



ACTIVITY REPORT

Of the National Assembly of Québec

2002-2003

This publication was accomplished with the collaboration of the executive personnel and staff from all administrative branches of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise indicated, the data provided in this report concern the activities of the National Assembly from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

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PREFACE

I am pleased to release the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec* for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2003. You will discover therein an accessible Assembly, open to the world, and especially the relentless work of Québec parliamentarians who this year adopted no less than one hundred bills, most of which were passed unanimously. This work of Members, which is essential to a vital democracy, was carried out more specifically in parliamentary committees, before which over 700 groups and individuals came to express their views on the issues under consideration, to discuss and propose solutions.

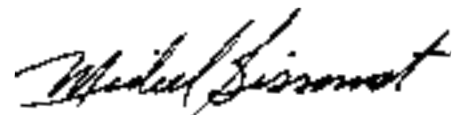
This year, the National Assembly concentrated its efforts on enabling citizens to become better acquainted with its role, its history, and its achievements. This concern particularly resulted in the welcoming of various cultural communities to the Parliament Building and in a tour of Québec's educational institutions, during which young people were made aware of the importance of taking part in the democratic process.

Ever mindful of protecting and promoting the rich heritage of the institution, the Assembly continued the restoration of its parliamentary buildings and erected, in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (National Capital Commission), two new monuments on the grounds of the Parliament Building. One is an inuksuk, a monument serving as a beacon for the Inuit in Northern Québec, and the other represents a noted Québec parliamentarian, Louis-Joseph Papineau.

This report also puts forward the activities of the institution on the international scene and within the interparliamentary networks, particularly the signing of agreements with other Parliaments and the participation of Members in missions and major events.

I hope that through this report you will have the opportunity to fully grasp the work and the efforts made by the parliamentarians of the National Assembly for the benefit of Québec's democracy.

The President of the National Assembly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michel Bissonnet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michel" and last name "Bissonnet" clearly distinguishable.

Michel Bissonnet

FOREWORD

This fourth edition of the *Activity Report of the National Assembly* is a reflection of the efforts made by the institution to enable Québec citizens to become better acquainted with its mission, its role and its operation. It also constitutes an eloquent example of the work accomplished by the parliamentarians and the personnel of the Assembly supporting them in the exercise of their duties.

Several events of an administrative, institutional and parliamentary nature marked the past fiscal year at the Assembly. The completion of the strategic planning measures undertaken in 2001-2002 brought about the tabling of the *Strategic Plan of the Administration of the National Assembly 2002-2004*, in December 2002. This document reports on the commitments of the personnel as a whole in relation to its clientele and expresses the Assembly's desire to join in the Québec Government's modernization effort.

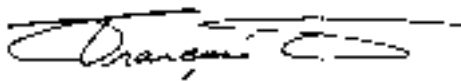
As regards parliamentary work, the National Assembly examined and passed several important bills such as the *Act instituting civil unions and establishing new rules of filiation*, the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act*, as well as the *Act to combat poverty and social exclusion*. The standing committees were also very busy. They held 365 sittings, for a total of 1224 hours. During these sittings, the committees examined 93 bills and held 41 general and special consultations on various issues.

Among its institutional activities, a number of occasions enabled the Assembly to be at the forefront and to increase the knowledge of its organization and its history, namely: the holding of the *Parliamentary Democracy in the 21st Century Symposium*, the conclusion of the Second Centenary of the Library, the welcoming of Québec's cultural communities at the National Assembly, the President's tour of general and vocational colleges and universities, and the first edition of the all new *Young People's Parliament*.

Finally, the dissolution of the National Assembly in March 2003 mobilized the energies of the personnel, be it in regard to the rules applicable to general elections, the measures to be taken regarding Members having chosen to withdraw from politics, the preparations made in view of welcoming and training the new Members as well as the planning of the overall operations to be carried out following the elections.

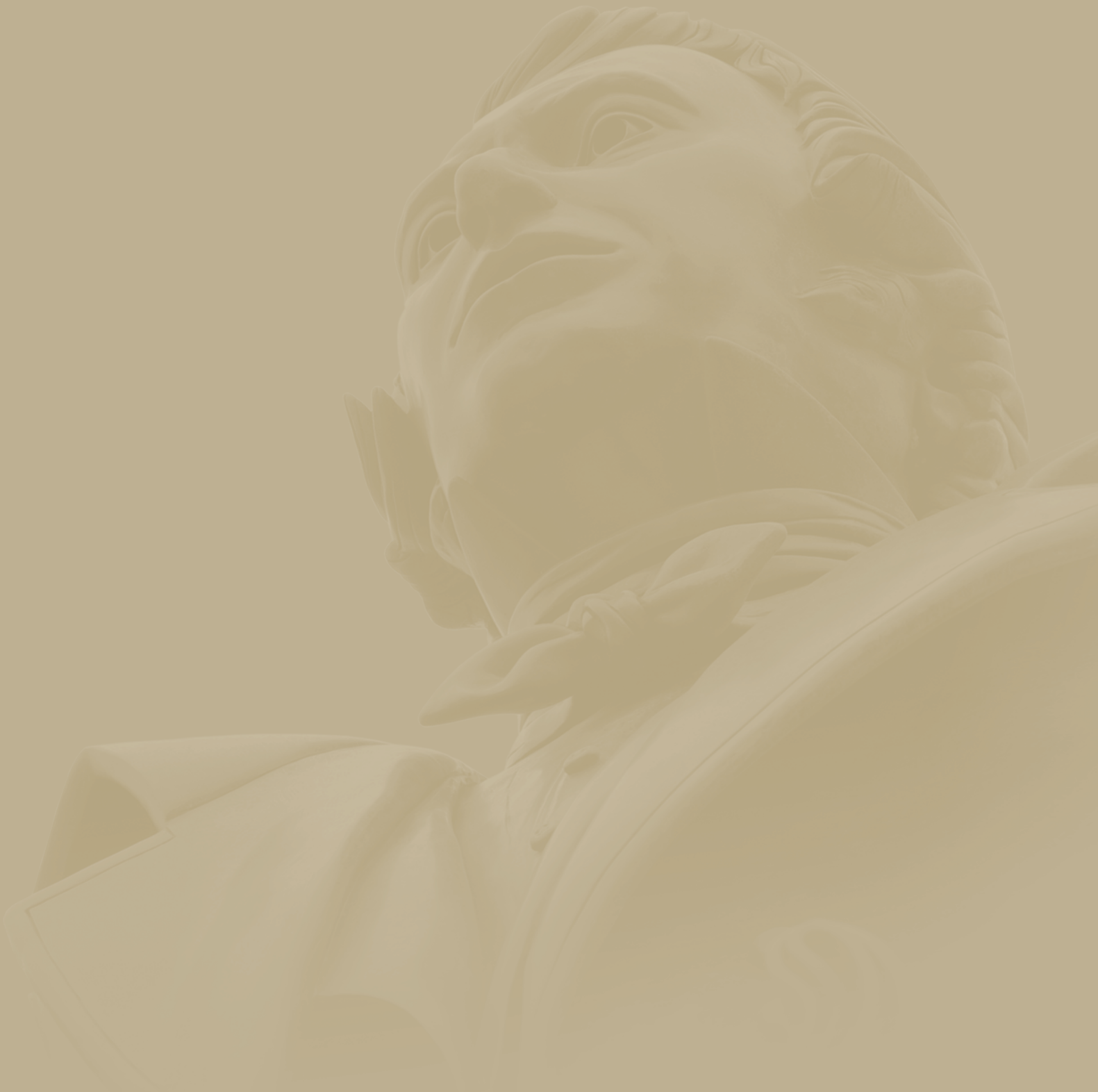
I wish to underline the sustained efforts made by the personnel of all of the administrative units of the Assembly who took part in producing this *Activity Report*.

The Secretary General,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'François Côté', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

François Côté

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Its mission

The mission of the National Assembly consists in legislating in the areas of its jurisdiction, exercising control over the executive power and the public administration, and examining matters of public interest.

The National Assembly is the paramount and legitimate authority as regards the expression and implementation of the democratic principles of government. It is composed of 125 Members who are elected by the citizens of Québec. The maximum duration of the collective mandate of these Members, called a legislature, is provided for in the Constitution and cannot exceed five years. In other words, no more than five years can pass between the holding of two general elections. However, the lieutenant-governor, at the request of the Government, may dissolve the Assembly before the expiry of this five-year period.

The dissolution of the National Assembly

On 12 March 2003, on the recommendation of the Premier, the Cabinet adopted a first order-in-council directing the dissolution of the Assembly and the summoning of a new Assembly for 20 May 2003, and a second order-in-council asking the Chief Electoral Officer to hold a general election on 14 April 2003. The Premier then proceeded to the lieutenant-governor's office for the signing of the royal proclamations, thus giving effect to the orders-in-council. The 36th Legislature thus ended.

Once the Assembly is dissolved, the Members cease to perform their duties, but the Ministers remain in office so long as their successors have not been appointed. The President and the three vice-presidents also remain in office until they are replaced by the new Assembly. As regards the parliamentary proceedings, the dissolution causes the current procedural acts and the bills that have not been passed to lapse.

THE THREE POWERS OF THE STATE OF QUÉBEC

LEGISLATIVE POWER

Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws.

* * *

Exercises a control over the action of the executive power.



Parliament

EXECUTIVE POWER

Determines policies to guide the actions of the State.

* * *

Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative power.



Government

JUDICIAL POWER

Interprets the laws passed by the legislative power.

* * *

Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.



Courts

Only a minister may introduce a bill having a financial impact. However, apart from this exception, any Member has the right to introduce a bill in the National Assembly and may thus enlist the help of legal and legislative services for its preparation.

The Members

The role of the Member

The primary role of the Member is to take part in the legislative process. As a legislator, he examines, analyzes and votes on bills at the National Assembly. This duty is exercised both in the Assembly and in the parliamentary committees.

The Member is also the controller of the actions of the Government and of the public administration. The control methods at the disposal of Members are many. They include more particularly Oral Questions and Answers, the examination of financial commitments, the hearings of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies, as well as the annual consideration of the estimates of expenditure.

Finally, the Member acts as an intermediary between electors and the public administration. He handles requests made by citizens who, for example, need information, have a complaint about the Government, or wish to have a law or regulation amended. He makes sure that the Ministers and the public servants responsible for public programmes are aware of his constituency's needs.

In addition to these duties, the Member sometimes plays the role of "ambassador". Since the National Assembly belongs to a number of international parliamentary associations, Members are called upon to take part in missions and to welcome official visitors, thus providing opportunities to exchange with fellow parliamentarians on issues of public interest.

Upon the dissolution of the National Assembly, on 12 March 2003...
the membership of the Assembly was as follows:

Political Party	Number of seats
Parti Québécois	67
Québec Liberal Party	50
Action démocratique du Québec*	5
Independent Members	2

1 vacant seat

** Independent Members*

women held 28 % of the seats in the National Assembly:

PQ	18	QLP	15	ADQ	2
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Standing Order 13 defines a parliamentary group as follows: "Any group of not fewer than twelve Members returned to the Assembly by the same political party, or any group of Members returned by a political party that shall have received not less than twenty percent of the popular vote in the most recent general election, shall form a parliamentary group. Members who do not belong to any parliamentary group, except the President, shall sit as independent Members."

Resignations and changes of allegiance

Section 16 of the *Act respecting the National Assembly* stipulates that a Member may resign his seat verbally at a sitting of the Assembly. He may also resign in a writing countersigned by two other Members and sent to the President or the Secretary General of the Assembly.

Two Members resigned during the past fiscal year:



Gilles Baril
Berthier (PQ)
13 April 1981 -
14 May 2002



Matthias Rioux
Matane (PQ)
12 September 1994 -
5 March 2003

Two Members changed allegiance to sit as Independent Members:



Paul Bégin
Louis-Hébert (PQ)



Jean-Claude
Gobé
LaFontaine (QLP)

Date of change of allegiance: 28 October 2002 20 February 2003

The resignation of Members during a term of office requires the holding of by-elections within the following six months in order to fill the electoral division vacancies. In 2002, the constituents in seven electoral divisions elected:



François
Corriveau
Saguenay (ADQ)
15 April 2002



Anna
Mancuso
Viger (QLP)
15 April 2002



Lise
Thériault
Anjou (QLP)
15 April 2002



François
Gaudreau
Vimont (ADQ)
17 June 2002



Marie
Grégoire
Berthier (ADQ)
17 June 2002



Sylvie
Lespérance
Joliette (ADQ)
17 June 2002



Stéphan
Tremblay
Lac-Saint-Jean (PQ)
17 June 2002

THE MEMBERS

OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

At the dissolution of the National Assembly,
on 12 March 2003



BERNARD LANDRY
Premier
Verchères



ANDRÉ BOISCLAIR
Government
House Leader
Gouin



JEAN-FRANÇOIS SIMARD
Deputy Government
House Leader
Montmorency



CÉCILE VERMETTE
Deputy Government
House Leader
Marie-Victorin



MICHEL MORIN
Chief Government
Whip
Nicolet-Yamaska



MICHEL CÔTÉ
Deputy Government
Whip
La Pêtrie



MANON BLANCHET
Deputy Government
Whip
Crémazie



MAXIME ARSENEAU
Iles-de-la-Madeleine



DIANE BARBEAU
Varier



JACQUES BARIL
Arthabaska



LOUISE BEAUDOIN
Chamblay



YVES BEAUMIER
Champlain



STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Chicoutimi



JEAN-PAUL BERGERON
Iberville



ROGER BERTRAND
Portneuf



ROSAIRE BERTRAND
Charlevoix



CLAUDE BOUCHER
Johnson



ANDRÉ BOULERICE
Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques



MARC BOULIANNE
Frontenac



JOCELYNE CARON
Terrebonne



DENISE CARRIER-PERREAU
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière



JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Borduas



SOLANGE CHAREST
Rimouski



JACQUES CÔTÉ
Ducac



CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand



RÉMY DÉSILETS
Maskinongé



SERGE DESLIÈRES
Salaberry-Soulanges



LEANDRE DION
Saint-Yacinthe



RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS
Rosemont



DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia



NORMAND DUGUAY
Duplessis



JOSEPH FACAL
Fabre



FRANÇOIS GENDRON
Abitibi-Ouest



SERGE GEOFFRION
La Prairie



LINDA GOUPIL
Lévis



GUY JULIEN
Trois-Rivières



NORMAND JUTRAS
Drummond



ROBERT KIEFFER
Groulx



GILLES LABBÉ
Masson



CLAUDE LACHANCE
Bellevue



BENOÎT LAPRISE
Roberval



LYSE LEDUC
Mille-Îles



FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Roussau



RICHARD LEGENDRE
Blainville



NICOLE LÉGER
Pointe-aux-Trembles



GUY LELIÈVRE
Gaspé



DIANE LEMIEUX
Bourget



MICHEL LÉTOURNEAU
Ungava



AGNÈS MALTAIS
Taschereau



PAULINE MAROIS
Tailleur



SERGE MÉNARD
Laval-des-Rapides



SYLVAIN PAGÉ
Labelle



LUCIE PAPINEAU
Prévost



ROGER PAQUIN
Saint-Jean



JEAN-GUY PARÉ
Lotbinière



DAVID PAYNE
Vachon



ANDRÉ PELLETIER
Abitibi-Est



CLAUDE PINARD
Saint-Maurice



HELENE ROBERT
Deux-Montagnes



JEAN ROCHON
Charlesbourg



JEAN-CLAUDE ST-ANDRÉ
L'Assomption



SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu



STÉPHAN TREMBLAY
Lac-Saint-Jean



RÉMY TRUDEL
Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue

THE MEMBERS

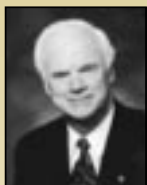
THE THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
 RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
 ON 12 MARCH 2003



JEAN CHAREST
 Leader of the Official Opposition
 Sherbrooke



LOUISE HAREL
 President of the National Assembly
 Hochelaga-Maisonneuve



RAYMOND BROUILLET
 First Vice-President
 Chauveau



FRANÇOIS BEAULNE
 Second Vice-President
 Marguerite-D'Youville



MICHEL BISSONNET
 Third Vice-President
 Jeanne-Mance



PIERRE PARADIS
 Opposition
 House Leader
 Brome-Missisquoi



THOMAS J. MULCAIR
 Deputy Opposition
 House Leader
 Chomedey



JEAN-MARC FOURNIER
 Chief Opposition
 Whip
 Châteauguay



NORMAN MACMILLAN
 Deputy Opposition
 Whip
 Papineau



LINE BEAUCHAMP
 Sauvé



CLAUDE BÉCHARD
 Kamouraska-Témiscouata



MADELEINE BÉLANGER
 Mégantic-Compton



ROBERT BENOIT
 Orford



LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN
 D'Arcy-McGee



YVAN BORDELEAU
 Acadie



JULIE BOULET
 Lévis



ANDRÉ BOURBEAU
 Laporte



BERNARD BRODEUR
 Shefford



JACQUES CHAGNON
 Westmount-Saint-Louis



ANDRÉ CHENAIL
 Beauharnois-Huntingdon



ROCH CHOLETTE
 Hull



RUSSELL COPEMAN
 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce



WILLIAM CUSANO
 Viau



MARGARET F. DELISLE
 Jean-Talon



MICHEL DESPRÉS
 Limoulin



JACQUES P. DUPUIS
 Saint-Laurent



MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
 Saint-François



FRANÇOIS GAUTHIER
 Jonquière



HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTHRIN
 Verdun



RÉAL GAUVIN
 Montmagny-L'Islet



FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN
 La Pinière



MONIQUE JÉRÔME-FORGET
 Marguerite-Bourgeoys



GEOFFREY KELLEY
 Jacques-Cartier



RÉJEAN LAFRENIÈRE
 Gatineau



MICHELE LAMQUIN-ÉTHIER
 Bourassa



PIERRE-ÉTIENNE LAPORTE
 Outremont



DIANE LEBLANC
 Beauce-Sud



NICOLE LOISELLE
 Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne



ANNA MANCUSO
 Viger



YVON MARCOUX
 Vaudreuil



PIERRE MARSAN
 Robert-Baldwin



ROBERT MIDDLEMISS
 Pontiac



NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
 Bonaventure



FRANÇOIS OUMIET
 Marquette



BENOÎT PELLETIER
 Châteauguay



NORMAND POULIN
 Beauce-Nord



NATHALIE ROCHEFORT
 Mercier



CHRISTOS SIRROS
 Laurier-Dorion



LISE THÉRIAULT
 Anjou



ANDRÉ TRANCHEMONTAGNE
 Mont-Royal



YVON VALLIÈRES
 Richmond



DAVID WHISSELL
 Argenteuil



RUSSELL WILLIAMS
 Nelligan



MARIO DUMONT
 Rivière-du-Loup



FRANÇOIS CORRIVEAU
 Saguenay



FRANÇOIS GAUDREAU
 Vimont



MARIE GRÉGOIRE
 Berthier



SYLVIE LESPERANCE
 Joliette



PAUL BÉGIN
 Louis-Hébert



JEAN-CLAUDE GOBÉ
 LaFontaine

The seating plan of the Assembly as at 12 March 2003

Definitions

- **Parliamentary group forming the Government**

The group of Members whose party won the majority of seats in a general election. Their leader becomes the Premier, and he chooses, generally among the Members of this group, those who shall become Ministers.

