefore like to ask the Minister of the Environment the following questions:

1. What assessments have been carried out by his department and by the project developer since report 353 was tabled by the commission in June 2020?
2. Were the assessments completed before the project was authorized by his department?
3. Will the assessments be made public?

(226) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – 1 April 2021

To the Government

Answer tabled on **25 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2553-20210525)

Passe-Partout is an educational program that facilitates the first transition to school for 4-year olds and their families. It is recognized that children who have participated in Passe-Partout are likely to be less vulnerable in kindergarten. That is why parents should have access to this program by choice.

This educational program has been offered for more than 40 years and it is unique in that it supports parenting skills while facilitating the first transition to school. This program may be offered in parallel with the 4-year old kindergarten program and is a great complement to the various educational childcare services. The Passe-Partout program benefits participating children in numerous ways. It makes it possible to reach children who do not attend any educational childcare service before the age of five and to identify their vulnerabilities and needs before they start school. It is necessary to have all the tools to act quickly if a child is experiencing difficulties.

In the current context of the pandemic and as regards changes in kindergarten for 4-year olds, I have learned that many school service centres have reduced the number of Passe-Partout groups.

Funding for the Passe-Partout program is capped, so these cuts will be permanent.

It is a matter of two different educational programs that can co-exist.

My questions are as follows:

Is it possible to suspend the funding cap on the Passe-Partout program in the budget rules for school service centres so that the spaces not being used during the pandemic can be funded in future years?

Is it feasible to review the terms of the Passe-Partout program for 2022–2023 with regard to the recommendations of the department's assessment report, including the updating of the organizational framework and budget rules so that the program can be implemented throughout Québec?

(227) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – 13 April 2021

To the Government

Answer tabled on **9 June 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2618-20210609)

In principle, anyone whose physical or mental health has changed is required to undergo an automobile driving assessment. If a person's driving abilities are affected following an illness, they must be assessed by an occupational therapist, which is normal. However, age must not be a criterion of discrimination. Many elderly drivers must take a Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) road test. If they fail the test, the SAAQ often requests that they consult an occupational therapist. The current fee of \$650 for an occupational therapist and the one-year wait time for an appointment are unacceptable.

In the past, this service was offered free of charge by the region's Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS). For the past few years, this service has been offered solely by private practitioners and there has been an increase in costs that has become difficult for elderly people to pay. The stress of undergoing such an assessment is compounded by the anxiety caused by the financial costs.

In a democratic society such as ours, which has strong social values, how is it that we have come to this point where we have totally eliminated this public service that was necessary for a large part of the population?

In my opinion, ageism exists when seniors are discriminated against compared with younger people. A young person can retake his or her road test without having to consult an occupational therapist.

My question is the following:

Will the Government reconsider this rule in order to provide the population, including seniors, with a public occupational therapy service?

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

To the Government

Answer tabled on **25 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2554-20210525)

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

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

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

My question is the following:

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

(229) Ms. Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) – **20 April 2021**

To the Minister of Higher Education

Answer tabled on **27 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2570-20210527)

On 7 October 2021, the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (OCQ) sent the Minister a letter to express its serious concerns regarding three matters and propose a solution, which is to update the Professional Chemists Act.

First, the OCQ expressed a grave concern about the obsolescence of the Professional Chemists Act, which was enacted in 1964 and hampers efforts to adequately fight the illegal practice of chemistry and protect the public.

Second, the lack of an adequate framework for the profession of microbiologist creates a major risk for the population that is well-documented. The OCQ is concerned about a possible increase in disinformation regarding the current health situation.

Lastly, the OCQ deplors that the current Act prevents foreign-trained chemists' integration into the order and the labour market because it disregards all the chemistry experience that a qualified and competent candidate has acquired in their career.

The Ordre des chimistes du Québec proposes to remedy these three problems through the legislative review of the Act, which would include updating the definition of chemistry, ensuring the integration of microbiologists into a joint order with chemists and facilitating the integration of foreign-trained chemists.

Can the Minister tell us her orientations and timetable for updating the Professional Chemists Act?

Can the Minister tell us if a new bill will be introduced during this legislature?

(230) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **21 April 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **6 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2533-20210506)

After a year of the pandemic, better support for people living in poverty is clearly not the priority of the Québec government. And yet we are talking about 800,000 people who are unable to cover their basic needs in Québec... Should that not incite us to revisit social solidarity models borrowing from guaranteed basic income?

Last week, at the federal level, the office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) presented the results of the exercise that had led it to publish its first estimates in July 2020. It explained that it had applied, across Canada, the policy parameters of a small-scale pilot project carried out on a sample of 4,000 people in 2017. The Ontario Liberal Party had introduced the measure before Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative Party ended it after the 2018 election.

According to the PBO, a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) would reduce the poverty rate in Québec by more than 60.4% and by 49% overall in Canada. These estimated reductions in the poverty rate are calculated according to the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which is based on the average price of basic goods and services.

Why not try a pilot project in Québec? Organizations coming together to form a common alliance for all of Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine support the idea of testing a basic income or basic income guarantee project in all these regions over a period of 20 years.

The goal is to ensure a safety net for everyone, whether illness strikes or a person wants to make a career change.

According to one of the project promoters, Yves Bonnier Viger, public health director for Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the experiments done around the world have always given results that point us in the same direction: reducing mortality, violence, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, etc.

According to him and according to basic income proponents, it has also been demonstrated that those who receive a basic income do not "enrich themselves" and do not stop working. In fact, the contrary was observed. Once social assistance and other programs are replaced, the project will cost an estimated \$800 million, but this amount is expected to diminish over time.

For the moment, the alliance wishes to discuss the best approach to take for a two- or three-year period. After that, the pilot project could take place over a 20-year period.

The relevance of such a project is even more important since it would take place in a socio-economic environment that amplifies isolation and social exclusion and further deepens inequalities.

My question is the following: Is the Ministère de la Solidarité sociale willing to participate in such a pilot project as that supported by the public health director for Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine?

(231) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **22 April 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **3 June 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2595-20210603)

Considering the historically low vacancy rate in the Rimouski CMA (0.9% according to the most recent CMHC statistics) and considering the market reality observed through negotiations with the majority of private property-owners participating in the Rent Supplement Program (RSP), it is possible that any of a number of problems related to the lack of available affordable housing may arise in the coming months, specifically in Rimouski's urban sector. We are headed straight for a July 1st crisis.

Also, in the current context, it is foreseeable and probably that housing problems could arise because some households will not qualify as eligible applicants with the Office d'habitation Rimouski Neigette (OHRN). And that the OHRN would then have few resources to participate in the resolution of these issues, except for temporary last-resort assistance (e.g. in a situation where someone is experiencing homelessness).

Since 1 July 2020, the OHRN and its partners have seen a significant increase in homelessness. Notably, some citizens lived in tents or seasonal dwellings, and with the arrival of winter some required emergency assistance. Although the OHRN was able to provide support to a number of such applicants experiencing difficulties, it and its partners noted that some of those citizens experiencing difficulties did not meet the criteria for available social housing programs.

Options are limited in such situations. Partners offering temporary sheltering have often been overwhelmed by demand, because transitional housing (1 and a half, studio) on the market is all already fully occupied. Organizations working in the housing sector in neighbouring RCMs have confirmed that they are experiencing the same problem (extremely low vacancy rate for affordable housing, pressure on the rental and real estate market due to positive migration, and a lack of options for citizens who need larger dwellings).

In addition, this housing scarcity raises concerns that the already precarious situation experienced by low- and modest-income renter households could deteriorate even further, as average rent prices continue to increase. The average monthly rent for a three-bedroom dwelling increased by 5.7% over one year, while the CPI increased by only 0.8%. The various partners involved in the provision of social housing are concerned that in the current context renter households forced to move may simply not find an affordable place to move to. These are all citizens who need social housing right now but are being forced to wait for months, if not years.

It is therefore important that those involved in this field come up with a comprehensive solution for citizens who are not eligible for social housing, or who are eligible but find themselves on a long waiting list, and as a result are falling through the cracks. Various partners, including public health authorities, social services, municipalities and their various partners are assuming their responsibilities as best they can, but the reality is Rimouski needs at least 305 additional housing units.

My question is threefold:

Given the situation with regard to the housing crisis in Québec, where are the 15,000 housing units the CAQ government promised would be built?

Given the rise in housing prices in Québec, are there any means that will be put in place to avoid speculation and the unacceptable increase in the cost of housing?

Will municipalities and community partners receive any special assistance to deal with what is looming on July 1st and the shortage of affordable housing that is apprehended?

- (232) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **28 April 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services
Answer tabled on **8 June 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2611-20210608)

On 26 November 2018, the Government announced the expansion and restructuring of the emergency department of the Hôpital de Jonquière in the Jonquière riding. The announcement stated development of the functional and technical program was authorized to begin.

Our questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services are as follows:

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services authorize the stage for the plans and specifications essential to carrying out the work in the coming weeks, given that delays will influence the timeline?

- (233) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **28 April 2021**
To the Minister of Economy and Innovation
Answer tabled on **27 May 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2571-20210527)

On 24 April, we learned that a trade dispute between Canada and Australia was going to penalize Québec's small wine producers. The agreement provides for new fees on Québec bottles sold in grocery stores and convenience stores. Those fees could reach \$6 per bottle, which would add a degree of difficulty to selling this type of product in grocery stores. The new measure represents another barrier for Québec's wine and mead producers.

My question is the following:

Is the Minister of Economy considering allowing wine and mead producers to sell online and ship their products directly to the client to counter the negative impacts of this new provision?

- (234) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **5 May 2021**
To the Government
Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2679-20210914)

Recently, all of Québec's Auberges du cœur requested financial support from the government to ensure the sustainability and deployment of their activities. The Auberges du cœur rightly pointed out that funding for the mission of youth shelters was not increased in the last budget.

The situation of young people experiencing difficulties and homelessness is especially worrying in the context of the health measures related to COVID-19 and the housing crisis. The Auberges du cœur welcome many young people from across Québec throughout the year. In my riding, Le Transit crisis

centre offers support to some 80 young Quebecers experiencing difficulties and homelessness every year. These youth, aged 17 to 30, experience difficulties that can have a significant impact on their social integration, family life, lifestyle, professional integration or academic career.

Despite the addition of services and programs, many of these young people are dealing with an accumulation of setbacks, abuse, neglect, and poor decisions or even just bad luck which undermines their ability to cope.

The Auberges du cœur has developed innovative approaches to support youth in their efforts to improve their autonomy and ability to act. The goal is to develop meaningful ties with young people and also to help them develop the autonomy they need to live their lives.

My question is the following:

Does the Government intend to respond positively to the requests of the Auberges du cœur so that they can focus on their mission, which is to provide support to youth experiencing difficulties along life's journey?

(235) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **11 May 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **11 June 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2630-20210611)

In the last three years, Québec has experienced droughts that have had a drastic impact on the hay yields and reserves in a number of administrative regions in our territory. This has directly impacted the lives of Québec farmers. It is clear that climate change is directly affecting the quality of life of Québec citizens and that if nothing is done soon, the effects will increase exponentially.

My question is the following:

- Has the Government begun to analyze the impacts of climate change on farm production in Québec? If so, how many years are considered in the analysis and what action does the Government plan to take?
- Does the Government intend to respond more quickly than in previous years by putting in place an assistance program to meet the needs of farmers who are suffering production losses as a direct result of climate variability?