- **Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition**

The group of Members whose party placed second with regard to the number of seats won in a general election; the leader of this parliamentary group becomes the Leader of the Official Opposition.

- **Independent Member**

A Member of Parliament who is not a member of a recognized political party under the Standing Orders of the National Assembly or who, during a term of office, leaves a group without joining another. An independent Member may join a parliamentary group at any time during a legislature.

Parliamentary duties

President

He is elected among the Members and his duties are threefold: to ensure that the Standing Orders are observed and that the rights and privileges of the National Assembly and of its Members are protected during each sitting; to oversee the services of the Assembly; to represent the Assembly in Québec and abroad in its relations with other Parliaments.

Vice-Presidents

There are three vice-presidents, the first two of which are elected among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the third, among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition. They assist the President in his duties and enjoy the same prerogatives and the same authority as the latter when they replace him in his parliamentary functions.

Leader

A Member who is responsible for the parliamentary activity of his party.

House Leader

A Member who is responsible for establishing the parliamentary strategies of his group.

Deputy House Leader

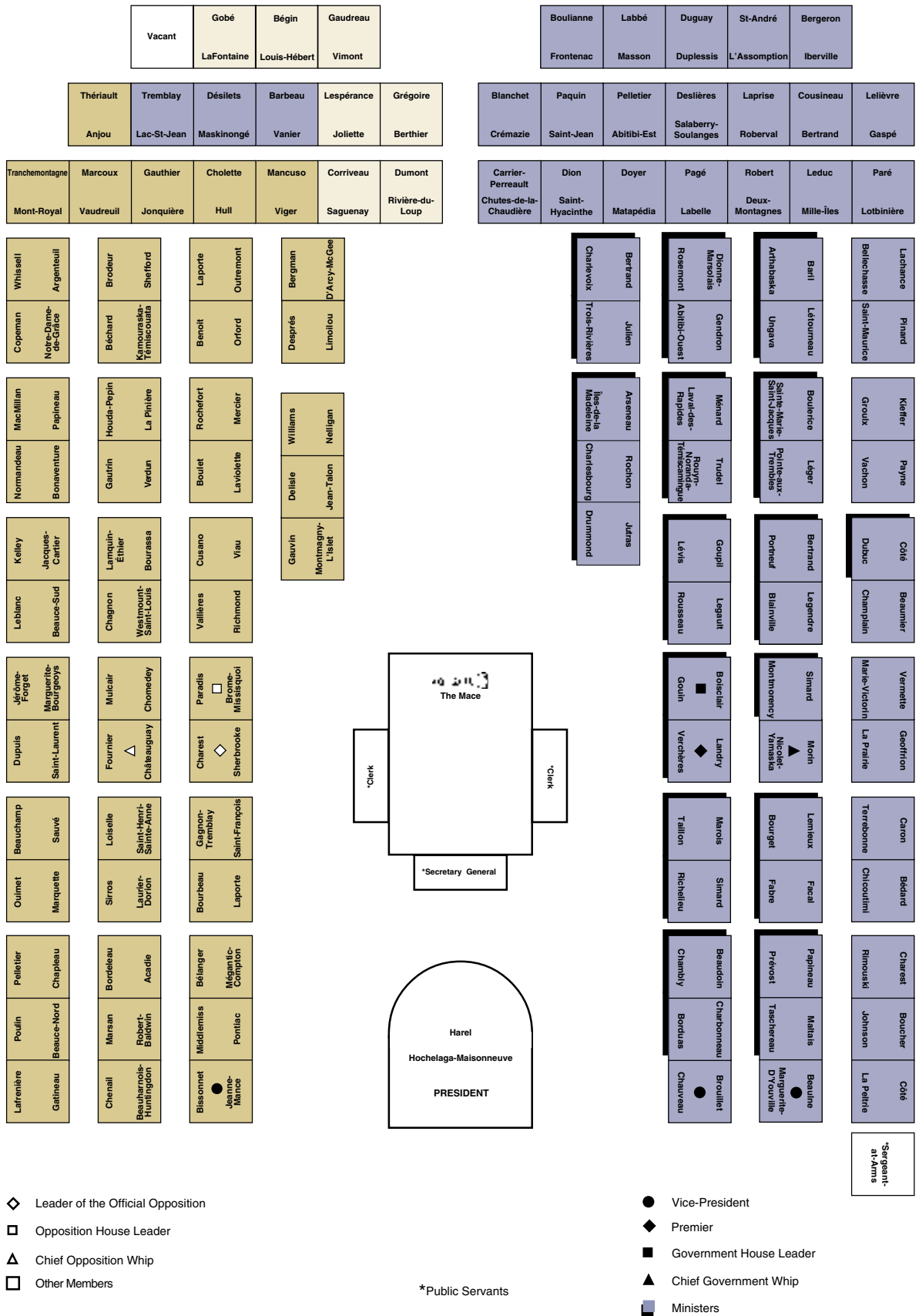
A Member who assists and replaces the House Leader in his duties.

Whip

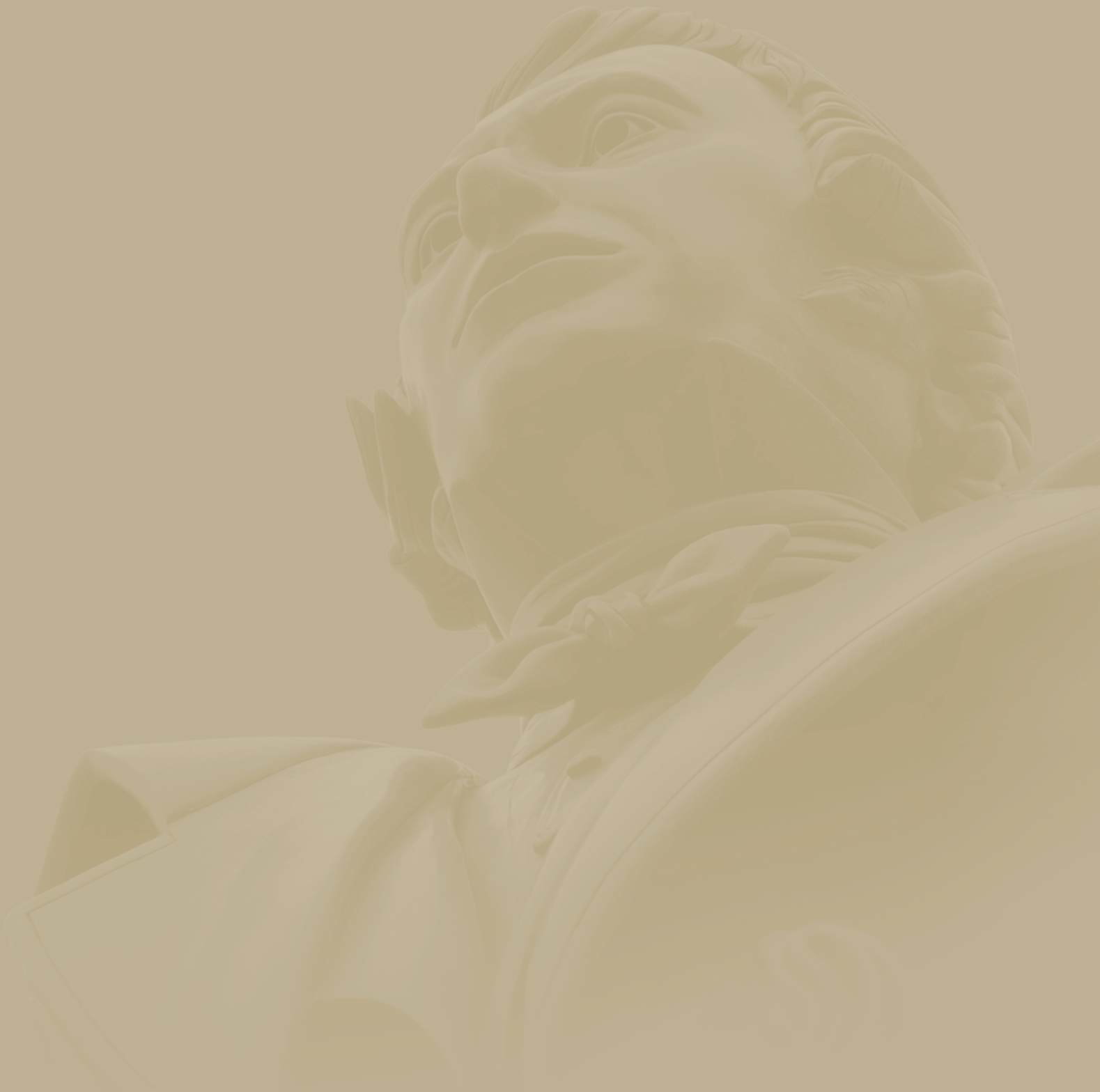
A Member who is responsible for discipline within his group and who coordinates the activities of the Members in the Assembly, in committees, and within delegations.

Deputy Whip

A Member who assists and replaces the Whip in his duties.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
PARLIAMENTARY WORK



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PARLIAMENTARY WORK

During their term of office, the Members are called upon to discuss a multitude of issues concerning the public affairs of Québec. Whether it be to express an opinion, an intention or to pass a bill, several methods are at their disposal in order to carry out their work and to fully take part in the parliamentary proceedings. The debates at the National Assembly and in the committees proceed according to a set of rules based on the British parliamentary system guaranteeing freedom of speech to Members and their legal authority over Government business.

Schedule of proceedings

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a work calendar that is divided into two periods: from the second Tuesday in March until 23 June at the latest, and from the third Tuesday in October until 21 December at the latest. The Standing Orders also provide for “intensive” periods of work, during which an extra sitting day is added to the weekly schedule and the sitting hours are extended.

The parliamentary committees may hold sittings at any time of the year. However, when Routine Proceedings are underway in the Assembly Room, the committees may not hold sittings.

Calendar of Assembly sittings

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	*	*
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday		

* The Assembly may sit on Monday on motion by the Government House Leader.

Outside of the periods, days or hours provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly, at the request of the Premier, may hold extraordinary sittings. This request is addressed to the President or, in his absence, to the Secretary General.

On 25 July 2002, the Members of the National Assembly were thus summoned by the Premier to hold an extraordinary sitting in order to adopt a special act of Parliament aiming to resolve the problem regarding the temporary shutdown of emergency services in certain hospitals of Québec.

The Members therefore gave consideration to and adopted Bill 114, *An Act to ensure the continued provision of emergency medical services*, within the framework of an exceptional procedure introduced by the Government House Leader.

Assessment of work at the Assembly

The following table provides concurrently the monthly data regarding sittings held and work hours completed, both in the Assembly and in committees, in the course of 2002-2003:

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	10	23 h 36	64	206 h 15
May	15	80 h 35	61	190 h 13
June	8	52 h 13	44	114 h 35
July	1	9 h 08	0	0
August	0	0	5	26 h 45
September	0	0	35	126 h 55
October	9	37 h 32	33	122 h 03
November	10	54 h 34	33	112 h 47
December	11	66 h 11	56	149 h 17
January	0	0	5	38 h 05
February	0	0	25	124 h 41
March	1	7 h 31	4	12 h 33

In the Assembly **65 sittings**
331 h 20

In committees **365 sittings**
1 224 h 09

Every meeting of the Assembly comprises two parts: the Routine Proceedings and the Orders of the Day.

The Routine Proceedings are composed of nine items of business set aside for information given by the Government to the Assembly, while the Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at either of the stages of their consideration.

Items of business under Routine Proceedings

1. Statements by Ministers

At this stage, a Minister may make a statement to the Assembly on any subject he deems to be relevant to communicate thereto, such as the announcement of a governmental policy or the Government's reaction to a given event. In 2002-2003, four statements by Ministers were made.

2. Introduction of Bills

It is also during Routine Proceedings that bills may be introduced. Members do not discuss the content of bills at this point but simply allow the submission of bills for examination during the subsequent stages of the legislative process. 96 bills were introduced during the past fiscal year.

3. Tablings

The parliamentarians table various documents of public interest on a regular basis. In 2002-2003, 908 documents were tabled in the Assembly, primarily annual reports from ministries and public bodies, reports from committees, petitions and the Government's answers thereto.

The right of citizens to petition the Assembly is a fundamental principle that has been codified in the Charter of human rights and freedoms. Thus, any person or group of persons may, through a Member, petition the Assembly for the redress of a situation deemed unfair.

To be in order, a petition must:

- come under the competence of the public authorities;
- contain a statement of facts (clear, concise, accurate and set forth in temperate and respectful terms), and the intervention prayed for must appear on every sheet that bears signatures;
- not concern a matter that is before the courts or a quasi-judicial body, or that is the subject of an inquiry, if its presentation may be prejudicial to the interests of some person or party;
- be a handwritten or typed original and must be printed on sheets of paper of the usual size;
- contain the signatures of all the petitioners;
- be presented by a Member.

4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Any Member may raise a breach of the privileges or immunities of the Assembly at this stage. During the past year, the Chair gave three rulings regarding such matters.

5. Oral Questions and Answers

This item of business is without a doubt the most familiar to citizens. During this 45-minute period, Members may question Ministers on matters of public interest, be they topical or urgent, within their competence or that of the Government;

During the 48 hours and 45 minutes set aside for Oral Questions and Answers at the Assembly this year, 460 main questions were asked in the following proportions:

- 93.5% by the Official Opposition;
- 5.4% by the Independent Members;
- 1.1% by the Government Members.

By the same token, 615 supplementary questions were granted by the Chair to the Official Opposition (563), to the Independent Members (49) and to the Government Members (3). Finally, 26 written questions were placed on the Order Paper.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Motion

Procedural act by which a Member puts a question to the Assembly. He may thus ask the Assembly to carry out an action, order that an action be carried out or express an opinion on a given subject.

The Independent Members and Oral Questions and Answers

The presence of seven Independent Members during the past year somewhat modified the rules governing oral question period at the Assembly. Indeed, based on jurisprudence and statistics from previous legislatures, the Chair decided to increase the number of questions the Independent Members were allowed to ask during this period to two questions every four sittings. The decision specifies that the questions set aside for the Independent Members applied to this group of Members, regardless of their political affiliation, and that the Independent Members were to determine among themselves the distribution of main questions. If this failed and several Independent Members indicated their desire to ask a question, the Chair would apply the principle of alternation between them for the granting of questions.

6. Deferred Divisions

At the request of the Government House Leader, the President may defer a recorded vote or "division" to a later moment of the sitting or to the next sitting day during the Routine Proceedings.

7. Motions Without Notice

Routine Proceedings also enable any Member to present a motion without a prior notice, thus bringing a matter to the attention of the Assembly despite a motion thereon not having first been placed on the *Order Paper*.

This year, 128 motions without notice were carried. Several of these motions were carried unanimously, including the following:

" **THAT** the National Assembly of Québec express its grave concern with regard to the Iraqi crisis;

THAT it affirm its desire to see the crisis resolved through diplomatic and peaceful channels;

THAT it ask Iraq to comply with all of the United Nations resolutions;

THAT it affirm that the use of force would be so fraught with consequences for the population, for the region and for international stability that it should only be considered as a last resort;

THAT it declare its opposition to possible military action that would disregard the Charter of the United Nations and international law and that, consequently, it ask the Federal Government, on behalf of Quebecers, who expressed themselves in favour of peace, to not intervene in Iraq without the approval of the United Nations;

And finally,

THAT it commend the concerted efforts of the citizens' group known as «Échec à la guerre» (Defeat War) and applaud the attachment of Quebecers to peace." (motion without notice carried on 11 March 2003)

" **THAT** the National Assembly, principally with a view to improving health, education and family support services, ask the Federal Government to acknowledge and correct the tax disparity stated in the Séguin Report, while considering its recommendations which outline a new framework for financial and fiscal relations within the Canadian federation, particularly in order that it cease intervening in provincial jurisdictions." (motion without notice carried on 7 June 2002)

8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees

9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Both of these last items under Routine Proceedings allow the Government House Leader and the President to provide Members with information on the parliamentary proceedings.

Items of business under Orders of the Day

With a few exceptions, the motions debated during this period are placed on the Order Paper. Except for Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, it is generally the Government House Leader who indicates the item of business on the *Order Paper* that will be discussed. However, the order in which these items are to be taken must be observed.

1. Business Having Precedence

This business, as the name indicates, has precedence over all other questions, owing to the importance or the urgency of the matter at hand. The Opening Speech of the Session, delivered by the Premier, ranks first among the items of business having precedence, and, within the framework of the ensuing debate thereon, the speeches by the Leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives. Among other business having precedence, the Budget Speech and the Want of Confidence Motions should be mentioned.

2. Urgent Debates

Any Member may request the holding of an urgent debate. The President authorizes the holding of the debate if he deems that the request concerns a specific matter, of major importance, which comes under the competence of the Assembly and which may not be debated otherwise.