(236) Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) – **12 May 2021**

To the Minister of Higher Education

Answer tabled on **9 June 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2619-20210609)

During the public hearings held in August 2019 on Bill 29, An Act to amend the Professional Code and other provisions in particular in the oral health and the applied sciences sectors, the committee heard that there were only five dental assistants in all Québec dental laboratories. Dental assistants are employees who work in dental laboratories, but who have not completed a diploma of college studies (DCS) that would qualify them as a dental technician. However, contrary to what the committee heard, an estimated 1,000 dental assistants currently work in Québec dental laboratories under the supervision of a member of the order, as is done in other fields, such as in the field of pharmacy.

The Ordre des technologues en prothèses et appareils dentaires du Québec (OTPADQ) is now working to have these dental assistants certified as members of the order. However, apparently this is rarely possible because many of them do not meet the order's eligibility criteria.

This new requirement could therefore result in a major labour shortage in Québec dental laboratories and, in turn, jeopardize the supply of dental appliances and prostheses to the Québec population.

In a context where public health and the health system are under considerable strain, the potential inability of dental laboratories to provide appliances and prostheses could compromise the oral health of Quebecers.

My questions are the following:

- Can the Minister clarify whether dental assistants can continue to work within the current framework without being required to become members of the OTPADQ?
- How does the Minister plan to avoid a breakdown in the delivery of dental laboratory services in Québec?

(237) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) – **26 May 2021**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2680-20210914)

In Québec, citizens generally have three years to file a lawsuit against another person, a company or a government. However, the law provides for some exceptions, including a maximum period of six months to file a lawsuit against a city or town.

This provision of the *Cities and Towns Act*, which dates back several decades, means that heartbreaking cases filed by citizens must be abandoned for lack of a longer prescription period. This is the case of a Hudson citizen who was negotiating in good faith with her city for compensation following the flooding of her house due to the failure of a municipal dam. Judge Pierre-C. Gagnon, who looked into the case of the citizen in question, alerted the government as to the relevance of maintaining the six-month prescription period, which he said protects towns and cities to the detriment of citizens and is a privilege which may have become obsolete and unjustified.

In the absence of bodily injury, these provisions also prevail in the context of cases filed against a police department or one of its employees, in particular with regard to discriminatory profiling by police officers. Obviously, these provisions undermine citizens' trust in their institutions.

In its brief submitted to the advisory committee on policing last November, the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse noted that it is confronted regularly with difficulties posed by this exceptionally short prescription period. That is why it considered that Bill 168 – tabled in the National Assembly in 2017, but which then died on the Order Paper without having been passed – constituted a true recognition of the primacy of the rights protected by the Charter and of the primary role it must play in Québec's legal system. It should be recalled that sections 36 and 37 of that bill would have had the effect of eliminating the exceptions that reduce the three-year prescription period generally applicable to an action filed to receive compensation for damages resulting from a violation of rights or freedoms protected under the Charter.

Moreover, the Chairperson of the Human Rights Tribunal noted in her 2017 activity report that given their importance, any recourse based on the fundamental rights protected under the Charter should indeed benefit from an extended period, thus ensuring that litigants have a useful and effective remedy.

The Minister is aware of this issue. She is also aware of the various rulings and recommendations made by the various bodies.

My question is the following:

1. Is the Minister open to abolishing the maximum six-month prescription period for claiming damages against a municipality provided for under the *Cities and Towns Act*?

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

To the Government

Answer tabled on **22 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2773-20210922)

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

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

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

My question is the following:

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

(239) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **1 June 2021**

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2681-20210914)

The March 2021 budget plan entitled “Québec is resilient and confident” states that Government funding “allowed 1 759 units to be built in 2019, compared to 834 in 2018” (p. E.10).

In addition, on 5 May 2021, during the examination of the “Housing” component of the 2021–2022 estimates of expenditure, the Minister stated that the Government had allowed for the construction of 3,000 social housing units.

With regard to this matter, I would like the Minister to table a list of the social housing projects completed in 2018, 2019 and 2020, and the first quarter of 2021, indicating for each project: the project name, the program under which funding was granted, the municipality, the subsidy amount and the number of units included.

(240) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **3 June 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2682-20210914)

As part of the Semaine québécoise des personnes handicapées held from 1 to 7 June 2021, I would like to question the Government of Québec about its commitment to put in place a pilot project to help adults with disabilities quit residential and long-term care centres.

When Mr. Jonathan Marchand, who suffers from muscular dystrophy, protested in front of the Parliament Building last August, I supported him to show my solidarity with persons with severe disabilities who wish to live with dignity. This 44-year-old man has been fighting for a very long time to regain full independence.

A pilot project was announced for the summer of 2021, but the Government's vision appears to be contested. Apparently, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) would like to create a housing model that would group a number of people with physical limitations.

The alternative proposed by people with disabilities would be to create a self-managed personal assistance program. They could recruit caregivers to provide homecare services and support them in their activities. This approach would allow them to contribute to society.

The Government's proposed model is not innovative. They are reproducing a model that already exists. Unfortunately, it does not help people with disabilities regain their independence.

My question is the following:

Why is the opinion of people with disabilities not being considered in order to provide adequate services that are adapted to their needs?

(241) Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) – **9 June 2021**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **15 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2724-20210915)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(242) Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue) – **9 June 2021**

To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2683-20210914)

In June 2019, following a disruption in obstetrics services in La Sarre, consultant Sylvain Gagnon, mandated by the MSSS, submitted a report to the latter containing several recommendations to prevent the situation from recurring. Some of these recommendations were more generally concerning the labour shortage in the network, particularly in remote regions such as Abitibi-Témiscamingue. It was essential, according to Mr. Gagnon, that the MSSS intensify and coordinate nationally efforts to recruit abroad in order to benefit remote regions. More generally, the MSSS should, in his opinion, establish a national workforce development strategy without delay. The consultant also recommended creating a working group made up of representatives of remote regions in order to develop an intervention strategy for recruiting and retaining labour in the regions.

Considering the aforementioned:

1. Have the recommendations made to the MSSS in the Gagnon report been implemented? In particular:
 - a. Recommendation 11: The MSSS, with its sectoral partners, should examine, in the very short term, the feasibility of adopting a national workforce development strategy to effectively address the structural issue of labour shortages in the Québec health and social services network;
 - b. Recommendation 12: Under the authority of the MSSS, set up a working group made up of representatives of remote regions with a mandate to develop an intervention strategy for the recruitment and retention of the workforce in the regions;
 - c. Recommendation 16: Under the authority of the MSSS, set up a working group to examine the feasibility of introducing a new job title for obstetrics and birthing units in rural areas and to define the conditions of practice;
 - d. Recommendation 17: Under the authority of the MSSS, set up a working committee bringing together stakeholders from the regions in order to identify incentives for professionals to relocate and remain in the regions.

2. If the recommendations were implemented, when were the various steps for implementing these recommendations carried out? And what results were achieved?
3. What is planned for the further implementation of these recommendations?

(243) Ms. St-Pierre (Acadie) – **9 June 2021**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2684-20210914)

What amounts have been disbursed by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications since 1 March 2020 to support art training schools, in particular under the program Aide au fonctionnement pour les organismes de formation en art?

More specifically, as regards the amounts announced for the circus community last 22 April, what proportion of this will be allocated to increase support for circus schools, especially those supported by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and not by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec?

(244) Ms. Thériault (Anjou–Louis-Riel) – **9 June 2021**

To the Minister of Justice

Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2685-20210914)

In January 2021, the Association coopérative d'économie familiale Montérégie-est conducted an investigation of companies that specialize in providing quick loans. The results of this investigation, presented in May 2021, show that there are 15 such companies, in their territory alone. The business model of these companies, which do not hold lender permits, takes advantage of vulnerable consumers and exploits their naivety.

This study shows that the Minister of Justice must legislate in order to prevent other scams of this type and strengthen the law.

After more than a year of the pandemic, which has been hard on Quebecers' wallets, many have turned to dubious, but seemingly serious businesses in order to gain access to some form of credit. These companies agree to enter into quick loan contracts and charge exorbitant credit fees, without ever being worried that the government will audit them.

With the real estate market exploding over the past year, many families are struggling to cover their monthly expenses. It often becomes impossible to pay the mortgage on their property because of their financial precarity. Many families are falling into debt to the point where they can no longer find payment solutions for the collection of their debt. It is unfortunate to know that many young families turn to these kinds of businesses thinking that their financial problems will be resolved, but much to the contrary, these problems become worse.

During the examination of the estimates of expenditure last May, the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the *Consumer Protection Act*, told us he was actively working on a bill that would cover balloon loans, umbrella mortgages, legal mortgages and joint liability for credit card purchases.

When does the Minister of Justice intend to introduce a bill to Members of the National Assembly and will all these subjects be addressed in the bill?

(245) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **10 June 2021**

To the Government

Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2686-20210914)

Everyone now agrees, after the terrible lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, that it is absolutely essential to strengthen the protection of seniors' rights.

On 4 December 2019, here in the National Assembly of Québec, I tabled Bill 497 which aims to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms and to create an office of Seniors Ombudsperson.

This position would be dedicated exclusively to promoting and respecting seniors' rights. A Seniors Ombudsperson who will be independent of the health network and, above all, independent of the government and its political and communications vagaries.

A Seniors Ombudsperson who will be able to take action in multiple areas, not just health, but also in the area of adapted transport and various other aspects of seniors' lives. The Seniors Ombudsperson will also be able to conduct investigations to ensure the safety of seniors and to put an end to maltreatment.

I am asking the Government to bring this bill forward so that it can be examined. The situation is urgent. Seniors must no longer be afraid to denounce the abuses of which they are victims, such as unfair increases in their rent or fees for care, fees charged for services not offered, negligence in all its forms, obsolescence of facilities, etc.

Every day we hear new cases of the abuse or maltreatment of seniors, or new revelations about their appalling living conditions. In the health and housing sectors, the media regularly reports cases of non-compliance with ratios, inadequate care, and shortages in staff, medications and equipment.

It is imperative we agree that it is absolutely inconceivable after decades of promotional campaigns, online consultations, pre-made forums and media operations that we have not made more progress in this area. It is clear that an Ombudsperson specifically dedicated to seniors must be appointed to ensure their safety and the respect of their rights.

We are currently experiencing a heightened national awareness of the importance of defending seniors' rights and ensuring that they can live with dignity.

My question is the following:

Does the Government intend to bring forward Bill 497, An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms in order to strengthen the protection of seniors' rights and create the office of Seniors Ombudsperson?

(246) Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) – **11 June 2021**

To the Minister of Transport

Answer tabled on **14 September 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2687-20210914)

In Québec, traffic accident victims must deal with the compensation officers at the Société de l'assurance automobile (SAAQ) in order to obtain the assistance to which they are entitled.

These officers are responsible for applying the spirit and the letter of the law, a task they perform diligently.

However, several testimonials brought to my attention suggest that the SAAQ was applying the law too strictly and without the humanity needed to address this type of situation. For example, last January, the show J.E provided a look into the extremely difficult daily lives of victims of traffic accidents.