3. Debates on Reports from Committees

The debates on reports from committees containing recommendations are taken into consideration within 15 days following their tabling in the Assembly. Immediately after they have been tabled, they are placed on the *Order Paper*.

4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper

During this period, the Assembly takes into consideration the various stages of a bill, particularly the adoption in principle, clause-by-clause consideration in committee of the whole and the passage of the bill.

During the past year, the National Assembly passed 99 bills:		
77	introduced by Ministers	of which 68% were adopted unanimously
5	introduced by Members	all adopted unanimously
17	private bills	all adopted unanimously
Among the bills adopted unanimously, the following should be mentioned: - Bill 80, Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act - Bill 134, An Act to establish the Fonds national de l'eau		
On average, 77 days elapsed between the introduction of the bills and their passage.		

5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

The debates on Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition take place every Wednesday, excepting during intensive session, when such debates may not be held.

17 motions

This year, 17 motions were placed on the *Order Paper* and debated. Several of these motions were carried unanimously, including the following:

"THAT the Governments of Canada and of Québec fully take their respective responsibilities with regard to the softwood lumber crisis affecting Québec's forest industry, its workers and the regions of Québec." (motion placed on the *Order Paper* and carried on 8 May 2002)

The main parliamentary publications

Standing Orders

Codification of the rules of procedure the Assembly adopted to govern its proceedings and those of the committees. The Standing Orders establish the terms and conditions of the legislative process and of the budgetary process, the conduct of sittings, the rules for debates and time allocated for speeches; also, the various parliamentary control measures are listed.

Order Paper and Notices

Parliamentary publication listing all of the business that the Assembly may give consideration to and containing various information; in consulting the *Order Paper*, readers will find, among other items, the stages at which bills are currently standing.

Votes and Proceedings

Parliamentary publication which includes all orders and resolutions adopted by the Assembly, all motions moved and discussed, as well as all bills considered during a sitting. The *Votes and Proceedings* also contain a summary of all the decisions rendered by the Chair.

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Parliamentary publication containing all speeches delivered in the Assembly and in the parliamentary committees.

All of these publications are available on the Internet site of the National Assembly (www.assnat.qc.ca)



On 25 May 2002, the National Assembly marked the 25th anniversary of the *Argus*, a press review for parliamentarians. The *Argus*, whose name is taken from a prince in Greek mythology who had one hundred eyes, fifty of which stayed open during his sleep to ensure vigilance, is a daily publication containing newspaper articles, analyses and editorials on politics.

The parliamentary committees

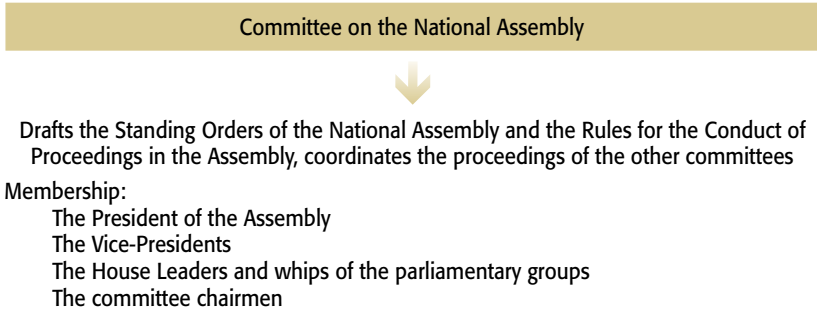
A parliamentary committee is composed of a limited number of Members who are responsible for the examination of any matter within its competence. Most of the parliamentary work is not carried out in the Assembly as such, but in committees. They give detailed consideration to bills, closely examine the activities of the ministries and governmental agencies, study the estimates of expenditure of the Government, and may also choose, on their own initiative, to examine any other matter in relation to their field of jurisdiction. It is in committee that the population can be heard during public consultations on bills or on the various issues that concern society.

Calendar of parliamentary committee sittings

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	2 p.m to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Tuesday	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday	9.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m.	

The Committees may not sit while the Assembly is taking Routine Proceedings.

It is by means of the eleven parliamentary committees, nine of which are sector-based, that Members may fully exercise their role as legislators and controllers of the actions of the Government and of the public administration. Six of the sector-based committees are chaired by Members from the group forming the Government and three by Opposition Members. The chairmanship of the Committee on Public Administration is set aside for a Member of the Official Opposition, and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly. The terms of reference of the committees and the members thereof at the dissolution of the Assembly on 12 March 2003 are listed hereafter, followed by a brief look at the work completed by each of these committees in 2002-2003:



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

- Chairman**
A Member of one of the parliamentary groups, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He organizes, plans and chairs the proceedings of his committee. The chairman of the committee takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.
- Vice-chairman**
A Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chairman, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He assists the chairman in his duties and replaces him when necessary.
- Temporary chairman**
A Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chairman or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. It is the Committee on the National Assembly that approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity. Upon the dissolution of the Assembly, on 12 March 2003, the list of temporary chairmen was as follows:
- PQ**
Barbeau, Diane (Vanier)
Bergeron, Jean-Paul (Iberville)
Boulianne, Marc (Frontenac)
Désilets, Rémy (Maskinongé)
Duguay, Normand (Duplessis)
Labbé, Gilles (Masson)
Pagé, Sylvain (Labelle)
St-André, Jean-Claude (L'Assomption)
- QLP**
Delisle, Margaret F. (Jean-Talon)
Després, Michel (Limoilou)
Houda-Pepin, Fatima (La Pinière)
Loiselle, Nicole (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne)
Poulin, Normand (Beauce-Nord)
(1 vacant seat)

Committee on Public Administration



Accountability and examination of financial commitments

Membership:

The chairman	Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) QLP
The vice-chairman	Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes) PQ

PQ

Diane Barbeau (Vanier)
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé)
Claude Lachance (Bellechasse)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Jean-Guy Paré (Lotbinière)

QLP

Jacques Chagnon (Westmount-Saint-Louis)
Michel Després (Limouilou)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)

Committee on Institutions



Executive Council, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations,
and the Constitution

Membership:

The chairman	Claude Lachance (Bellechasse) PQ
The vice-chairman	Henri-François Gauthrin (Verdun) QLP

PQ

Yves Beaumier (Champlain)
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac)
Denise Carrier-Perreault
(Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Lyse Leduc (Mille-Îles)
Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean)

QLP

Michèle Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa)
Anna Mancuso (Viger)
Benoît Pelletier (Chapleau)

IND.

Mario Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup)

Committee on Public Finance



Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration, the public service,
and supply and services

Membership:

The chairman	Jean-Guy Paré (Lotbinière) PQ
The vice-chairman	Russell Williams (Nelligan) QLP

PQ

Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Normand Duguay (Duplessis)
Serge Geoffrion (La Prairie)
Gilles Labbé (Masson)
André Pelletier (Abitibi-Est)
Stéphan Tremblay (Lac-Saint-Jean)

QLP

Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Monique Jérôme-Forget (Marg.-Bourgeoys)
Diane Leblanc (Beauce-Sud)

IND.

Marie Grégoire (Berthier)

Committee on Social Affairs



The family, health, social and community services, the status of women,
and income security

Membership:

The chairman Monique Gagnon-Tremblay (Saint-François) QLP
The vice-chairman Denise Carrier-Perreault (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) PQ

PQ

Manon Blanchet (Crémazie)
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé)
Gilles Labbé (Masson)
David Payne (Vachon)
Jean-Claude St-André (L'Assomption)
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)

QLP

Julie Boulet (Laviolette)
Russell Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce)
Nathalie Rochefort (Mercier)

IND.

Sylvie Lespérance (Joliette)

Committee on Labour and the Economy



Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science, technology, energy and resources,
and manpower

Membership:

The chairman (vacant)
The vice-chairman Christos Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) QLP

PQ

Diane Barbeau (Vanier)
Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Michel Côté (La Peltrie)
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé)
Robert Kieffer (Groulx)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)

QLP

Claude Bécharde (Kamouraska-Témiscouata)
Normand Poulin (Beauce-Nord)
André Tranchemontagne (Mont-Royal)

IND.

François Gaudreau (Vimont)

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food



Agriculture, fisheries and food

Membership:

The chairman Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe) PQ
The vice-chairman Réal Gauvin (Montmagny-L'Islet) QLP

PQ

Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville)
Manon Blanchet (Crémazie)
Benoît Laprise (Roberval)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)

QLP

André Chenail (Beauharnois-Huntingdon)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
David Whissell (Argenteuil)

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain



Local communities, municipal planning, housing, and recreation

Membership:

The chairman Yvon Vallières (Richmond) QLP
The vice-chairman Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) PQ

PQ

Claude Boucher (Johnson)
Normand Duguay (Duplessis)
Benoît Laprise (Roberval)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice)
Stéphan Tremblay (Lac-Saint-Jean)

QLP

Roch Cholette (Hull)
François Ouimet (Marquette)
Lise Thériault (Anjou)

IND.

François Corriveau (Saguenay)

Committee on Education



Education, vocational training, and consumer protection

Membership:

The chairman Madeleine Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) QLP
The vice-chairman Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean) PQ

PQ

Jocelyne Caron (Terrebonne)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Serge Geoffrion (La Prairie)
Robert Kieffer (Groulx)

QLP

Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee)
Margaret F. Delisle (Jean-Talon)
Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil)

Committee on Culture



Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration,
and relations with the citizenry

Membership:

The chairman Yves Beaumier (Champlain) PQ
The vice-chairman William Cusano (Viau) QLP

PQ

Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville)
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac)
Serge Deslières (Salaberry-Soulanges)
Lyse Leduc (Mille-Îles)
Jean-Claude St-André (L'Assomption)

QLP

Line Beauchamp (Sauvé)
Françoise Gauthier (Jonquière)
Pierre-Étienne Laporte (Outremont)

Committee on Transportation and the Environnement



Transportation, public works, the environment, and wildlife

Membership:

The chairman Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) PQ
The vice-chairman Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie) QLP

PQ

Michel Côté (La Peltre)
Serge Deslières (Salaberry-Soulanges)
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
David Payne (Vachon)
André Pelletier (Abitibi-Est)

QLP

Robert Benoit (Orford)
Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau)
(1 vacant seat)

The sector-based parliamentary committees may carry out three types of mandates: orders of reference, orders of initiative, and statutory orders.

1. Orders of initiative

In the course of 2002-2003, the committee members took the initiative to more closely examine the issues affecting the various sectors of community life such as the economy and public finance, education and housing. The following is an overview of the subjects the committees chose to discuss.

Within the framework of its order on corporate social responsibility and ethical investment, the *Committee on Public Finance*, in autumn 2002, held a general consultation based on its document entitled *Corporate social responsibility and ethical investment*¹. During this exercise, groups and individuals from various backgrounds - non-governmental organizations, businesses, unions, boards of trade - were heard by the parliamentarians. They wished to see how businesses respond to the pressures from investors concerned with the behaviour of corporations in which they place their money. Two Committee members subsequently took part in the American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, which was held in Miami at the end of September 2002. This conference, whose theme was *Alliances for Development*, was an opportunity for the Members to increase their knowledge of the various issues corporate social responsibility players are faced with, especially within the context of the Americas.

Several studies are prepared for the Members sitting on the parliamentary committees in the exercise of their roles as legislators and controllers of the executive power. In 2002-2003, 67 papers were thus prepared, including:

- the study of the Auditor General's report;
- the examination of the financial commitments;
- the orders of surveillance of agencies;
- the orders of initiative on the reform of the voting system;
- population variance in school populations;
- social housing;
- ethical investment;
- the analysis of the annual management reports of the ministries and public agencies.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Orders of initiative

On their own initiative, the committees examine draft regulations and regulations, the orientation, activities and management of public agencies and any other matter of public interest.

¹ This document may be consulted on the Internet site of the Assembly, at the following address (in French only) : www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/Publications/index.html#rapports

The members of the *Committee on Education*, for their part, examined the issue of population variance in the education sector as well as the impact this phenomenon has on communities. Indeed, in several areas of Québec, especially in the regions, school enrolment and student populations are decreasing. However, the Committee observed that this decline, which is generalized throughout Québec, must not overshadow the fact that, in certain regions, in specific areas, school enrolment is significantly increasing. Owing to the significant decrease in enrolment, the Committee on Education took the initiative to find concrete and realistic solutions and to determine the conditions that are conducive to maintaining educational institutions and the vitality of communities. For this purpose, it held special consultations and, in autumn 2002, heard over 30 groups and individuals hailing from the municipal, labour, education, college, university and governmental sectors. An interesting fact, the Minister of State for Education and Employment, at his own request, came before the Committee. The final report, tabled in the Assembly on 11 March 2003, contains 30 recommendations that were adopted unanimously by the Committee members and supported by the following main principles:

- ensure the quality of the education network throughout Québec;
- adapt the institutions to the territory's imperatives;
- enable citizens to take an active part in the decisions concerning the maintaining or the closing of their school;
- respect the jurisdictions of the various parties involved.

The *Committee on Planning and the Public Domain*, whose terms of reference are local communities, municipal planning, housing, and recreation, had taken the initiative, in autumn 2000, to examine the social housing issue. In the summer of 2002, the Committee extended its mandate to include affordable housing, a matter that is of utmost importance in the current context of the rental housing unit shortage prevailing in Québec's major urban centres. In September 2002, the Committee released a discussion paper which raised several questions on specific themes, more particularly:

- the role of the primary players;
- the updating of programmes, practices and Québec regulations;
- the various forms of partnership;
- foreign experience.

During the special consultations, which were held from 15 to 18 October 2002, some thirty organizations and experts were heard.

In December 2001, the *Committee on Institutions* undertook an order of initiative on the reform of the voting system in Québec. More precisely, it sought to evaluate the voting system currently in effect in Québec, examine the various electoral representation possibilities and their impact on representation - that of the regions in particular - and, more generally, on Québec's political system.

The Committee began by holding a special consultation, in November 2002, to hear the opinions of four experts. In addition, between October and December 2002, citizens were invited to voice their opinions to the Committee via an on-line consultation. Some fifty opinions were thus received in this manner. Finally, the Committee was then scheduled to hold hearings within the framework of a general consultation for which it had received 135 submissions from organizations and individuals. The hearings, which were to be held in the month of March 2003, could not be held owing to the calling of a general election on 12 March 2003.

Surveillance of agencies

The *Committee on Labour and the Economy* carried out an order of initiative to examine the orientation, activities and management of the Innovatech du Québec agencies (Innovatech du Grand Montréal, Innovatech du sud du Québec, Innovatech Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches and Innovatech Régions ressources). Founded in 1992, these four venture capital corporations mainly support technological innovation projects in Québec in the information technology, telecommunications, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, aeronautics, optics and new materials sectors. After having met venture capital experts and heard the head officers of these four corporations, the Committee tabled, on 11 March 2003, its final report containing five recommendations. Among these, the following should be noted:

- that the Government allow Innovatech du Grand Montréal to leverage up to 50 % of its capital from the private sector;
- that 20 % of the portfolio of the four corporations be set aside for investments in Québec regions that are outside of that which is defined in their charter in order to permit increased synergy.

In October 2002, the *Committee on Culture* tabled in the Assembly a report containing its assessment of the hearings with the head officers of Télé-Québec held on 20 March of the same year within the framework of an order of surveillance undertaken on the Committee's initiative the previous year. On the same occasion, the members had also taken the initiative to follow up on a report the Committee had tabled in December 2000 following hearings with the head officers of Télé-Québec regarding its Triennial Plan 2000-2003. In conclusion to its final report, the Committee commends the performance of this Crown corporation which, in spite of its limited budget and a context of fierce competition, succeeds in providing quality programming. Finally, it enjoins Government authorities to do whatever is necessary to contribute not only to the support of Télé-Québec, but also to its development.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Orders of reference

At the request of the Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure, and any other matter referred to them.

2. Orders of reference

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

Among the bills that were given consideration in committees in the course of 2002-2003, and of which a complete list can be found in appendix, those of a more general scope were adopted unanimously by the Members of the Assembly:

- the *Act to combat poverty and social exclusion*, whose main purpose is to improve the economic and social situation of persons and families living in poverty and social exclusion and to develop and reinforce the sense of solidarity throughout Québec;
- the *Act instituting civil unions and establishing new rules of filiation*, which creates an institution, the civil union, for couples of the opposite or the same sex who wish to make a public commitment to live together as a couple and to uphold the rights and obligations stemming from such status. The bill permits new couples to enter into a contract establishing a civil union regime, governed by the same rules as those applicable to matrimonial regimes and marriage contracts. The bill amends the Civil Code to add new assisted procreation rules and clarify adoption rules as regards same-sex parents. Finally, the bill extends not only to civil union spouses but also to same-sex or traditional de facto spouses the applicability of provisions pertaining to such matters as consenting to the care required by a person's state of health;
- the *Act to amend the Act respecting childcare centres and childcare services and the Act respecting the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance*, whose purpose is to provide increased protection to children who attend childcare centres. It provides, among other things, that the Minister may not issue a permit if there exists any impediment to its issue, that is, if the applicant or, in the case of a legal person, one of its directors has exhibited behaviour that poses a threat to the security of children or is charged with or has been convicted of an indictable or criminal offence connected with the aptitudes and conduct required to provide proper childcare;
- the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act*, whose purpose is to foster transparency in the lobbying of public office holders and to ensure that lobbying activities are properly conducted. The bill also creates the office of Lobbyists Commissioner to monitor and control the activities of lobbyists. Appointed by the National Assembly, this Commissioner is responsible for drafting a code of conduct for lobbyists and for making inquiries and inspections with respect to any contravention of the provisions of the Act or the code of conduct;

- the *Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu*, adopted in December 2002, which aims, among other things, to permit a right turn on a red light everywhere on Québec territory, except in the City of Montréal. This measure also allows metropolitan authorities to choose whether or not to apply this new practice on their territory. This new provision, which will come into effect in April 2003, stems from a pilot project that was carried out in several Québec regions over a one-year period;
- the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, which introduces measures to facilitate the establishment of a network of protected areas that are representative of Québec's biodiversity. This bill, adopted by the Assembly in December 2002, has already enabled the protection of the Moisie River system, near Sept-Îles, and of the Ashuapmushuan River system, in the Lac-Saint-Jean region, by assigning the status of "aquatic reserves" to them.