A number of the victims must live with permanent impairments, such as recurring headaches, ongoing fatigue, anxiety or even cognitive impairments. In addition to having to adapt to their new limiting condition, these people feel abandoned, left alone to deal with the SAAQ to receive the help they are owed.

Victims of traffic accidents are not necessarily familiar with administrative procedures. The SAAQ must act more like a facilitator rather than an opponent when it comes to providing assistance to accident victims. In particular, officers should benefit from greater flexibility in order to adapt to the specific context of each such victim.

On 19 May 2021, in a letter, the Minister made a commitment to table a bill before the National Assembly “within a few months” to address this issue. This would also be an opportunity to revisit the Regulation respecting lump-sum compensation for non-pecuniary damage, whose passage dates to 2000.

Will the Minister commit to relaxing the eligibility criteria for traffic accident victims who have impairments?

Can the Minister confirm his timeline for tabling his bill and guarantee it will be tabled by the end of the next parliamentary session?

Can the Minister confirm that he will update the Regulation respecting lump-sum compensation for non-pecuniary damage by the end of the next parliamentary session?

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

To the Minister of Transport

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

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

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

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

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

My questions to the Minister are the following:

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

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

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

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

Their sole requirement is to report, every five years, the concentration of total particles emitted into the atmosphere, without identifying the particles or analyzing samples of the other contaminants emitted. Yet scientific articles and Canada's Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory show that crematoriums emit 10 of the 12 most toxic contaminants denounced by the WHO and the Stockholm Convention.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My question is the following:

Will the Minister commit to considering

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

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

To the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

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

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

Consequently, as regards this project:

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

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

To the Government

Answer tabled on **7 October 2021** (Sessional Paper No. 2923-20211007)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My questions are the following:

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

(252) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **16 September 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

In June of this year, Health Canada approved Trikafta, a breakthrough medicine to treat people living with cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common fatal disease affecting Canadian children and young adults. It causes various effects on the body, but mainly affects the digestive system and lungs. The persistence and ongoing infection in the lungs eventually lead to death in the majority of people with the disease.

A Canadian study published in the *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis* found that access to Trikafta as of 2021 would result in considerable health benefits for Canadians with the disease. By 2030, Trikafta could reduce the number of people living with severe lung disease by 60% and the number of deaths by 15%.

Health Canada's approval of Trikafta means that physicians can now prescribe the drug to their cystic fibrosis patients. However, before everyone who needs the drug can benefit from it, public and private prescription drug insurance plans must agree to reimburse it.

The ball is now in the Québec government's court, since it must now decide whether public and private plans will reimburse this extremely costly drug.

My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is the following:

Does the Minister intend to make the drug Trikafta available to all Quebecers who need it through prescription drug insurance?

(253) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **16 September 2021**
To the Government

Ever since our ancestors settled here, access to the sea, in particular port infrastructures, has played a central role not only in our economy, but also in our daily lives. Abandoning, neglecting or failing to invest the amounts needed to keep these infrastructures in operation would be the equivalent of sweeping under the rug the profound nature and the reality of Québec's maritime regions.

On 30 March 2020, the federal government transferred four ports in eastern Québec, including the port of Rimouski, to the Québec government. I could go on and on about the poor deal made by the Couillard government the year before but, unfortunately, we cannot rewrite that contract, which is very disadvantageous for Québec. This agreement only provides for slightly more than \$148 million for the upgrading **and** operation of the ports of Rimouski, Matane, Gaspé and Gros-Cacouna. Considering Ottawa's neglect to maintain these infrastructures in the past, we know that amount is laughable.

Rimouski is already a maritime innovation zone. How is it possible that the federal government allowed the Rimouski port to deteriorate to the point that the Coriolis II, a key research vessel used by the Institut des sciences de la mer (ISMER) maritime science centre, can no longer be based there? To tolerate such an absurd situation is to deny the obvious quality of our scientific researchers in this field.

The current Québec government can show greater foresight and wisdom than its predecessors, in particular the federal government. The new port authority for eastern Québec is considering projects that would allow the port of Rimouski to regain its previous status, including for citizens who use it for recreation and for visitors, who can admire the unique view of the magnificent maritime city of Rimouski.

My questions to the Minister are the following:

1. In the wake of the federal government's 30 March 2020 transfer of the port of Rimouski, does the Québec government recognize the lack of funding allocated to it in the transfer agreement?
2. Considering the vital socio-economic role it plays in the region, can the Québec government definitively assure us that the funding for the work at the port of Rimouski is not limited to the amounts in the blundered 2019 agreement with Ottawa and confirm that as part of its new maritime policy, Rimouski can count on funding to improve and develop its infrastructure?

(254) Ms. Dorion (Taschereau) – **21 September 2021**

To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

I would like to draw the Minister of Social Solidarity's attention today to the situation, in particular, of persons receiving benefits under the Social Solidarity Program or Social Assistance Program who need assistive devices provided by CISSS and CIUSSS professionals, whose physical disabilities make them also eligible for assistive devices under the MSSS's AVQ-AVD program. These include a wide range of devices such as toilet seats, syringes, walkers, walking canes, etc.

The important thing to understand here is that a two-tiered system currently exists in our health and social services network. Here is a concrete example to illustrate my point for the Minister. Ms. Tremblay is not receiving benefits under the Social Assistance Program or Social Solidarity Program. She undergoes an in-home assessment by a health professional from her local CLSC. Based on the assessment, it is determined that she needs an adjustable toilet seat or a bath bench. Her occupational therapist, physiotherapist or nurse then fills out a material assistance request form for the CLSC's AVQ-AVD program. The completed form is then evaluated by a health professional team, and, if approved, the cost of the devices is fully covered by the AVQ-AVD program and a long-term loan is made. However, when Ms. Caron, a Social Assistance Program recipient, needs the same seat, additional steps are required because she has a paying agency. A special benefit is granted by the MTESS to the MSSS for this type of assistive device resulting in it being partially covered by the MTESS and partially by the AVQ-AVD program. The AVQ-AVD program pays the balance still owing once the MTESS has granted its amount. To obtain this special benefit, a doctor's prescription is required as well as two price estimates from specialized stores. For example, for an electric bed costing \$2,000, the MTESS will pay \$435 and the AVQ-AVD program covers the balance. However, for a person with a disability who is not a social assistance recipient, the MSSS will cover 100% of the costs through its AVQ-AVD program. This process is simpler, faster, more efficient and requires less work time for CISSS and CIUSSS health professionals. No doctor or specialist doctor is required.

For a toilet seat costing \$39, a health professional paid on average \$48 per hour must take several hours of their time to obtain documents from a doctor or health specialist, then sent to the MTESS officer to obtain a SR-006 form (for a special benefit authorization). The authorization must then be signed by the beneficiary and submitted to the AVQ-AVD program, in the case of an MTESS beneficiary. As most such beneficiaries do not have a family physician, they end up going to an emergency room or walk-in medical clinic to obtain said prescriptions, which have been previously partially written up by CLSC professionals (to be signed by a doctor). Otherwise, the CLSC professionals have to retrace, contact, track down and take up doctors, precious time with this and then wait several weeks for said prescriptions to be sent by fax. Most often these same professionals have to search for the prescriptions because the beneficiaries often have severe disabilities that make it difficult to perform this type of task. All of this is not without mentioning the fact that some specialists and their administrative assistants are even contacted for assistive devices that could be prescribed by the health professionals the patients are already in contact with. In the midst of a shortage of family doctors, this seems like a rather strange allocation of resources.

It would be in the MTESS's interest to simply transfer the maximum eligible amount directly to the CLSCs at the request of the CLSC professionals, thus avoiding the need for medical prescriptions and price estimates. This would save the MSSS unnecessary salary expenses, paid simply to transfer small amounts from one government department to another.

In light of the aforementioned, my questions to the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity are as follows:

- Does the Minister intend to set up a system for transferring the maximum eligible amount directly to a CLSC at the request of a CLSC health professional, thus avoiding the need for prescriptions and price estimates?
- If not, does the Minister intend to streamline the special benefit program to allow social assistance or social solidarity recipients to obtain prescriptions/recommendations for these assistive devices from the university-educated professionals authorized to do so by the CISSS and CIUSSS rather than doctors?

(255) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **22 September 2021**
To the Government

Early childcare workers and educators working in the region's childcare centres (CPEs) have been without a work contract for 18 months. These people are essential for our families and for the regional economy. Now more than ever, it is essential to promote their profession by improving their working conditions.

In August, the Government announced 430 childcare spaces for the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, including 334 spaces for my riding. This is, of course, good news that I took the time to recognize. However, stakeholders in the sector and the Minister himself agreed that finding the workers to make these new spaces operational was a formidable challenge.

In order to meet this challenge of recruitment and of a critical shortage of personnel, which unfortunately leads to interruptions in service, it is obvious that better working conditions must be offered to CPE workers. It is inconceivable that the Government has left these people without a collective agreement for 18 months.

CPE workers are demanding, in particular, a fair wage increase for all job titles, the means to provide better services to children, including children with special needs, and compliance at all times with ratios for the children's safety. They also want the time to prepare the children's records and manage the kitchen.

In order to ensure a true economic recovery and allow parents to return to their work, the Government must act quickly to meet the demands of CPE workers and train new educators who are motivated by more respectful working conditions.

My question is the following:

Does the Government intend to improve the working conditions of CPE workers, considering that a lack of human resources in CPEs has serious impacts on the quality of life of families and the economic recovery?

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

In the 1990s, oil companies competed fiercely. At that time, you could fill your tank for about 40 cents a litre – something that is hard to imagine when today we are paying three to four times as much, depending on the region. That price war resulted in the closure of many independent gas stations further reducing opportunities for competition in certain markets, particularly in my riding of Rimouski.

Ultimately, this left a multitude of gas stations abandoned. In Rimouski alone, which has 50,000 inhabitants, a good half-dozen of these abandoned installations still scar the city centre landscape and sides of busy arteries, including Route 132 which runs along the St. Lawrence.

What's more, nothing obliges gas station operators – most often, very profitable oil companies – to decontaminate the land they own or lease, even if for years it represented a highly lucrative, but polluting, business. As a result, we currently find ourselves in a situation where very successful companies can simply leave without any environmental accountability.

They leave the buildings that no longer serve them to rot and decay, leaving the task of decontaminating the hydrocarbon-laden soil to possible future owners or tenants. It's not hard to understand why potential buyers are not rushing to purchase such properties; as such, we continue to be subjected to polluted urban environments and ground soils while no one is held accountable, often for many years. I can point out such a location in my constituency that has been abandoned for at least three decades.

Furthermore, there does not appear to be a register of Québec's abandoned gas stations that we can consult. With the expected electrification of automobiles, we expect this phenomenon to worsen. We must therefore address this matter now.

My question to the Minister is the following:

Will the Government commit to legislate to put a stop to the reckless abandonment of gas stations and to oblige the owners or tenants of these installations to dismantle them and to decontaminate the land before the conclusion of any transaction and within a year of closing?

(257) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **23 September 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Minister,

I was recently approached by Dr. Anne-Isabelle Dionne, President and CEO of the Centre médico-sportif Axis, a not-for-profit organization located in Montérégie offering multidisciplinary health services, including cardiovascular rehabilitation services, to over 400 patients of the Pierre-Boucher hospital in Longueuil and the Honoré-Mercier hospital in Saint-Hyacinthe.