General and special consultations

In 2002-2003, no less than 709 groups and individuals came before the committees to express their opinion on various issues referred for consultation.

During the months of October and November 2002, the **Committee on Social Affairs** held a general consultation on Bill 112, *An Act to combat poverty and social exclusion*, whose purpose was stated previously. The hearings lasted 17 days and enabled 132 individuals and organizations to come before the Committee. The bill was subsequently adopted in December by the Assembly.

Some thirty groups came before the **Committee on Institutions** to give their point of view on Bill 109, *An Act respecting the Observatoire québécois de la mondialisation*, which establishes an observatory to be known as the Observatoire québécois de la mondialisation. The mission of the observatory is to further the understanding of the phenomenon of globalization and provide dependable information enabling Quebecers to fully appreciate the issues at stake.

In November 2002, this same Committee was given an order of reference by the Assembly to hold a general consultation on the *Proposal for Agreement-in-Principle of General Nature Between the First Nations of Mamuitun and Nutashkuan and the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada*. From 21 January to 7 March 2003, the Committee heard 73 groups and individuals in relation to this issue. At the conclusion of this mandate, the Committee tabled its report in the Assembly on 11 March 2003.

The **Committee on Transportation and the Environment** was mandated by the Assembly, on 5 December 2002, to hold a general consultation on the implementation in Québec of the *Kyoto Protocol*. Beginning on 18 February 2003, the Committee heard 40 groups and individuals, including a dozen American and European experts. The general election called on 12 March 2003 terminated this Committee mandate.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

General consultation

A general consultation is addressed to the population in general. Prior to its holding, a public notice must be published in selected newspapers and on the Internet site of the Assembly inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to forward a submission to the committee. Public hearings are then held by the committee in order to discuss the submissions received.

Special consultations

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the committee or by the Assembly due to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

In September 2002, the *Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* heard close to a dozen groups and individuals within the framework of a general consultation on the draft bill entitled *An Act respecting commercial aquaculture*, whose object more particularly is to provide a framework for aquaculture carried on for commercial purposes, for research or experimentation. Following these hearings, the bill was introduced in the Assembly at the beginning of December, considered in Committee in February, and the Committee report was tabled in the Assembly on 11 March 2003.

In November 2002, the *Committee on Labour and the Economy* held special consultations with close to forty groups on a bill amending the *Act respecting labour standards*. The bill introduces various amendments pertaining to:

- special recourse for victims of psychological harassment;
- the right for an employee to be absent to care for a close relative;
- the increase in the time during which an employee may be absent for sickness;
- the scope of certain labour standards applicable to farm workers, caregivers, and domestics residing with their employer.

This same Committee was mandated to hold a general consultation in February 2003 on the report entitled *Pay equity: no more and no less*, tabled in the National Assembly by the Minister of Labour in December 2002. This document reports on the progress of pay equity measures taken in enterprises with 10 to 49 employees one year after 21 November 2001, the date on which they were to have completed the fiscal year and begun paying salary adjustments to workers. The *Pay Equity Act* obliges enterprises to carry out a comparative exercise of non-identical employment held by women and men, but having equivalent value. Approximately 34,000 enterprises with 10 to 49 employees are subject to this Act. The Committee tabled its report in the Assembly on 11 March 2003.

Consideration of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

As every year, the members of committees examined the estimates of expenditure for 2002-2003. Between 10 and 30 April, the Assembly only took Routine Proceedings, thus enabling the completion of this important annual exercise which takes up more than 200 hours of the committee proceedings calendar.

3. Statutory orders and orders provided for in the Standing Orders

Examination of financial commitments

The *Committee on Public Administration* examined 15,000 financial commitments, more particularly those of the Auditor General, of Child and Family Welfare, of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ministries, as well as those of the Conseil du statut de la femme (council on the status of women) and of the Régie du logement (rental commission).

Accountability

In December 2002, the Committee tabled in the Assembly its ninth report on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies. This report stemmed from the hearings with deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies and dealt with various issues that had been examined by the Committee members, especially personal income tax, the first report on the implementation of the *Public Administration Act*, child care services in schools, home care services subject to the health and social services network, as well as lodging provided to persons with decreasing independence.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Statutory orders and orders provided for in the Standing Orders

Statutory orders stem from an act or rule arising therefrom. Furthermore, certain committee orders originate from provisions in the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

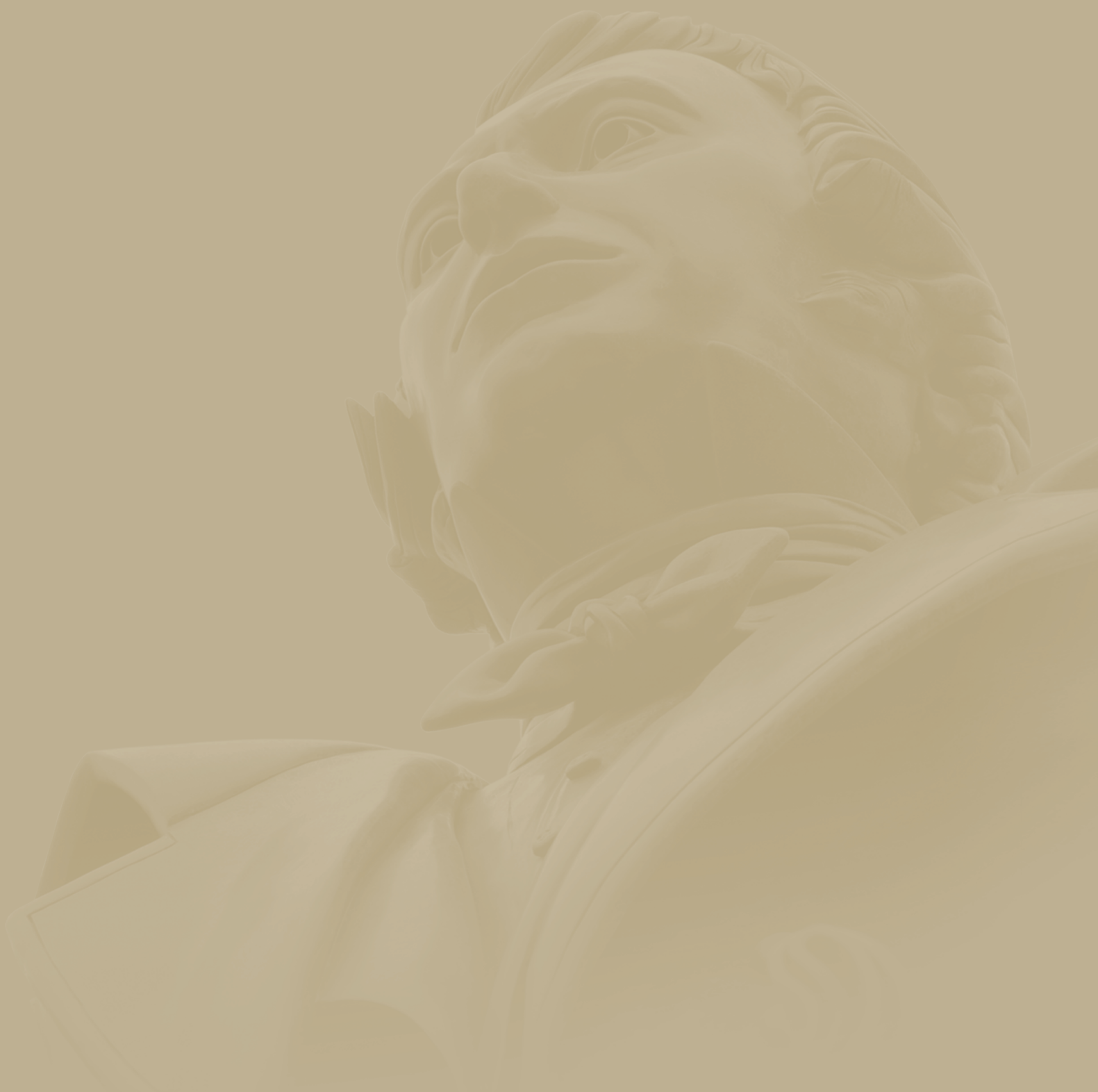
Financial commitments

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee on Public Administration must examine all financial commitments of \$25,000 and over that were authorized by the Treasury Board, the Executive Council or the ministries.

Accountability

The Committee on Public Administration is required to hear public administrators on their management. The Committee carries out this mandate by inviting the deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies to publicly express their views following the observations contained in the Auditor General's report stemming from the Auditor's work on resources optimization. This report is tabled in the National Assembly in December and in June of each year.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
THE CITIZENS



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

The Parliament Building opens its doors to the citizens. Whether to attend a sitting, to visit the premises, to discover the Le Parlementaire restaurant or the Library, tens of thousands of citizens enter the «house of the people» each year. The parliamentary simulations that take place therein within the framework of its educational mission are also a way for the participants to understand how our parliamentary institution works. The National Assembly also is present in Québec homes: its influence outside of the Parliament Building has increased, and the new technologies now enable viewers to watch the parliamentary proceedings in their home.

The citizens at the Assembly

Guided tours

To learn more about the work of Members, the organization and proceedings of the National Assembly and the history and architecture of the Parliament Building, citizens may take a guided tour offered free of charge year round. The tours are given in French, English, Spanish and, on request, in Italian.

Guided tours		Visitors (by place of origin)	
in French	51 169	Québec	63%
in English	21 381	Other provinces	10%
in Spanish	785	United States	14%
in Italian	208	Other countries	13%
Total	73 543		

The parliamentary proceedings

The public may attend the proceedings of the Assembly and of the committees. Some 140 seats are available in the galleries of the National Assembly Room and there are seats reserved for the public in each of the parliamentary committee rooms. In 2002-2003, 11,851 persons thus attended the proceedings in the National Assembly Room, and 9332 attended those held in the parliamentary committee rooms.

The schools

In collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (national capital commission), the National Assembly offers several visit programmes for the benefit of elementary and high school students, certain of which are specifically developed for immigrant students and contribute to their French language learning. These activities include a visit not only of the Parliament Building but also of the Premiers' Promenade and of the Observatory of the Capital.



Open-house days took place on 22, 23 and 24 June as well as on 31 August, 1 and 2 September, and attracted a total of 5068 visitors.

In addition to the school population that participated in the various programmes offered by the National Capital Commission, 13,897 students from all levels took part in guided tours of the National Assembly:

- 5928 elementary school students
- 6391 high school students
- 1077 college students
- 501 university students

Programmes in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec

<i>Programme</i> features / themes	Level	Participants
<i>Québec, a history of the capital</i> Interactive visit, simulation of a vote	Elementary	8 880
<i>Québec, Gibraltar of America</i> Right to vote, representation	Sec.1,2,3	1 900
<i>Québec, a political capital</i> Parliamentary institutions, democracy	Sec. 4,5	1 836
<i>Québec, a capital for Quebecers</i> Integration and French language learning	Immigrant students 5 th and 6 th grades (elementary school)	2 204
<i>Québec, a capital for Quebecers</i> Integration and French language learning	Immigrant adults	1 485
Total number of participants		16 305

The cultural communities

With a view to making the democratic institutions known and to reinforce the ties that bind them to the cultural communities of Québec, the members of the Black, Greek, Chinese, Italian, Latin American, South Asian, Lebanese and Armenian communities were invited to discover the Parliament Building. On these occasions, these citizens visited the Parliament Building, attended an Assembly sitting and met Members of the political parties represented in the Assembly. The Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec contributed to the success of this initiative.

Ceremonies and special events

In 2002-2003, the National Assembly hosted 279 official visits, events, protocolary ceremonies and activities that brought together 14,867 persons. Among these events are the following:

- the national welcoming ceremony for new arrivals
- the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the order-in-council establishing Québec's national holiday
- the ceremony honouring the Québec athletes and trainers awarded medals at the Salt Lake City Olympics and Paralympics
- the presentation of the National Assembly's medal of honour to Captain Robert Piché
- the 25th anniversary celebration of the Charter of the French Language
- the Ordre de la Pléiade awards ceremony



The President of the National Assembly in the company of members of the Forum Multi-communautaire.

The *Le Parlementaire* restaurant

The measures taken to promote the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant, featuring the regional products of Québec, contributed, in 2002-2003, to the presence of a greater number of groups, associations and citizens. The number of meals served thus increased by 11% in comparison with the previous year.

Services	Number of meals served
<i>Le Parlementaire</i> restaurant	40 113
<i>Le Mini-Débat</i> (cafeteria)	40 329
Total	80 442

For the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the *Boutique of the Assembly* committed itself to finding and selling new quality products, in accordance with the needs of parliamentarians and of the clientele in general. The *Boutique* offers publications, articles of clothing, games, office supplies, and decorations.



Upon reaching the first landing of the stairway of honour, visitors will discover the covered hall highlighting the entrance to the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant. This stained-glass archway of light and colours was installed in 1918 by Gauthier & Frères of Saint-Roch, Québec.

The Assembly in your home

The educational institutions tour

In order to further instruct students on the role of the National Assembly, its history and its achievements, in autumn 2002, Louise Harel, the President of the National Assembly, carried out a tour of 15 Québec colleges and universities. During this tour, whose theme was *The Challenge of Democracy*, the exchanges dealt with the role of the National Assembly and the importance of taking part in the democratic process.

The National Assembly participated in the Salon Info-Services (information services exhibitions) of the Government of Québec, on 26, 27 and 28 April 2002, at the Gilles-Bourassa arena in Shawinigan. Close to 3924 people visited this Salon and were able to get information on the role of Members and the services provided by the institution.



The educational institutions tour.

The programming schedule as well as the list of cable distributors who provide the Assembly channel throughout Québec can be found on the Internet site of the Assembly, under « Diffusion des travaux » (in French only).

The Assembly and multimedia

Ever mindful of promoting its activities and of providing the most information possible to the public, the National Assembly is constantly striving to equip itself with new technological tools to attain this objective. Via television, Internet or CD-ROM, citizens may, from their home, enter the world of the National Assembly.

The Assembly channel

On 26 April 1978, the Members of the National Assembly unanimously carried a motion proposing that the proceedings of the Assembly be televised. A new era thus began: the Parliament entered the homes of Quebecers. Since then, television viewers have access to the proceedings of the Assembly and to those of numerous parliamentary committees, to the presentation of press conferences and special events and to the broadcasting of information on the Members of the National Assembly.

In 2002-2003, the debates broadcasting service scheduled 1076 events on its channel for a total of 1758 hours of air time spanning 251 days. The following table highlights the most significant elements of these services, and provides data on Web broadcasting and external cable distribution activities.

Broadcasting	Number of events	Length
External cable distribution and via satellite	1 076	1 758 h
	(continuous information broadcast)	7 002 h
Total		8 760 h
Web broadcasting	748	1 675 h
Technical services		
Television broadcasting	670	1 147 h
On-location recording	21	64 h
Public address equipment installation	182	359 h
Digital recording, <i>Journal des débats (Hansard)</i>	726	1 649 h

The Internet site of the Assembly

In 2002-2003, the Assembly continued the content development of its Internet site, the transmission of reliable and quality information on line, and the rapid updating of information.

Citizens may now view simultaneous and live broadcasts of two events and of a larger range of special events taking place at the Assembly. Activities such as parliamentary simulations accordingly enrich the site's video bank.

Furthermore, ministries and organizations may henceforth broadcast live, from their site, the activities for which they are responsible and which take place at the Assembly.

Significant additions were made to the historical information available on the site. One can now find a chronology of the events concerning parliamentarians as well as the list of Members of the National Assembly by electoral division.

As illustrated in the following table, several parliamentary debate sittings were added to the virtual index of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard), thus facilitating the work of Members and researchers who within these reconstructed debates find answers as to how Québec society evolved over a period of close to a century and a half.

Session	Legislature	Year(s)
4 th	11 th	1908
1 st	12 th	1909
2 nd	12 th	1910
3 rd	12 th	1911
1 st	13 th	1912
4 th	13 th	1916 (Jan.-March)
1 st	14 th	1916 (Nov.-Dec.)
2 nd	14 th	1917-1918
3 rd	14 th	1919
1 st	15 th	1919-1920
1 st	16 th	1923-1924
4 th	16 th	1927

www.assnat.qc.ca



It is now possible to save the video files of events contained in the video bank of the Assembly Internet site, a feat very few sites can boast.

DID YOU KNOW ...

At the bottom of the biographical note of a Member, you have access to every speech he delivered in the Assembly and in committees from 1994 to this day. As regards the parliamentarians of the beginning of the 20th century, you will find a reconstruction of their speeches in the Assembly, since the transcribing of debates only began in 1964.

The National Assembly also provides the general public with popularized documents concerning the operation of the institution and its history. We invite you to call (418) 528-9435 for the list of these documents and to obtain those that may interest you.



To meet the needs of its users, the Library of the National Assembly has three reading rooms at its disposal.

The CD-ROM of the Assembly

For the purpose of furthering the knowledge of its mission and of its parliamentary, institutional and administrative activities, the Assembly, in 2002-2003, produced a CD-ROM whose theme is «Écrire l'histoire de demain» (Writing tomorrow's history). This communication tool deals particularly with Québec parliamentarism, the role of Members, parliamentary proceedings, interparliamentary proceedings and heritage. It constitutes an information tool for citizens in general and is intended specifically for parliamentarians, students and their teachers, international partners and the new personnel of the Assembly.

The documents of the Assembly

The Library

The Library continues, two hundred years after its birth, to be committed to providing information and documentation to parliamentarians and the administration, while also meeting the information needs of the citizens of Québec who are interested in current affairs, history, the evolution, the organization and proceedings of the parliamentary institutions.

In 2002-2003, the Library redesigned its work areas in order to place emphasis on its building and to facilitate its use by the clientele. It now disposes of 51 seats distributed in three reading rooms and of seven new computer stations to access its catalogue, its data banks and the Internet. Attracted by this welcoming work environment and by the activities marking the two hundredth anniversary, over 4900 citizens visited the Library in 2002-2003 to gather material, to attend a book launching or a conference, or to visit the premises.