She contacted me following receipt, last March 29, of a letter she received from Ms. Maryse Hébert, director of multidisciplinary services at CISSS Montérégie Est, announcing the end of their contractual agreement and by the same token, their principal source of funding. Indeed, the CISSS Montérégie Est, which provided \$372,000, a considerable amount, to the Centre, will terminate the service agreement on 30 September 2021, given that a new cardiovascular rehabilitation service will eventually be offered directly by the CISSS at the Pierre-Boucher hospital in Longueuil. However, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars that will have to be reinvested in order to build from zero a cardiovascular rehabilitation program similar to the one that already exists at the Centre médico-sportif Axis, the CISSS

Montréal-Est's cardiovascular rehabilitation service is currently still not available, resulting in a months-long disruption of services for the population.

In this context, Dr. Dionne took steps to try to obtain adequate, constant funding for the Centre from the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation, without however obtaining any conclusive financial commitment so far for the organization. As a result, with the financial support from CISSS Montréal-Est nearing its end, and in the perspective that it would have been counterproductive to duplicate the same service, the representatives of the organization had to make the heartbreaking decision to withdraw the cardiovascular rehabilitation component from the services offered by the Centre médico-sportif Axis. Instead, they have reoriented and broadened their services, gearing them toward the prevention and reversal of chronic diseases through the optimization of lifestyle habits, in particular, by addressing diabetes, hypertension, obesity and heart disease.

As a result, the Centre médico-sportif Axis continues to set itself apart with an intervention approach to enhance health that is based first and foremost on systematic front-line screening and preventive diagnosis, specifically through risk factor assessment. All with the aim of preventing the onset of chronic diseases, reducing their severity or reversing them completely, or even preventing a complication related to a health condition, which would otherwise generate significant costs for the health system. The Centre's health professionals and practitioners, which include physicians, nurses, nutritionists, kinesiologists, pharmacists, psychosocial workers, meditation teachers, etc., collaborate with, but above all, complement one another, in order to offer multidisciplinary services to patients. Their preventive intervention approach to enhancing health allows them all the latitude needed to provide personalized support to and guide their patients toward healthier behaviours and lifestyles, by promoting more balanced daily health choices regarding nutrition, sleep, stress, sport, environmental quality, and even social relationships. This intervention approach is proving to be more necessary than ever given that the current health crisis is affecting individuals with unhealthy lifestyles and, above all, with chronic diseases, more severely.

It should also be noted that this initiative by the Médico-Sportif Axis Centre has resulted in concrete substantial savings to Québec's health system. We are talking about \$1,060,300 per year in institutional health care for 256 patients (data after only 2.5 years of operation, including the period closed at height of pandemic). This represents a minimum savings of \$4,142 per patient per year, for a one-time participation in a rehabilitation and prevention program at less than half the cost. The positive impact of the Centre's interventions on patients' health is therefore measurable and can also be replicated throughout Québec.

Support for this type of initiative would make it possible to improve the services Québec hospitals offer, in addition to reducing CISSS and CIUSSS administrative and bureaucratic burdens. The multidisciplinary services offered by the Axis Medico-Sports Centre also meet the population's growing demand for access to alternative health enhancement resources rather than medications. We must remember that the MSSS 2015–2020 strategic plan provides that spending for medications to treat diseases directly related to lifestyle habits is approximately \$2 billion. This cost could be reduced by supporting alternative health enhancement resources, such as the Axis Medico-Sports Centre. In short, this is a concrete and comprehensive initiative with a high potential for return on investment.

My question to the Minister is the following:

Will the Minister undertake to consider the following points, namely:

- Take into account experiences such as that of the Axis Medico-Sports Centre;
- Recognize and support initiatives such as that of the Axis Medico-Sports Center;
- Fund this type of initiative in the form of a pilot project in Québec.

(258) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **28 September 2021**
To the Minister of Education

Last May, the Minister of Education published the results of data gathered regarding students in complex situations who have experienced or are experiencing a breakdown in education services, and he was very concerned about the number of students affected.

The data revealed that approximately 1,500 students' right to education was not respected at all; the study did not take into account students who were not studying full-time.

Can the Minister tell us what actions have been taken to put an end to this breakdown in services, and whether these actions have reduced the number of students experiencing them?

(259) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **28 September 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

On 22 October 2019, a motion on coverage for continuous positive airway pressure machines for people with sleep apnea was unanimously carried: "THAT the Assembly urge the Government to broaden the scope, as soon as possible, of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec's public coverage to include continuous positive airway pressure machines, required by people suffering from sleep apnea, after the conclusion of the work of the working committee recently formed by the Government and made up of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, physicians, managers and the Association des pneumologues du Québec."

On 22 October 2020, at a press briefing, the Member for Jonquière and the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine reiterated the National Assembly's unanimous commitment to this and noted the Government's inaction.

On 11 March 2020, the previous Minister of Health and Social Services reiterated this commitment during the examination of the Supplementary Estimates. She indicated that the sums necessary to reimburse sleep apnea machines under the Québec Infrastructure Plan were being discussed.

On 10 March 2021, the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine tabled a petition in the National Assembly repeating this need.

According to the Institut national d'excellence en santé et services sociaux (INESSS), around 3.5% of middle-aged women and 5% of adult men in Québec have obstructive sleep apnea. In 2017, that represented 417,000 people.

My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is the following:

Is there a planned deadline for meeting this commitment?

(260) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **28 September 2021**
To the Government

In my riding, citizens welcomed with great appreciation the Liberal government's announcement of the construction of a Lab-École on 7 November 2017.