On 16 and 17 November 2002, the Library opened its doors to the public to present its collections, which contain 1.7 million documents, and its newly-renovated building. More than 550 persons took the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the resources at the disposal of the Members and citizens seeking information on politics and on the concerns of Québec society in present and past times.

The ruling in the case of Roderick MacDonnell of the Supreme Court of Canada

On 1 November 2002, the Supreme Court of Canada rendered a decision concerning a request for access to a National Assembly document made on 8 December 1992 by journalist Roderick MacDonnell of *The Gazette* newspaper. The purpose of the request was to obtain a document prepared by the administrative services of the National Assembly for the Members, for 1990-1991, relating to the expenses incurred by each of the Members of the National Assembly.

In a majority decision, the Court refused access to this document, ruling that each Member has the discretion to disclose the document requested and that there does not exist a right of access to obtain such document without his consent. The Court referred to the fact that the *Act respecting Access* “protects and achieves a balance between two fundamental principles of our democracy: access to information and the independence of Members. The legislator achieves this by limiting the scope of each. Both rights must be considered in correlation without one having precedence over the other, unless indicated otherwise in the Act, and the intent of the law must be observed in this respect.”

The educational mission of the Assembly

The National Assembly developed a wide range of educational activities for the purpose of raising citizens' awareness regarding Québec democracy and parliamentary life. In addition to producing pedagogical documents, holding seminars and presenting a quiz game on democracy, the National Assembly organizes or collaborates in the holding of several parliamentary simulations for all age groups. The Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation actively takes part in the holding of these activities.

The parliamentary simulations

Again this year, thousands of people of all ages participated in the educational activities at the Assembly or in their preparation in class, as the following table indicates :

Activities	Clientele	Participants in class (estimate)	Participants at the Assembly
6 th legislature Pupils' Parliament	6 th grade	2 750	110
1 st legislature Young People's Parliament	sec. 3 and 4	211	72
10 th edition Young Democrats' Tournament	sec. 4-5 + coll.	550	318
11 th legislature Student Forum	college	700	124
53 rd legislature Youth Parliament	coll. + univ.	350	104
17 th legislature Student Parliament	coll. + univ.	136	136
	Total :	4 697	864

The year 2002-2003 will have been the opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of a pedagogical activity, in addition to witnessing the birth of a new parliamentary simulation and the holding of an international-level event.

10th anniversary of the Young Democrats' Tournament

Since its creation in 1992, this popular quiz game has attracted no less than 3358 high school and college students. The 2002 edition, whose theme is based on the career of former Premier Daniel Johnson (senior), enabled 318 students to measure their knowledge on the evolution of democracy, from Ancient Greece to modern times, and to increase their comprehension of parliamentarism and the history of Québec.

Something new: the Young People's Parliament

This parliamentary simulation enables participants to experience the stages of the legislative process, to grasp the complexity of the issues addressed and to choose strategies in order to find solutions that are comparable to those in political reality.

The first edition of this activity intended for Secondary 3 and 4 students was held in February 2003. The students of each participating class had drafted beforehand a two or three page bill providing a solution to a problem concerning them. Once this bill was drafted, the classes elected their Member-student and prepared two questions, one addressed to the President of the National Assembly and the other to the Minister of Education. The Young People's Parliament studied the three following bills:

- An Act concerning certain measures relating to the protection of the environment;
- An Act concerning the improvement of the general culture and contemporary world knowledge of high school students;
- An Act concerning certain measures fostering the self-esteem of elementary and high school students.



The participants in the first edition of the Young People's Parliament.

In 2002-2003, the Assembly also organized the Pupils' Parliament 2002 for 6th grade students, during which the following bills were studied:

- An Act obliging elementary schools to establish a recycling programme;
- An Act establishing an obligatory study period on national and international current events for 3rd level elementary students;
- An Act obliging school boards to establish a training programme and visits in the workplace.

By the same token, the young college-level Members studied, during the Student Forum 2003:

- the Act respecting the review of the electoral system in Québec;
- the Act respecting social housing;
- the Act concerning the control of greenhouse gas emissions.

The World Youth Parliament for Water

Stemming from a collaboration between the Assembly and the International Secretariat for Water, an international non-governmental organization, the World Youth Parliament for Water brought together, in November 2002, some 80 young people between the ages of 14 and 18 from 27 countries.

Each young person who took part in this parliamentary week was, in his country of origin, involved in local projects related to water conservation and purification. The young parliamentarians adopted the Water Act at the National Assembly, a piece of legislation containing 20 sections including four chapters on water resources and their conservation, the education of users and resource managers, international solidarity and water governance. This Act was tabled by ambassadors chosen among the young Members before the World Assembly of Wisdom for Water, on the occasion of the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto in March 2003.

The National Assembly also supported the efforts of several organizations having held parliamentary simulations at the Parliament Building, such as the Seniors' Parliament, the Youth Parliament and the Student Parliament.

EXCERPTS FROM THE **WATER ACT** (PRINCIPLES)

- 1- Water is part of the world heritage.
- 2- Water, like air, is part of the public domain.
- 3- Easy access to drinking water and to purification is a human right. Pure water is a fundamental right of all living creatures.
- 4- Water must not be wasted nor polluted.
- 5- Water is a limited natural resource, necessary for all forms of life and essential to the health and prosperity of all peoples as well as to political stability throughout the world; it must not be considered as merchandise when in its natural state, excepting if it is transported.
- 6- Parliaments must pass legislation to inform the population and regulate the activities of businesses with regard to water.

The Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation: partner of the Assembly

The year 2002 marked the 25th anniversary of the death of Jean-Charles Bonenfant, the librarian of the Legislative Assembly of Québec from 1952 to 1969, and law professor. By establishing a foundation in his honour through an act of the Parliament of Québec in 1978, the National Assembly marked his eminent contribution to studies, teaching and the popularization of parliamentary institutions.

To underline this anniversary, the Foundation initiated, on 23 October 2002, the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Conferences. These annual conferences will have reference to the subjects pursued by Mr. Bonenfant, namely parliamentarism and the fundamental principles of public law, federalism and the distribution of powers, the history of institutional law and, finally, the drafting and interpretation of acts. Exceptionally, the first of these conferences was earmarked to celebrate the work of Mr. Bonenfant.

The act establishing the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation was amended in order to further reflect its funding mission and to ensure its continuity, which enabled it to receive, in 2002-2003, a major donation in the amount of \$200,000 from Alcan.

The parliamentary internships

Each year, the Foundation offers four scholarships to students along with a paid 10-month parliamentary internship. The persons interested in these internships must fill out an application form obtained from the Foundation, from their university department or on the Internet site of the Assembly, and return it before the end of the month of January.

The scholarship programme candidates must hold a bachelor's degree in one of the following disciplines:

- Political Science
- History
- Law
- Economics
- Journalism
- Communications
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Social Science

A committee, composed of Foundation representatives, academia, National Assembly authorities and a former Foundation scholar, evaluates the applicant files and calls the eligible candidates for interviews.

The history internships

In addition to these parliamentary internships, four other scholars of the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation took part in 2002-2003 in the reconstruction of former parliamentary debates, which undertaking ended this year. The students completed, for the 1960, 1960-1961 and 1962 sessions, the newspaper monitoring, which was the main source of information used for the reconstruction. This work proved to be more substantial than for previous years, as the Quiet Revolution took up much of the parliamentary activity and the interest the press had in Québec politics at the time.

Other internships offered at the National Assembly

In 2002, students in culinary services from various institutions accompanied by their professors took part in the planning of menus and in the preparation of certain dishes at the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant.

During the past year, 40 students thus participated in an internship enabling them to present their achievements to the clientele of the Parliament Building restaurant. The creation of this activity was in keeping with the promotion of Québec's regional cuisine introduced six years ago at the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The international network of the Assembly

As one of the oldest parliamentary institutions in North America, the National Assembly through the years has developed several relations with other Parliaments, various international organizations as well as with members of the diplomatic and consular corps. The participation of the Assembly in activities of an international nature contribute to furthering the knowledge of Québec's culture and political institutions and to increasing the outreach of the Assembly abroad.

The international relations of the Assembly focus on four major objectives:

- the upholding and reinforcement of the efficiency of the parliamentary institution and of the elected representatives in their duties with regard to legislation, control, consideration of issues of public interest and representation;
- the active participation of the National Assembly in building a world community based on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;
- the improvement of the international positioning of the Assembly, which contributes to the optimal outreach of Québec society;
- the institutional outreach of the Assembly within the interparliamentary networks.

The signing of agreements

For the purpose of intensifying dialogue with the assemblies of other countries, the National Assembly signs agreements with other Parliaments. These agreements aim to develop an interparliamentary cooperation policy within the framework of the jurisdictions of the assemblies concerned.

In 2002-2003, the National Assembly signed such agreements with the following Parliaments:

The French Community of Belgium and the Walloon Parliament

This agreement was adopted during the 16th Session of the Joint Committee between the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium and the National Assembly of Québec, held in Brussels on 1 and 2 July 2002. The following topics were discussed: the state of intergovernmental cooperation; the international capacity and the institutional situation of both entities; cultural diversity; and the comparison of the electoral systems. Furthermore, during a visit in February from the Speaker of the Walloon Parliament, Mr. Robert Collignon, the President of the Assembly signed an agreement with the latter to form a joint committee on interparliamentary cooperation between both institutions.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

APF

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary assembly of French-speaking peoples); founded in 1967, composed of 67 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

CPA

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; founded in 1911, composed of 171 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

CSG

Council of State Governments of the United States; created in 1933, composed of representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial powers from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: international associated member since 1995)

COPA

Confédération parlementaire des Amériques (Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas); created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional Parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

NCSL

National Conference of State Legislatures; founded in 1975, composed of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: associated member since April 2000).



Signing of an agreement between the National Assembly and the Parliament of Catalonia.

The Parliament of Catalonia

The Assembly and the Catalanian Parliament, represented by its President, Mr. Joan Rigol, signed an agreement during an official visit he made to Québec, in October 2002. On this occasion, the Catalanian and Québec parliamentarians discussed three issues of common interest, namely immigration policies in Québec and in Catalonia, the international extension of the constitutional jurisdictions in the context of globalization, and the importance of an international instrument to conserve cultural diversity. The signing of this agreement stems from a mission carried out by the Assembly in Catalonia in May 2002, at the invitation of Mr. Rigol. During this mission, the exchanges focussed on Catalonia and Québec within the framework of economic integration both in Europe and in the Americas, on supranational institutions, as well as on cultural diversity in Catalonia and in Québec.

The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of California

This agreement, signed in October 2002 by the President of the Assembly and the Speakers of the Senate and of the House of Representatives of the State of California, is the first bilateral interparliamentary agreement between the National Assembly and a Parliament of one of the United States.

Niger

This agreement, signed in January 2003 between the National Assemblies of Québec and Niger, will enable the holding, in Niamey and in Québec, of various workshops and information, training and development seminars.

The Senate of the French Republic

In Paris, on 21 January 2003, the president of the National Assembly delegation for relations with France and her counterpart of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Group of the Senate of the French Republic ratified the text of a memorandum of agreement.

Major events

Parliamentary relations within the Francophonie

A National Assembly delegation took part in the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) held in Bern, Switzerland, from 4 to 10 July 2002. During this session, the President of the National Assembly, Mrs. Louise Harel, was named chairman of this international parliamentary organization, thus becoming the first woman to head the APF. It is also during this session that the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Francophonie was also officially created. On the initiative of this Network, the APF held in March 2003, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, a seminar for women parliamentarians of West and Central Africa whose theme was *African women, key players in development*.

Furthermore, the new chairman of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie addressed the heads of State and Government of the 55 Francophone countries gathered in Beirut, from 17 to 19 October 2002, on the occasion of the 9th Francophone Summit. Within the framework of her address, she tabled an opinion from the APF on the dialogue of cultures proposing solutions in favour of the intensification of this dialogue.

The National Assembly took part, in 2002-2003, in the creation and redesigning of the Internet site of the Association des secrétaires généraux des parlements francophones (www.asgpf-francophonie.org), which has been on-line since January 2003. This project was sponsored by the Secretary General of the National Assembly, Mr. François Côté, as vice-chairman of this association. The role of the site is to provide the Association with a common link to share information and documents in addition to establishing an exchange network. It contains a presentation of the Association, a list of members as well as the texts of the meeting reports and of the resolutions adopted since 2002.

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

The Fourth General Assembly of the COPA was held in the State of Mexico, from 24 to 27 November 2002. Some 278 parliamentarians hailing from 22 countries and representing 68 parliamentary assemblies, regional Parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the continent thus gathered to discuss parliamentary strategies fostering equitable development in the Americas. It is also on this occasion that, for the first time, the six standing committees of the COPA came together. Two of these committees are chaired by Québec Members (Health and Social Development, and Education, Culture, Science and Technology).

The third annual meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, chaired by a Québec woman Member, was held prior to the general assembly of the COPA on 24 November 2002. Some 50 women parliamentarians hailing from close to 20 countries and representing 40 parliamentary assemblies, regional Parliaments and international organizations took part therein. On this occasion, they discussed the progress achieved in the Americas with regard to legislation relating to women and adopted a recommendation suggesting differentiated gender-specific approach measures intended to enable women and men to have equal access to opportunities, goods, resources and services.



Home page of the Association des secrétaires généraux des parlements francophones Internet site.

American interparliamentary organizations

In 2002, a delegation of Québec Members took part in the annual assembly of the *Council of State Governments* (CSG) held in Richmond, Virginia, from 5 to 8 December. The *Eastern Regional Conference* of the CSG held its annual assembly 2002 in Buffalo, from 4 to 7 August. The main theme of this meeting was Canada-United States transborder relations.

The National Assembly also attended the last annual assembly of the *National Conference of State Legislatures* (NCSL) in Denver, Colorado, from 22 to 28 July 2002. On this occasion, the Québec softwood lumber negotiator presented Québec's position regarding this commercial dispute.

Inuit Circumpolar Conference

From 11 to 16 August 2002, a group of Québec Members took part in the proceedings of the 9th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, in Kuujuaq. The parliamentarians marked the importance of increased representation of the Native and Inuit nations of Nunavik within Québec's democratic bodies.

Symposium on Parliamentary Democracy in the 21st Century

This symposium, organized by the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec (association of former Québec Members) in close collaboration with the Assembly, was held from 9 to 12 October 2002 in the Legislative Council Room of the Parliament Building. It also served as the 25th regional assembly of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

Those who took part in this discussion forum, for the most part past and present Members, intellectuals, scholars and journalists, expressed their views on the role and the powers of Parliaments in the 21st century. A strong consensus emerged from the deliberations among delegates: it is imperative that Parliaments take their rightful place in the democratic process, since they are marginalized in relation to the executive and confronted with a globalization that shifts the centres of power. The desire for joint action of elected officials was thus expressed to protect the capacity of Parliaments to support and promote sectors that are essential to the vitality of nations such as culture, social values, and a collective identity.

Over 200 participants from France, the United Kingdom, Scotland, Belgium, Switzerland, Mexico, the United States, and the Canadian provinces and territories took part in this symposium, the minutes of which were published and broadcast on the Internet site of the National Assembly.

This symposium was followed by the *World Governance 2002* conference, which was held at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal from 13 to 16 October. The parliamentary segment of this conference was under the responsibility of the National Assembly.



The President of the House of Members of Mexico, Mrs. Beatriz Paredes, delivers the opening speech at the Symposium on Parliamentarism in the 21st Century

The official visits

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec. In 2002-2003, the National Assembly thus welcomed several assembly speakers, including:

Johann Böhm	President of the Bavarian Landtag
Armen Katchatryan	Speaker of the National Assembly of the Armenian Republic
Lord James Alderdice	Speaker of the Assembly of Northern Ireland
Joan Rigol i Roig	President of the Parliament of Catalonia
Beatriz Elena Paredes Rangel	President of the House of Members of the United Mexican States and Speaker of the Latin American Parliament
Robert Hertzberg	Speaker Emeritus of the House of Representatives of California
Georges Rawiri	President of the Senate of the Gabonese Republic
Robert Collignon	President of the Walloon Parliament
Françoise Schepmans	President of the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium

Government representatives were also at the Parliament Building :

Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan

Artur Mas i Gavarro	Prime Minister of Catalonia
Marie Arena	Minister of Employment and Training of the Government and of the Walloon region
Gennadi Vasilievich Oglobine	Minister of Health of the Republic of Karelia (Russia)
Dieudonné Michel Razafindrandriatsimaniry	Minister of High School Education and Basic Education of the Republic of Madagascar
Tahar Sioud	Minister of Trade of the Republic of Tunisia

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Protocol is the code of conduct observed by the international community to govern, mainly in their form, the official relations that State representatives maintain with their foreign counterparts. The National Assembly ensures that these protocolary standards are respected at the Parliament Building, which is the foremost location for the holding of numerous official visits, international welcoming receptions and ceremonies.

Visits

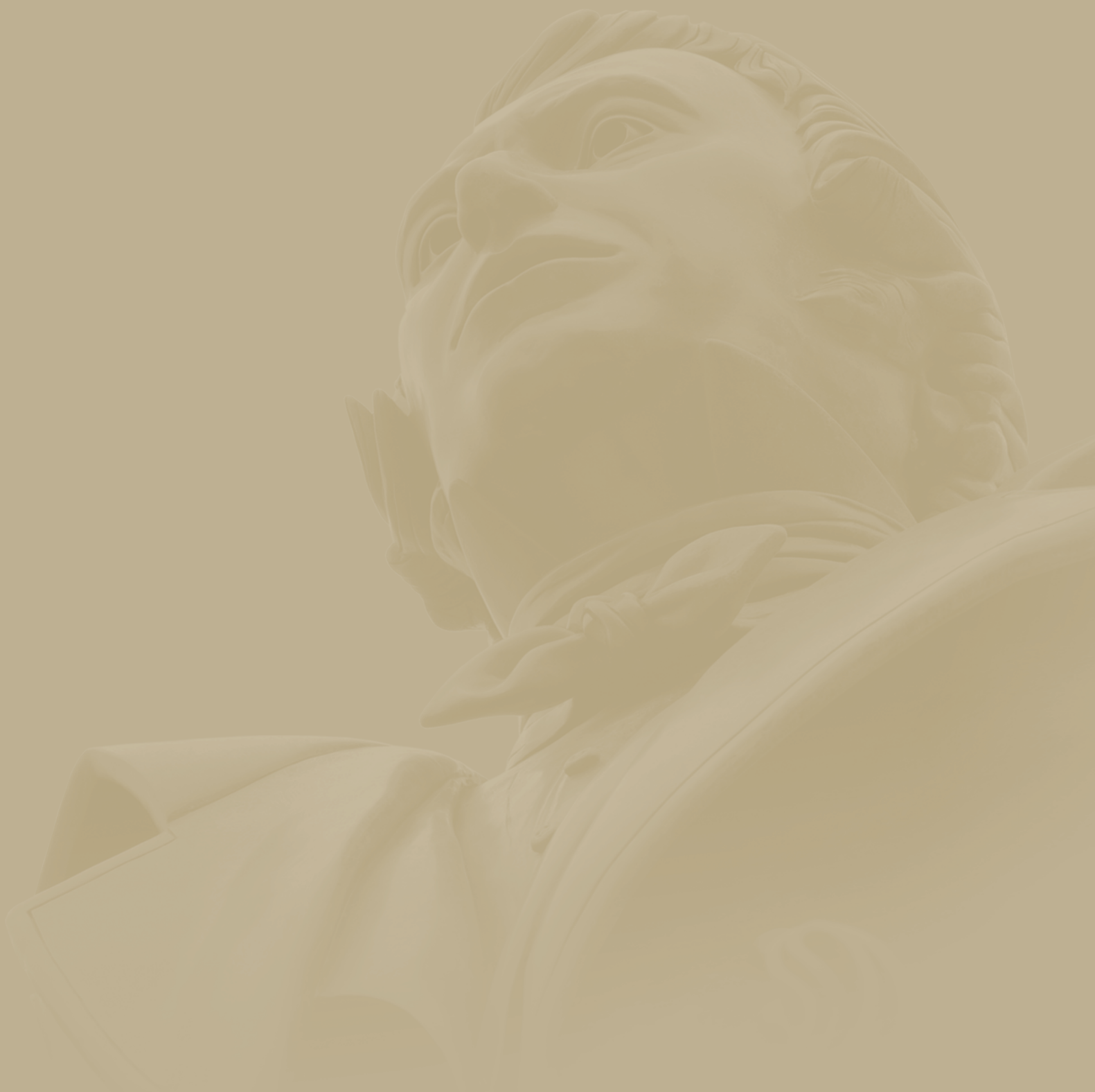
Overview of the national and international figures who were officially welcomed at the Assembly in 2002-2003 :

14	Government representatives
18	foreign diplomats
57	Members

The Assembly also welcomed several parliamentarians who are members of international organizations, including :

Laura Pavón Jamarillo	Chairman of the COPA and Member of the United Mexican States
Stephan M. Saland	Senator and Chairman of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
Ileana Rogel	Chairman of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and Member of the Republic of El Salvador
Philippe Herzog	Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
ITS HERITAGE



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS HERITAGE

The documentary heritage

The Second Centenary of the Library of the National Assembly

The celebrations marking the Second Centenary of the Library of the National Assembly ended in October 2002.

Several conferences were held within the framework of the programming of this Second Centenary. The librarian of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, Mr. Jean-Antoine Milogo, discussed help to parliamentary librarians in developing countries, while an Assembly Library historian, Mr. Gilles Gallichan, gave a brief history of the career of Narcisse-Eutrope Dionne, who was in charge of the Library between 1892 and 1912. Finally, politicians Jacques Brassard and Pierre-Étienne Laporte discussed the specific documentary needs of parliamentarians.

The Assembly also hosted the biennial meeting of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada, on 22 and 23 September 2002. This event was followed by a conference devoted entirely to the history of parliamentary libraries.

At the conclusion of the activities on 31 October 2002, Mrs. Louise Harel, President of the National Assembly, stated: *«...all of these events will have allowed us to set forth the vital role played by parliamentary libraries in the broadcasting, conservation, and development of our parliamentary life.[...] the Library [...] was, remains and will remain a place of learning, of the safekeeping of our collective memory as regards parliamentary democracy».*

Several publications on the Second Centenary of the Library were produced in 2002:

- *Au fil des pages et du temps...; la Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale, deux siècles d'histoire*
- *Les responsables de la Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale depuis 1802*
- *Les responsables de la Bibliothèque depuis 1802; catalogue de l'exposition*
- *Spicilège du 2^e centenaire. Je puise... et je me souviens; la Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale à travers la presse, 1802-2002*
- *Témoignages sur la Bibliothèque*



Mrs. Louise Harel and Mr. Pierre Boucher, Chairman of the National Capital Commission of Québec, unveil a plaque depicting the establishment of the Library in 1802.

The text on the plaque reads as follows : "The Library of the National Assembly originates from the Parliamentary Library of Lower Canada established in Québec in 1802, when the Parliament Building was located on Côte de la Montagne. After the passage of the Union Act, 1840, the Library followed the Parliament to its new locations. In 1867, despite the transfer of most of the collection to Ottawa, the new federal capital, Pamphile Le May pursued the development of the Library for the benefit of Québec parliamentarians. Although it was almost completely destroyed in the fires of 1849, 1854 and 1883, the Library was able to rebuild and develop its collection. It has occupied this building since 1915."

In 2002-2003, 13,020 new entries were added to the computerized catalogue of the Library collections. Of this number, 10,021 are printed and 2999 titles are available on some other medium, 2064 of which are electronic documents. These additions raise to 227,254 the number of documentary units described in the catalogue available on the Internet site of the Assembly.

The Library collections

During the summer of 2002, the Library staff took a complete inventory of the physical units that make up the collections. This enumeration, during which magazines and newspapers were counted one by one, will have allowed personnel to correct certain approximations and to calculate the actual size of the Library's periodical collections. As a result, the Assembly now has a precise portrait of the documentary heritage conserved at the Library.

The results of this operation establish that the Library has 1,755,357 documents, distributed as follows:

Printed matter books, fascicles and brochures magazines newspapers	356 540 239 728 613 810
Microform records microfilms microfiches	32 967 509 435
Electronic documents (diskettes and CD-ROMs)	1 016
Audio recordings	159
Videocassettes	262
Posters, maps and photographs	1 440
Total	1 755 357

The archives of the National Assembly

In 2002-2003, the National Assembly increased its parliamentary archives conservation efforts in partnership with another custodian of our documentary heritage, the National Archives of Québec. It concluded with the latter a memorandum of understanding to share the responsibilities related to the acquisition, processing, conservation and development of the archives of Members and former Members of the Legislative Council. Moreover, the Assembly produced a subject guide of the archival groups relating to parliamentarians, which now contains the descriptions of 234 archival groups of former Members of the National Assembly and of the Legislative Council of Québec, regardless of the location where the documents are stored. This on-line research tool will be available on the Internet site of the Assembly.

This agreement also describes a simple procedure for Members who wish to donate their archival documents and establishes a coordination committee that will determine the location of the conservation of Members' archives. It enables the Assembly to ensure the continuity of parliamentarians' archives and to provide its main clientele, the Members of the National Assembly, with services adapted to their needs as regards the management of active records that they produce and receive. Both institutions thus hope to ensure that the memory of parliamentarians is not only conserved and accessible, but also promoted.

In other respects, the inventory of files having served in the passage of bills was completed, thus facilitating the finding of these documents which date back to Confederation in 1867.

On 10 December 2002, Mrs. Louise Harel, President of the National Assembly of Québec, unveiled the portrait of her predecessor, Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, who was President from 12 March 1996 to 30 January 2002. The ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Charbonneau and of the one who made this painting, Mr. André Michel, known as the «painter of the Amerindians».

The painting is on display in the «Presidents' Gallery», located near the Hall of Honour in the Parliament Building. Alongside are the portraits of the Speakers and Presidents of the National Assembly who have come and gone since 1867, painted or photographed by artists such as Eugène Hamel, who in the course of his career painted the most portraits of Presidents (eight paintings), Suzor-Côté, Ozias Leduc, Jean-Paul Lemieux and Francesco Iacurto.



Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, standing before the painting created by artist André Michel.

The architectural heritage

Owing to the care taken in their restoration, the parliamentary buildings retain all of their original splendour while meeting modern requirements. As was the case in previous years, important restoration work was carried out in 2002-2003.

Parliament Building

The Assembly continued its restoration of the Parliament Building's masonry. Attention was paid to the two pediments of the northwest corner of the building as well as to the walls on the west side of the building, between the northwest corner and the central section. This phase of the work was characterized by several interventions on the sculpted ornamentation carried out by craftsmen.

Pamphile-Le May Building

The interior renovation of Pamphile-Le May Building ended in 2002-2003 with the complete renovation of the east section of the 3rd floor and of the parliamentary committee room, as well as the replacement of the elevator. This work highlighted the building's outstanding architecture, which dates back to 1916, while providing the Assembly with functional office accommodations.

Jean-Antoine-Panet Building

The Auditor General having moved out of this building, the Assembly carried out a complete redevelopment of the premises in order to house eight of its administrative units. This project, which was conducted within an accelerated time frame, was the last component of the reorganization of the offices stemming from the cession of Honoré-Mercier Building to the Société immobilière du Québec (realty corporation).

The urban heritage

The Assembly pursued its objective of enhancing the premises surrounding the Parliament and Government offices on Parliament Hill, in conjunction with the National Capital Commission of Québec. Plantings were added to the front of the Parliament Building and an arrangement of several species of trees was planted to the east of Honoré-Mercier and Pamphile-Le May Buildings.



The inuksuk is a monument that traditionally represents a beacon for Inuits in Northern Québec.

The inuksuk

Several well-known Québec politicians and members of the Native community took part in the unveiling, in October 2002, of an inuksuk on the premises of the Parliament Building. The inuksuk is a monument that traditionally represents a beacon for Inuits in Northern Québec. This particular inuksuk measures over two and a half metres and was constructed using large stones taken from the four corners of Nunavik that were assembled to resemble a human shape. The names of all of the Inuit communities are inscribed on the stones surrounding the inuksuk, which is located on a prestigious site, between the statues of two great figures who shaped Québec's history, Premiers René Lévesque and Jean Lesage.

This project is the result of a close collaboration between the National Assembly and several partners, such as the Government of Québec, the National Capital Commission of Québec, the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government and the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones du Québec (Native affairs secretariat).

The monument dedicated to Louis-Joseph Papineau

The commemorative monument dedicated to Louis-Joseph Papineau was unveiled in December 2002 in the presence of Mrs. Jacqueline Papineau-Desbaillets, a descendant of Papineau, of the President of the National Assembly and of several elected representatives.

At the initiative of the National Capital Commission of Québec, an open competition addressed to sculptors was initiated in the spring of 2002, and the jury retained five candidacies. These finalists were invited to present a maquette of the artwork they intended to create to honour Papineau. The joint proposal of artists Suzanne Gravel and Yvon Milliard was finally chosen. It took them nine months to complete this statue measuring 2.70 metres and weighing 450 kilos. The artists chose to represent Papineau in mid-life, standing, one arm raised, a famous gesture that, incidentally, other artists have depicted in their work and which represents well his great qualities as a speaker.

Louis-Joseph Papineau held the office of Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada for over 20 years, between 1815 and 1838. During this period, he was also Leader of the Canadian Party, which subsequently became the Patriot Party. A true democrat, he fought relentlessly for the adoption of the elective principle in political and civic institutions. It is also under his leadership that the equality of minority religions was officially recognized in 1832. As the figurehead of the democratization of Lower Canada's political system as stated in the 92 resolutions adopted by the House of Assembly, a price was put on his head and he was forced to seek refuge in the United States and later in France. He was pardoned in 1844, was reelected in 1848 and passed away in 1871.



Monument in honour of Louis-Joseph Papineau.

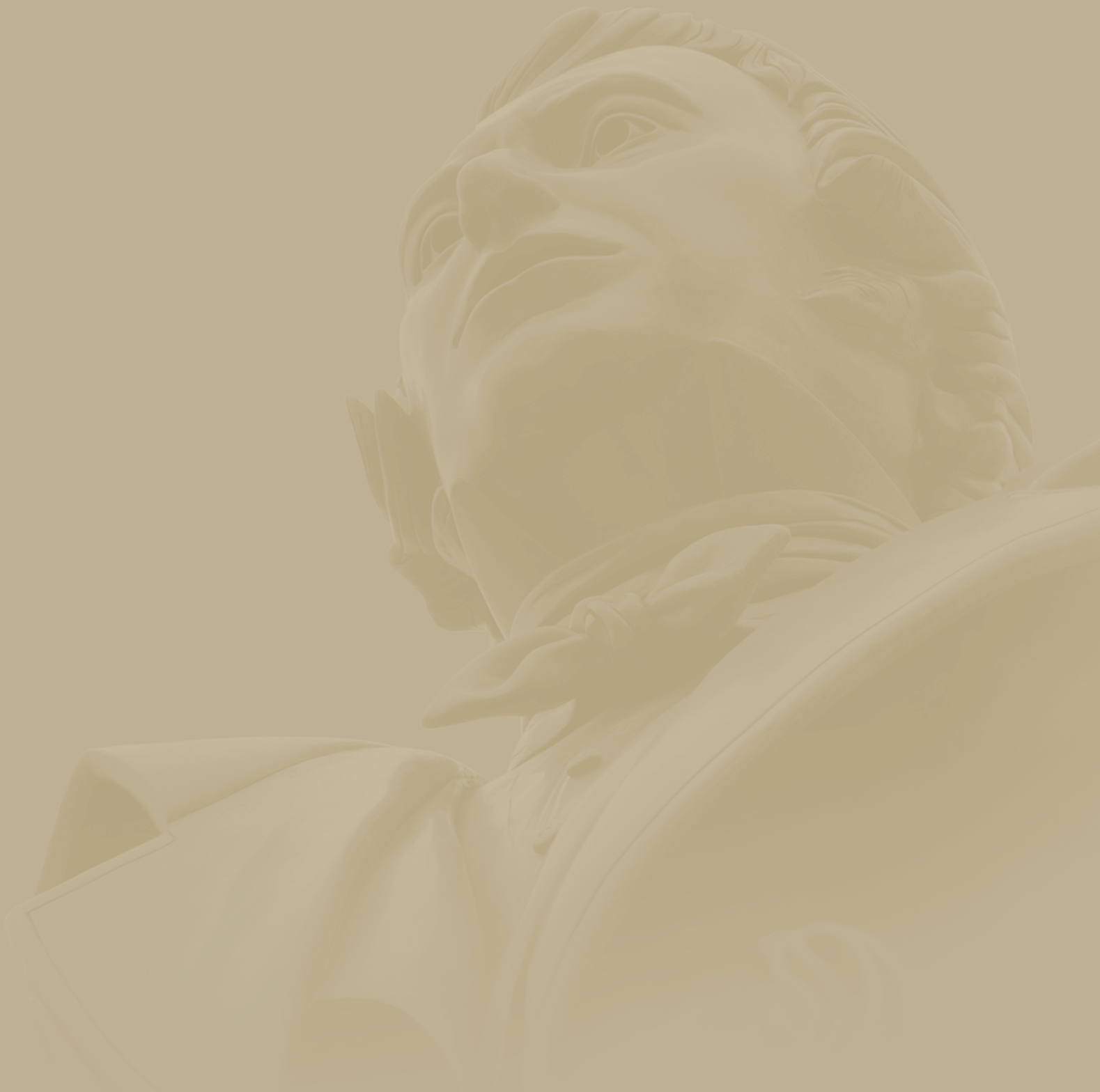
Archaeological excavations during the construction of Papineau's monument

The City of Québec and the National Capital Commission of Québec have collaborated in protecting the archaeological heritage within the framework of the Parliament Hill development programme since 1997. A comprehensive study specifying the required research and identifying the appropriate conservation measures was conducted, and excavations were carried out on the premises of the Parliament Building in 1999 and in 2002 in accordance with these recommendations.

The excavations of 2002 took place where houses dating back to the French regime had stood. Other than household objects linked to the first occupants of these houses, who at the time were in the country, objects having belonged to British soldiers from 1775 onward were found. Owing to the great number of soldiers stationed in Québec City at the time of the American Revolution, several set up camp in the fields located in front of the ramparts. This was the case of the 44th Regiment of Foot (East Essex), identified by a button left among other objects.