This was an expected solution to a serious lack of space for our young students that had existed for several years. On 29 May 2020, the CAQ government announced for its part the construction of a seniors' home with 72 places (48 places for seniors and 24 places for adults with special needs) that could alleviate the shortage of long-term care places for a population of seniors corresponding to a quarter of our total population.

Actors in the education and health sectors have set to work with the collaboration of the City, the locations have been chosen and we are ready for action. But according to a *Journal de Québec* article dated 27 September 2021, projects for new schools and major projects to expand school premises and repair work have had to be put on hold in recent months due to an overheated construction industry.

As for seniors' homes, the real costs linked to this electoral promise by the CAQ raises a lot of questions. How much will the homes cost overall? It will be very expensive: the estimated price is currently close to a million dollars per home in some regions. This includes site design, land acquisition and appraisals, in addition to construction work.

My questions are the following:

What response should we give to the seniors in my riding? Will they see this senior's home get built once and for all? Will they be able to count on alternatives, such as additional investments in home care support?

What response should we give to parents and students in Rimouski? Will they see their new school built by 2022? Does the Government realize that the needs are still there, that the existing premises are no longer sufficient?

(261) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **30 September 2021**
To the Government

Today, nearly 1.2 million people (800,000 according to the Market Basket Measure and 1.2 million according to Low Income Measures) still live in poverty in Québec. More than ever, reducing the inequalities amplified by the pandemic and ensuring an equitable and inclusive socio-economic recovery must be the Government's top priority.

Quebecers are hoping to achieve lasting societal changes in order to be able to build stronger, more prosperous and more equitable communities for everyone when it comes to food, housing, health, education, and support for families and elders.

In fact, according to a very recent Léger survey (3 September 2021), more than one in five respondents say they have experienced poverty and vulnerability due to the pandemic. More than 70% of the survey respondents believe that the poverty situation in Québec has deteriorated and that inequalities between the rich and the poor have worsened since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey respondents identified certain actions to truly fight poverty and social exclusion. The main action to fight poverty would be to establish programs to create affordable housing (60%). In this regard, the survey revealed that respondents do not find current measures effective in compensating for the glaring shortage of affordable housing. Other actions would be to increase the minimum wage (50%), revise tax levels (49%) and develop a true societal project focusing on poverty reduction (46%).

My question to the Government is the following:

Does the Government intend to seriously analyze these four actions to fight poverty clearly identified by Quebecers?

(262) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **6 October 2021**

To the Government

On September 23, the Government offered nurses generous bonuses, inviting them to come back to the public health-care network. This news has created great concern among palliative care facilities, which fear a disruption in their services should nurses decide to leave them. Québec's 37 palliative care facilities with their 341 beds and 5,000 annual patients are facing the exact same issues as the public sector when it comes to labour shortages and attracting and retaining personnel to accompany and provide end-of-life care to Quebecers.

Currently, more than 80% of Alliance des soins palliatifs du Québec members are experiencing an approximate 20% staff shortage for the positions of nurses, nursing assistants and orderlies. While MSSS and CISSS/CIUSSS stakeholders are asking palliative care facilities to maintain their bed capacity and service offering, the labour shortage means that staff can barely ensure the continuous presence essential for the quality of care.

The palliative care facilities say they can't offer salary conditions equivalent to public network pay scales and are rightly asking that their financing agreement, which has been under negotiation for nearly a year, be concluded.

To add to the difficulties of retaining their workforce, the bonus allowance plan announced to entice nurses to return to the public network now threatens more than ever the ability of palliative care facilities to overcome this shortage and ensure that their services are maintained.

My question is the following:

Will the Government reply to the palliative care facilities' requests, that is to say:

- 1) confirming the inclusion of caregivers from Québec palliative care facilities in the announced bonus allowance plan; and
- 2) increasing funding to palliative facilities and the immediate signing of a new financing agreement?

(263) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 October 2021**

To the Government

Every day, in front of businesses in my riding, I see signs such as "Help Wanted", "Closed Due to Lack of Employees" and "Hours Reduced Because of Employee Shortage". This is not only an inconvenience to customers who want goods and services; it is catastrophic for our economy.

In a recent study, Manufacturiers et Exportateurs du Québec (MEQ) estimates that, for the Bas-Saint-Laurent region alone, the labour shortage results in economic losses of \$3.5 billion. You read that right! In addition, that amount is only for manufacturers and exporters. Just think of the impact on the commercial and service sectors. Furthermore, along with Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the Bas-Saint-Laurent region ranks second in Québec among those most affected by this serious problem.

MEQ also estimates that 87% of affected companies have had to refuse contracts or face production delays. A quarter of them are considering relocating their operations or subcontracting work. There are nearly 630 positions offering \$20 to \$29 per hour. These are therefore not minimum wage jobs, far from it. But our entrepreneurs are still struggling with this problem.

Attracting this workforce is essential, and local people are working together to make our region even more attractive. I am taking part in this reflection with them. Unfortunately, in examining the issue, one quickly realizes that many factors must be considered to address the problem: access to affordable housing and property, access to childcare spaces and competitive working conditions. To date, the measures proposed by the Government in the first two cases have been late in coming and are often insufficient to achieve the desired results.

Furthermore, we have a potential workforce here among people who often are very qualified: the so-called “experienced workers”, that is, people age 60 and over who would be willing to return to or remain in the labour market, provided that we agree to adjust their schedules and, above all, that the tax authorities stop heavily taxing their remuneration that exceeds their pension plans.

My questions to the Minister are the following:

Does the Government recognize that its initiatives for housing, home ownership and childcare spaces are not resulting in solutions quickly enough and, if so, will the Government commit to revising its plan?

Will the Government commit to promoting the employment of experienced workers, in particular by adjusting its tax system for them, but not through a negligible tax credit, and by facilitating companies’ adjustment to atypical schedules that are more suitable for these workers?