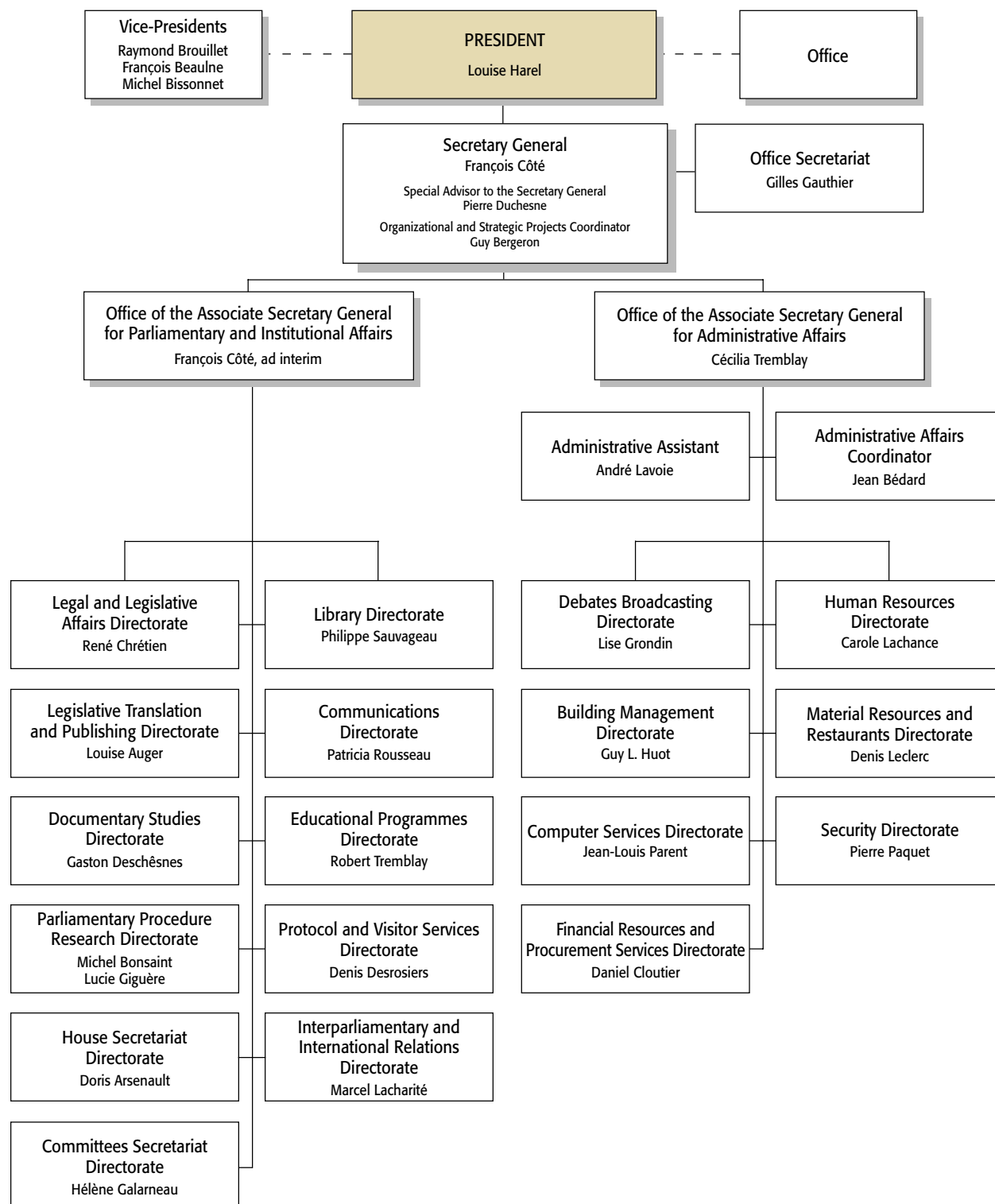
Moreover, the excavations enabled the clearing of a portion of the counterscarp built shortly after 1800 constituting part of the advanced fortification work. These foundations, as those of the houses, were left in place and measures were taken to protect them. Finally, some vestiges of the workshop where stonecutters worked on the construction of the Parliament Building in the 1870s were also discovered.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The administrative structure of the Assembly



The strategic plan of the administration of the National Assembly 2002-2004

In December 2002, by tabling in the National Assembly the first strategic plan of its administration, the President sanctioned the efforts made by the personnel in order to channel its resources towards attaining the priorities and fundamental objectives of the institution. The exercise that was carried out enabled the improvement of the management and planning process of the administration and indicates its desire to join in the modernization effort made by the Government of Québec.

Three major orientations were adopted and will guide the actions of the organization until the end of the year 2003-2004.

- More adapted services to reinforce the efficiency of the National Assembly and to provide better support to Members in the exercise of their duties.
- A better known National Assembly that is more accessible and on which more emphasis is placed.
- An administration that focuses on the competence and mobilization of its personnel as well as on a modern and efficient management of its resources.

The commitments made by the administrators and the employees to reach these goals translate into over one hundred projects, certain of which have already been realized or are in the process thereof.

The creation of a new administrative unit

On 11 December 2002, the Office of the National Assembly modified the Administrative Organization Plan of the Assembly to create the Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate.

The general mandate of this branch, which was previously carried out by the Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate, is the following:

- to provide all professional and technical services as regards translation, revision, editing and printing of legislative texts;
- to answer the translation needs of the administrative units;
- to publish the *Legislative Report of the National Assembly* and the *Annual Compilation of the Statutes of Québec*;
- to collaborate and maintain close relations with the authorities involved with a view to facilitating the preparation of the Government's legislative programme.

The personnel

The workforce

The administrative sector of the Assembly is now composed of 663 persons distributed among the permanent personnel (72%) and the casual personnel (28%). The political sector, composed of executive assistants, political attachés, counsellors and support staff, comprises 495 persons, both on Parliament Hill and in the Members’ riding offices.

Pursuant to the provisions of the various pension plans offered to the public service personnel, 11 employees of the National Assembly retired in 2002-2003. During the past six years, over 126 employees thus withdrew from the labour force, which represents more than one quarter of the regular workforce.

Ninety-nine new employees were hired, more specifically 55 regular employees and 44 casuals. In keeping with the renewal of the public service, 64 of the persons hired are under 35 years of age. New employees take part in a programme to welcome and integrate newcomers at the National Assembly. Four measures are implemented: a welcome by the administrative unit, a meeting with the Secretary General and the members of the directorate, a welcome by the Human Resources Directorate, and a guided tour of the National Assembly.

Number of employees per age group - administrative sector:	
35 years and under	145
36 - 40 years	70
41 - 45 years	96
46 - 50 years	139
51 - 55 years	127
56 years and over	86
Total	663

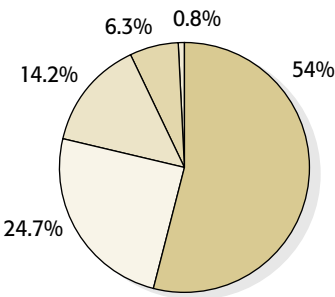
Occupational health and safety

Following the adoption of the Health Policy for Québec’s Public Service Employees, the National Assembly proposed a preventive management approach and indicated its ongoing concern for every health aspect of persons in the workplace. This new policy focuses on the following four programmes:

- occupational health and safety programme;
- programme against violence in the workplace and harassment;
- health promotion measures programme;
- employee assistance programme (EAP).

On 5 April 2002, the National Assembly entered into a first collective agreement for a three-year period applicable to the casual personnel of the restaurants.

Personnel - administrative sector



Public servants	54%
Professionals	24.7%
Workers	14.2%
Senior executives	6.3%
Others	0.8%
Women	52%
Men	48%

The employee assistance programme includes the overall actions undertaken and the services offered to come in aid to persons going through personal problems affecting their performance or their behaviour at work. It is addressed to all of the permanent and casual staff employed by the National Assembly and promotes access to specialized resources. In 2002-2003, some twenty individuals had recourse to this programme.

Employee development

Again this year, the Assembly surpassed the standard required as regards the training and development of its personnel by devoting 1.2 % of its wage bill to carry out a group of activities enabling to increase the competence of its employees and to improve services to its clientele. These development activities dealt more particularly with information and communication technologies and with parliamentary procedure.

Courses on parliamentary procedure, on the administration and proceedings of the Assembly and of the committees, as well as on the evolution of Québec parliamentarism were attended by approximately 35 professionals from the parliamentary affairs sector. These persons generally provide support to Members in the exercise of their parliamentary duties. The development sessions were very detailed so as to enable new employees to acquire sound knowledge on the operation of the institution and to allow the senior members of the personnel to enhance and update their knowledge in this respect. The courses took place over a twelve-week period, three hours per week, from autumn 2002 to spring 2003.

The mobilization of personnel

The Assembly wishes to enable employees to better acquaint themselves with the various aspects of their workplace and thus develop a sense of belonging to the institution they serve.

In November 2002, over 210 employees of the National Assembly visited the Library for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with its services, its collections and its premises. The visit focused on the research and reference services, archives and administrative files management and the indexing of the *Journal des débats*. The various collections and the catalogue of the Library were also presented. Visitors rediscovered the renovated rooms of Pamphile-Le May Building.

During the two-day visiting period in March 2003, over 300 employees took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Parliament's restaurants and discovered the history of the premises and of those who have worked there. The persons in attendance were able to learn more about the formal receptions given at various periods in history, were given explanations concerning the rules and decorum to be observed during these receptions, were given a tour of the wine cellar, were able to admire the Assembly's fine dinnerware, and had the opportunity to meet the chef.

Employees having attained 25 years of service at the National Assembly and within the public service

A quarter of a century of devotion

In 2002-2003, the National Assembly honoured and gave recognition to the 82 employees who, during the year 2002, attained 25 years of service at the National Assembly or in the public service of Québec. Of this number, 17 persons completed a quarter of a century within our very institution.

List of employees having attained 25 years of service...

at the National Assembly

Danielle Beaudoin
Robert Bédard
Danièle Cauchon
Christian A. Comeau
Jacques Daigle
Rémi Drolet
Renée Ferland
Pierre Harbour
Claire Latour
Christiane Lebel
Denise Marcoux
Arthur Paquin
Lise Plamondon
France Roy
Réal Therrien
Odette Thomassin
Réjeanne Trépanier

within the public service

Serge Arseneault
Carole Audet
Nicole Beaulieu
Suzanne Bélanger
Guy Bergeron
Yvon Bergeron
Linda Bernard
Michel Bérubé
France Bilodeau
Annie Blouard Gosselin
Pierre Boutet
Jacques Brassard
Daniel Bureau
Monique Cadorette
Linda Carmichael
Michel Cassista
François Choinière
Linda Chouinard
René Chrétien
Roger Couture
Toan Trong Cung
Joëlle Desjardins
Chantal Dubé
Nicole Dufresne
Marie-Jeanne Gagné
Gilles Gallichan
Claude Gaudreau
Gilles Gauthier
Lise Gauvin
Lise Godin
Denis Goulet
Diane Hamel
Pierre Jacques



Employees having attained 25 years of service at the National Assembly or within the public service were honoured in the Legislative Council Room.

Serge Labarre
Hélène Lachance
Gérard Laliberté
Claude Lallier
Mireille Lamontagne
Denis Leclerc
Denis Lemay
Jacques Léopold
Chantal Lépine
Suzanne Marcoux
Richard Marois
Éliette Morissette
Hélène Ouellette
Bertrand Pelletier
Jean-Guy Pelletier
Noëlla Perron
Francine Poirier
Jacques Richard
Lise L. Richard
Jean-Claude Rioux
Hélène Sanfaçon
Pierre Sansfaçon
Yves Savard
Shirley Smith
Normand St-Laurent
Mario Toussaint
Cécilia Tremblay
Olivier Tremblay
Daniel Trépanier
Jean-Charles Turcotte
Pierre Vallières
Céline P. Verret

The technological support

Computers

In September 2002, the National Assembly equipped its local computer network with a new more efficient structure by replacing its old equipment that had become obsolete. The Assembly will thus be in a position to meet new requirements such as videoconferencing, IP telephony and central user data archiving. This new structure will provide better support to parliamentarians and the personnel of the Assembly while meeting modern computer security requirements.

The National Assembly purchased 250 Pentium 4 microcomputers in 2002. The implementation of these new high-performance computers aims to increase the speed of workstations and to support the future XP environment.

With these acquisitions, the employees of the political and administrative sectors of the Assembly now dispose of 1001 microcomputers, in addition to 398 printers, installed on Parliament Hill and in the constituencies.

Computer security

Throughout the past fiscal year, the Assembly pursued its fight against hackers and attacks on its computer systems by installing the necessary security patches and by updating the anti-virus programme.

The implementation of the new electronic communication methods for the parliamentarians and the political and administrative personnel has caused a veritable migration of control technologies, the range of which extends to the heart of the working process as such. During 2002-2003, the Assembly thus carried out a complete revision of its computer security rules and procedures to ensure maximum protection of its informational assets and to prevent any illegal acts that could be prejudicial to the reputation and proper conduct of the institution and the fulfilment of the Members' mission.

The intranet portal of the Assembly

Since December 2001, the parliamentarians of the Assembly as well as the political and administrative personnel dispose of an intranet that is accessible both on Parliament Hill and in the constituencies. During the past year, this work tool has been developed in several ways. For example, by using the portal, it is now possible to send various forms, to register for activities and to reserve meeting rooms.

New sections were added to the portal, including the Pêle-mêle bulletin (news concerning the Assembly and its staff), death notifications and personnel movement, various warning messages and computer guides.

Staff members who do not dispose of a computer now have access to the portal thanks to the addition of shared workstations. Finally, downloading and display time was improved by 33%.

The management of administrative documents

The acquisition of new software enabled the decentralization of certain tasks and provided more autonomy to the personnel responsible for the daily management of the Assembly's administrative files. In 2002-2003, the corpus of documents produced or received by the directorates of the Assembly was thus increased by 2634 active files (frequently used files for administrative, legal or financial purposes kept in the units' file stations) and by 11,195 semi-active files (used occasionally and kept in a warehouse).

By managing its administrative documents, the National Assembly complies with the requirements of Québec legislation and improves the efficiency and productivity of its administrative personnel.

The broadcasting of debates

The Assembly carried out a project consisting in a major redevelopment of the rooms set aside for the broadcasting of debates and in the replacement of certain outdated equipment. This project comprised two major interventions, that is, the redesigning of production rooms for the Debates Broadcast Service and for the *Journal des débats* (Hansard).

The 7th floor and a portion of the 8th floor of André-Laurendeau Building were completely redesigned. The Assembly set up five production control rooms, a broadcast control room, editing and computer graphics rooms, as well as the necessary support services rooms. The entire system was linked to a hardware control centre containing all of the computer equipment related to production activities.

The addition of these control rooms, two of which are equipped with digital technology, will enable the simultaneous broadcast of parliamentary proceedings taking place in three different rooms. The broadcast was previously possible in only two rooms at once. The new equipment, combined in a broadcast control room, will allow improved coordination of simultaneous events broadcasting, both on the Assembly channel and on its Internet site. The increased use of digital technology will also ensure the continuity of the parliamentary debates video archives by protecting them from the degradation associated with the passage of time.

With regard to the transcript of proceedings, an air conditioning system was installed on the 3rd floor and the lighting was replaced by new equipment that is more compatible with computer screen work. Furthermore, the transcribers and revisors now benefit from ergonomic office furniture that is compatible with the nature of their duties.

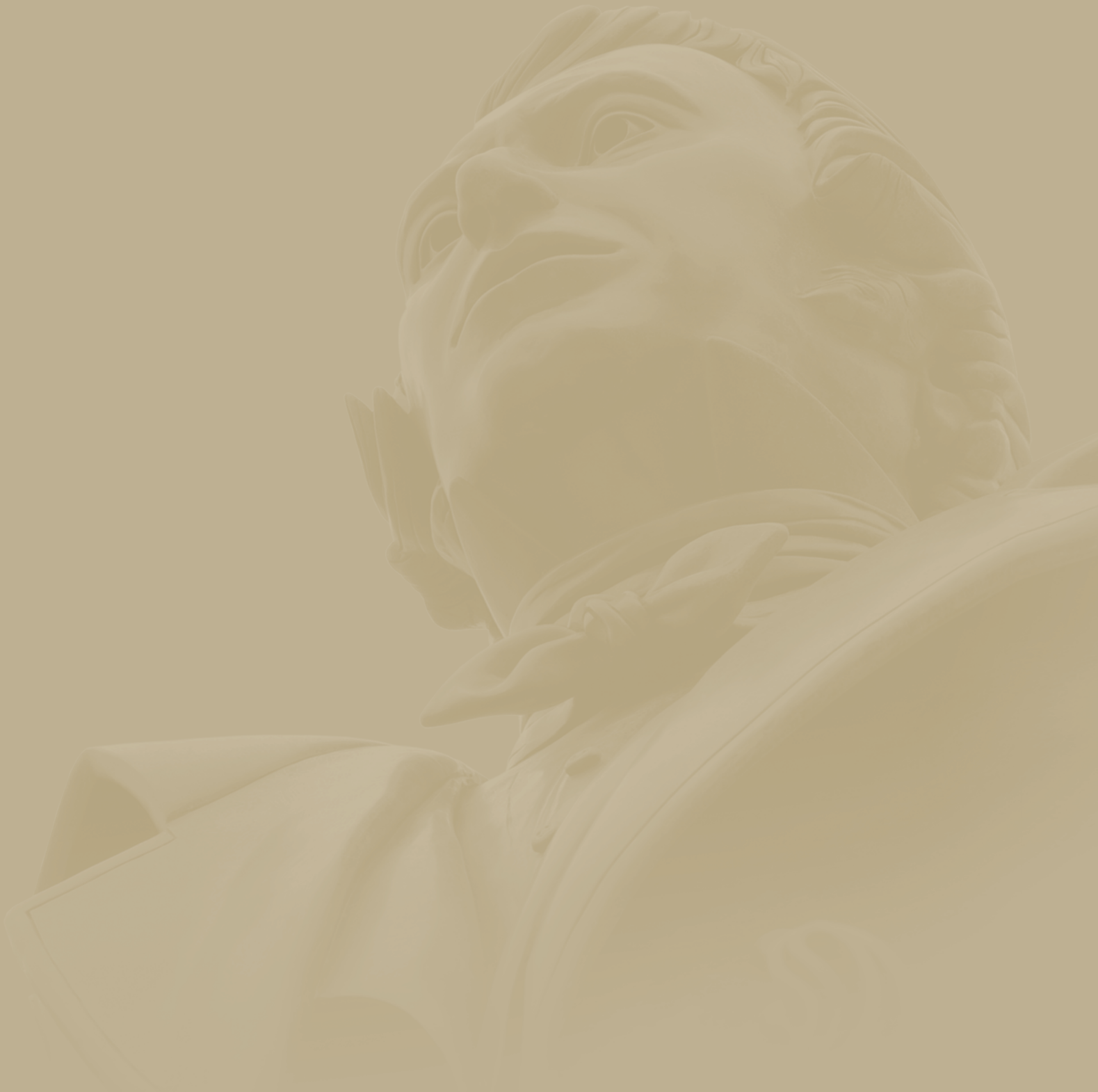
To guarantee the continuity of the debates broadcasting activities and that of its computer network, the Assembly installed an uninterrupted power supply system ensuring that electricity is supplied to strategic equipment during power failures.

National Assembly Expenditure for 2002-2003

	Expenditure (000 \$)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
Parliamentary Affairs			
Secretary General and Associate Secretary General for Parliamentary and Institutional Affairs	1 208,1	14	1
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	961,5	19	5
Documentary Studies Directorate	809,0	15	3
Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate	517,2	9	0
House Secretariat Directorate	633,7	8	6
Committees Secretariat Directorate	1 229,0	21	1
	5 358,5	86	16
Institutional Affairs			
Library Directorate	3 423,7	60	2
Communications Directorate	1 140,1	21	4
Educational Programmes Directorate	583,2	8	1
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	2 150,2	23	11
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	3 099,4	24	1
	10 396,6	136	19
Administrative and Technical Support			
Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs	951,6	12	1
Debates Broadcasting Directorate	4 375,9	52	32
Building Management Directorate	5 786,1	29	5
Computer Directorate	2 033,8	41	3
Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate	1 026,4	24	0
	14 173,8	158	41
Resource Management Support			
Human Resources Directorate	7 365,9	21	0
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	4 343,6	50	23
Security Directorate	1 648,3	31	8
	13 357,8	102	31
Statutory support services to Members			
Fixed assets depreciation	5 121,8		
	43 231,6		
Total expenses	91 640,1	482	107

* Authorized FTEs (full-time equivalents).

APPENDICES



List of bills passed in 2002-2003

The initialism in the second column identifies the parliamentary committee that gave consideration to the bill. The committees are identified as follows:

Committee of the Whole (CW)
 Committee on the National Assembly (CNA)
 Committee on Culture (CC)
 Committee on Public Administration (CPA)
 Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (CAFF)
 Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (CPP)
 Committee on Labour and the Economy (CLE)
 Committee on Education (CE)
 Committee on Social Affairs (CSA)
 Committee on Public Finance (CPF)
 Committee on Institutions (CI)
 Committee on Transportation and the Environment (CTE)

Government bills

14	CFP	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions as regards the protection of confidential information
49	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société d'habitation du Québec
50	CI	An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions (modified title)
52	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales and other legislative provisions
54	CI	An Act to reform the Code of Civil Procedure
62	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de la Justice as regards the register fund
65	CPF	Budget Act No. 1 giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 29 March 2001 and to certain budget statements
66	CE	An Act to amend the Act respecting school elections
67	CTE	An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions
68	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting municipal courts, the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions
70	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice and other legislative provisions
72	CTE	An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions with regard to land protection and rehabilitation
76	CPF	An Act to amend the pension plans of the public and parapublic sectors
77	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning regional county municipalities
78	CPF	Budget Act No. 2 giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 29 March 2001 and to certain budget statements
79	CE	An Act to amend the Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons

80	CPF	Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act
82		Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002-2003
83	CE	An Act to amend the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses
84	CI	An Act instituting civil unions and establishing new rules of filiation
85	CI	An Act to amend the Legal Aid Act as regards certain legal aid centres
86	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act, the Act respecting municipal courts and other legislative provisions
87	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting Société Innovatech du sud du Québec and the Act respecting Société Innovatech Régions ressources
88	CPF	An Act to amend the Religious Corporations Act
89	CI	An Act respecting the Québec correctional system
90	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions as regards the health sector
91	CPF	An Act respecting the extension of certain collective agreements of the public and parapublic sectors
92	CC	An Act respecting the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse
93	CI	An Act to ensure the implementation of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec
94	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Montréal
95	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting childcare centres and childcare services and the Act respecting the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance
96	CSA	An Act respecting pre-hospital emergency services and amending various legislative provisions
97	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Régions
98	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting prescription drug insurance and other legislative provisions
99	CTE	An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act (modified title)
100	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting offences relating to alcoholic beverages, the Act respecting lotteries, publicity contests and amusement machines and the Act respecting liquor permits
101	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services as regards residences for the elderly
102	CTE	An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and the Act respecting the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage
103	CTE	An Act to impose restrictions on pig farming
104	CC	An Act to amend the Charter of the French language
106	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
107	CPF	An Act respecting the Agence nationale d'encadrement du secteur financier
108	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services for Cree Native persons and various legislative provisions
109	CI	An Act respecting the Observatoire québécois de la mondialisation
110	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting insurance and other legislative provisions
111	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Conseil exécutif as regards Canadian intergovernmental affairs
112	CSA	An Act to combat poverty and social exclusion
113	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services as regards the safe provision of health services and social services

114	CW	An Act to ensure the continued provision of emergency medical services
115	CTE	An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu
116	CPF	An Act respecting the Ministère des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Recherche
117	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Institut national de santé publique du Québec and the Act respecting the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
118	CTE	An Act to amend the Act to prohibit commercial advertising along certain thoroughfares
119	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting Attorney General's prosecutors
120	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting transportation services by taxi
121	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions
123	CE	An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act and the Act respecting the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial
124	CE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation and the Education Act
125	CC	An Act to amend the National Museums Act
126	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting income support, employment assistance and social solidarity and the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale and establishing the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail
127	CSA	An Act to facilitate the establishment of a pension plan for employees working in childcare services
128	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and other legislative provisions
129	CTE	Natural Heritage Conservation Act
130	CTE	An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions
131	CE	An Act to amend the Education Act as regards the school tax on the island of Montréal and amending other legislative provisions
132	CI	An Act to amend certain provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure
133	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting occupational health and safety and other legislative provisions
134	CTE	An Act to establish the Fonds national de l'eau
135	CE	An Act to amend the Travel Agents Act and the Consumer Protection Act
137	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
139	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Penal Procedure
141	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Certain Teachers
142	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services as regards the medical activities, the distribution and the undertaking of physicians
143	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards and other legislative provisions
145	CSA	An Act respecting the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board
147	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife
150		Appropriation Act No. 3, 2002-2003

Private Members's public bills

199	CW	An Act respecting Ville de Léry
391	CW	An Act concerning a land facilities project in the port of Chandler
392	CTE	An Act to secure the supply of hogs to a slaughterhouse enterprise in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region
393	CPP	An Act respecting the Agence de développement de Ferme-Neuve
395	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level

Private bills

207	CFP	An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the Quebec Hospital Service Association
210	CFP	An Act to amend the Act to incorporate Les Frères du Sacré-Coeur
211	CPP	An Act respecting Ville d'Alma
212	CPF	An Act respecting the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (Québec Conference)
213	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Hyacinthe
215	CPP	An Act to amend the charter of the City of Laval
216	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Caplan
217	CPF	An Act to permit the members of the Association québécoise des transporteurs aériens inc. to apply for the constitution of a mutual aviation insurance association (modified title)
218	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Chandler
220	CSA	An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the «Argenteuil Hospital»
221	CPF	An Act to amend the status of the Société de secours mutuels des citoyens de Casacalenda
222	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Contrecoeur
223	CC	An Act respecting Mont Saint-Louis
224	CPP	An Act respecting the Régie de gestion des matières résiduelles de la Mauricie (modified title)
225	CPP	An Act respecting lot 599 of the cadastre of the parish of Saint-Polycarpe, registration division of Vaudreuil
226	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Shawinigan
239	CPP	An Act respecting the Régie d'assainissement des eaux usées de Boischatel, L'Ange-Gardien, Château-Richer

List of bills considered in committees (not passed)

144	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions
146	CAFF	An Act respecting commercial aquaculture
155	CSA	An Act to amend the Act to secure the handicapped in the exercise of their rights and other legislative provisions
156	CTE	An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Code of Penal Procedure as regards the collection of fines

List of mandates completed by the parliamentary committees in 2002-2003

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning:

- the report on the implementation of the Public Administration Act entitled *Agir pour de meilleurs services aux citoyens* (Working to improve services for Quebecers)
- child care services at school
- home care services dispensed by the health and social services network
- lodging provided to persons with decreasing independence
- forest management

Examination of financial commitments:

Child and Family Welfare, Conseil du statut de la femme, Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, Régie du logement and Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Other mandate :

- hearing of the interim Auditor General on the annual management report of the Auditor General for 2000-2001 and examination of the financial commitments 2001-2002

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Interpellation:

- Quebecers and food

Other mandate :

- general consultation on the draft bill entitled *An Act respecting commercial aquaculture*

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 12 public bills

1 private bill

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Interpellations:

- rehabilitation services and the funding of physical disability rehabilitation centres
- the policy of the Parti Québécois Government regarding financial support given to Québec families

Other mandate :

- general consultation on the draft bill entitled *Québec Health Card Act (cont.)*

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 6 public bills

10 private bills

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Interpellation:

- the housing crisis

Order of initiative of the Committee:

- affordable social housing

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

1 private bill

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Orders of surveillance of agencies:

- Télé-Québec (cont.)

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 7 public bills

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Other mandate:

- hearing of the head officers of university institutions in relation to their 1999-2000 annual reports (cont.)

Order of initiative of the Committee:

- population fluctuations in the education sector

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Interpellation:

- the regions innovation policy

Other mandate:

- general consultation on the report from the Minister of Labour on the implementation of the *Pay Equity Act* in enterprises with 10 to 49 employees

Orders of surveillance of agencies:

- examination of the orientation, activities and management of the Innovatech du Québec agencies (Innovatech du Grand Montréal, Innovatech Sud du Québec, Innovatech Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches and Innovatech Régions ressources)

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 13 public bills

5 private bills

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Interpellation:

- the Government policy with regard to gambling and compulsive gamblers

Other mandate:

- Loto-Québec's Action Plan 2003-2006 entitled *Gaming in Québec: A Necessary Reorganization - Shifting the focus from a local to a tourist clientele*

Order of initiative of the Committee:

- corporate social responsibility and ethical investment

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 18 public bills

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Other mandates:

- general consultation within the framework of the examination of the working paper entitled *Measures aiming to establish a new Code of Civil Procedure and containing a proposal with regard to the first two volumes of this Code*
- general consultation within the framework of the examination of the document entitled *Agreement-in-Principle of General Nature Between the First Nations of Mamuitun and Nutashkuan and the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada*
- special consultations within the framework of the examination of the document entitled *Report on the implementation of section 5.1 of the Architects Act*

Order of initiative of the Committee :

- the reform of the voting system in Québec

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 14 public bills

Examination of estimates of expenditure 2002-2003

Other mandates:

- discuss possible solutions with regard to the compensation of injured persons who were found guilty of crimes (cont.)
- general consultation within the framework of the implementation in Québec of the Kyoto Protocol.

Allowances and amounts granted to Members in 2002-2003

WAGE BILL OF MEMBERS:

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	\$ 10 780 089
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OTHER ALLOWANCES:

Allowances for expenses, attendance and political activities	\$ 2 487 845
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	\$ 2 353 203
Travel from electoral riding to the Parliament Building	\$ 1 083 772
Lodging in or around Québec City	\$ 1 241 730
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture or office equipment during the first term of office	\$ 17 725
Electoral riding office operation expenses	\$ 3 522 764

OTHER EXPENSES:

	Members' Office of Members staff holding parliamentary functions	Total	
Wage bill	\$ 9 560 333	\$ 5 520 460	\$ 15 080 793
Travel expenses	\$ 266 207	\$ 644 533	\$ 910 740
Research services of political parties			\$ 1 510 431

The mandates of the administrative units

Secretary General

He is the highest-ranking civil servant of the Assembly and is the chief advisor to the President and the deputation in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, sees to the administration of Routine Proceedings and carries out the other duties that are assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

Special advisor to the Secretary General

He advises the Secretary General mainly on matters relating to the proceedings of the Assembly and of the parliamentary committees, as well as on any other question concerning the duties of Secretary General.

Secretariat of the Office Directorate

It sees to the organization and follow-up of the proceedings of the Office and provides Members with all of the information concerning their working conditions and the services that are available to them.

Coordinating Unit for Organizational and Strategic Projects

It provides secretarial services to the Steering Committee and coordinates major organizational projects on behalf of the authorities.

Office of the Associate Secretary General for Parliamentary and Institutional Affairs

It coordinates, plans, and controls the activities of the parliamentary and institutional affairs directorates and assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair and to the Assembly.

Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate

It advises the Assembly in legal matters and provides professional services regarding the drafting of Member's bills and private bills.

Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate

It provides all professional and technical services as regards translation, revision, editing and printing of legislative texts and answers the translation needs of the administrative units.

Documentary Studies Directorate

It carries out studies and research required by Members and administrative units for the conduct of their mandates, more particularly for those relating to parliamentary committees and interparliamentary relations.

Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate

It assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair, the Assembly and the parliamentary committees in matters of parliamentary procedure.

House Secretariat Directorate

It ensures the preparation, proper conduct and follow-up of the sittings of the Assembly. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

Committees Secretariat Directorate

It ensures the organization and operations of the parliamentary committees by providing the professional and administrative services required for their activities.

Library Directorate

It ensures the conservation of parliamentary documents and the management of archives and facilitates the retrieval thereof. It is responsible for maintaining a collection that corresponds to current and future needs.

Communications Directorate

It promotes the outreach of the Assembly by informing the population of its democratic role. It is responsible for the communications of the institution and provides services to the Press Gallery journalists.

Educational Programmes Directorate

It designs, elaborates and carries out educational activities for target clienteles and provides professional and technical support during parliamentary simulations.

Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate

It ensures the coordination of protocolar activities and ceremonies at the Assembly and is responsible for visitors and information services, as well as for guided tours.

Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate

It advises the authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the Assembly in this sector.

Office of the Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs

It plans, directs, coordinates and controls the activities of the administrative sector directorates. It coordinates the implementation of the information technologies at the Assembly.

Administrative Assistant

He assists the Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs in the management of administrative files, takes part in working committees, carries out studies and analyses and reviews the work procedures and methods of all of the units in the administrative sector.

Coordinating Unit for Administrative Affairs

It coordinates special projects in the technology sector, including Internet and the intranet Portal, sees to the application of the Assembly's computer security policy and is responsible for the development of GIRES (integrated resources management).

Debates Broadcasting Directorate

It is responsible for the broadcasting of the parliamentary proceedings, the press conferences and certain special events, and for the audio recording for the purpose of transcribing, revising, editing and publishing the *Journal des débats* (Hansard).

Building Management Directorate

It counsels and provides services regarding the management of buildings, site development, telecommunications and the conservation of furniture and the architectural heritage.

Computer Services Directorate

It plans, coordinates and monitors all activities relating to office automation and computer systems (software, applications, material, training) and ensures the management of the computer infrastructure and of the local and extended networks.

Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate

It counsels and provides services to the administrative units and the Members as regards financial management, budget planning and accounting operations. It also provides procurement services.

Human Resources Directorate

It coordinates the operations and the support and counselling services vested in the management of human resources for the administrative units and the Members.

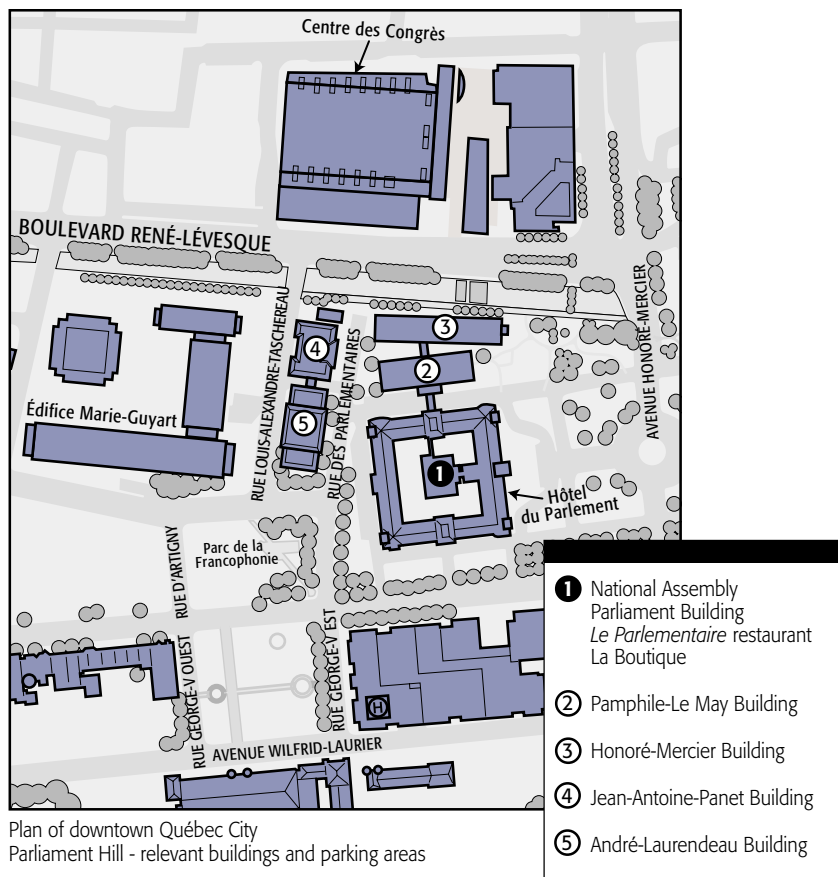
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate

It provides support to Members and to the administrative units, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing, reproduction and distribution of parliamentary documents, and provides office equipment. It is also responsible for food services and restaurants management.

Security Directorate

It counsels the President on security measures and ensures the protection of persons and goods as well as the security of buildings and offices at the Assembly.

Some practical information



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Parliament Building, Québec (Québec)
G1A 1A3

General information

Telephone : (418) 643-7239

Toll free number : 1 866 DÉPUTÉS
(1-866-337-8837)

Fax : (418) 641-2638

E-mail : communications@assnat.qc.ca

www.assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Schedule*

Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

June 23 to Labour Day:

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays:
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reservations are required for groups
of 10 or more.

Information

Telephone: (418) 643-7239

Fax: (418) 646-4271

E-mail: accueil@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Opening hours*

Tuesday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

June and December:

Tuesday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 26 to Labour Day:

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations

Telephone: (418) 643-6640

Fax: (418) 643-6378

E-mail: resto@assnat.qc.ca

THE BOUTIQUE

Opening hours*

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays:
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Information

Telephone: (418) 643-8785

Fax: (418) 528-6022

E-mail: boutique@assnat.qc.ca

* May be changed without notice

