



ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



1999 - 2000

This publication was accomplished with the collaboration of the personnel from all administrative branches of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise indicated, the data provided in this report concerns the activities of the National Assembly from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000.

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PREFACE



Daniel Lessard

In this year 2000, I have chosen to mark in a very special way the first session of the proceedings of the 36th Legislature by releasing a report of the activities of the National Assembly of Québec for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Ever attentive to the evolution of our democracy and its influence in the world, I have attempted to demythicize and render accessible the administrative aspect of parliamentary life, and to provide a clearer picture of the work accomplished at the Parliament.

The office of Member is demanding. Over six hundred people, who work in eighteen administrative units, assist the 125 elected Members in the daily exercise of their various duties and enable them to fulfill their responsibilities as the representatives of the people.

It is with much appreciation that I acknowledge the invaluable work performed by the personnel of the National Assembly and that I pay tribute to their professionalism, their attachment to the institution and their great loyalty. Their contribution, mostly behind the scenes, allows Members to provide quality services to the population, services which unfortunately are all too often underestimated and criticized in spite of their importance in democracy.

I trust that this activity report of the National Assembly for 1999-2000 - the first of a series to be published annually - will be for all of its readers an opportunity to better grasp the scope of the work of legislators, to become familiar with the exercise of representative democracy in Québec and to increase their understanding of the way public funds are used therefor.

Enjoy your reading!

The President of the National Assembly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jean-Pierre Charbonneau". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

FOREWORD

Daniel Lessard



There is no obligation for the administration of the National Assembly to report annually on its management as do the ministries and agencies. So, why this activity report? Upon close examination of this document, its objective becomes clear as does the clientele to whom it is addressed.

This report is the result of an outstanding contribution made by a personnel devoted to the institution. Its foremost purpose is to serve the Members of the Québec Parliament and all the employees who partake, each in their own way, in the accomplishment of the mission of the Assembly. It is an access card for all other parliamentary assemblies and for the population in general, which has a vested interest in the actions of its representatives. Because it has a potentially large public, it is written in an informal style in order to make it accessible to all.

By the same token, this report gives all staff members of the Assembly the opportunity to identify with one or another of the activities described therein. In addition, it demonstrates that support to Members is a collective effort. It provides a summary of the duties performed by several individuals, in the various sectors under the responsibility of the administrative branches, by grouping them under common themes. This method allows for a more precise view of the work accomplished by all members of the administrative personnel, who must act in close collaboration.

As this report is presented in a rather unusual style, the reader may either undertake a cover-to-cover reading or examine one section or chapter at a time, regardless of a specific order. In a subtle manner, this report opens horizons not only on the organization and the procedures of the Assembly, but on the various aspects of parliamentary life within its confines.

Finally, the publication of the activity report of the National Assembly falls within the framework of a project recently undertaken by the senior management, whose objective is to enable all employees to broaden their knowledge of the institution to which they devote themselves daily and, hence, to increase their sense of belonging.

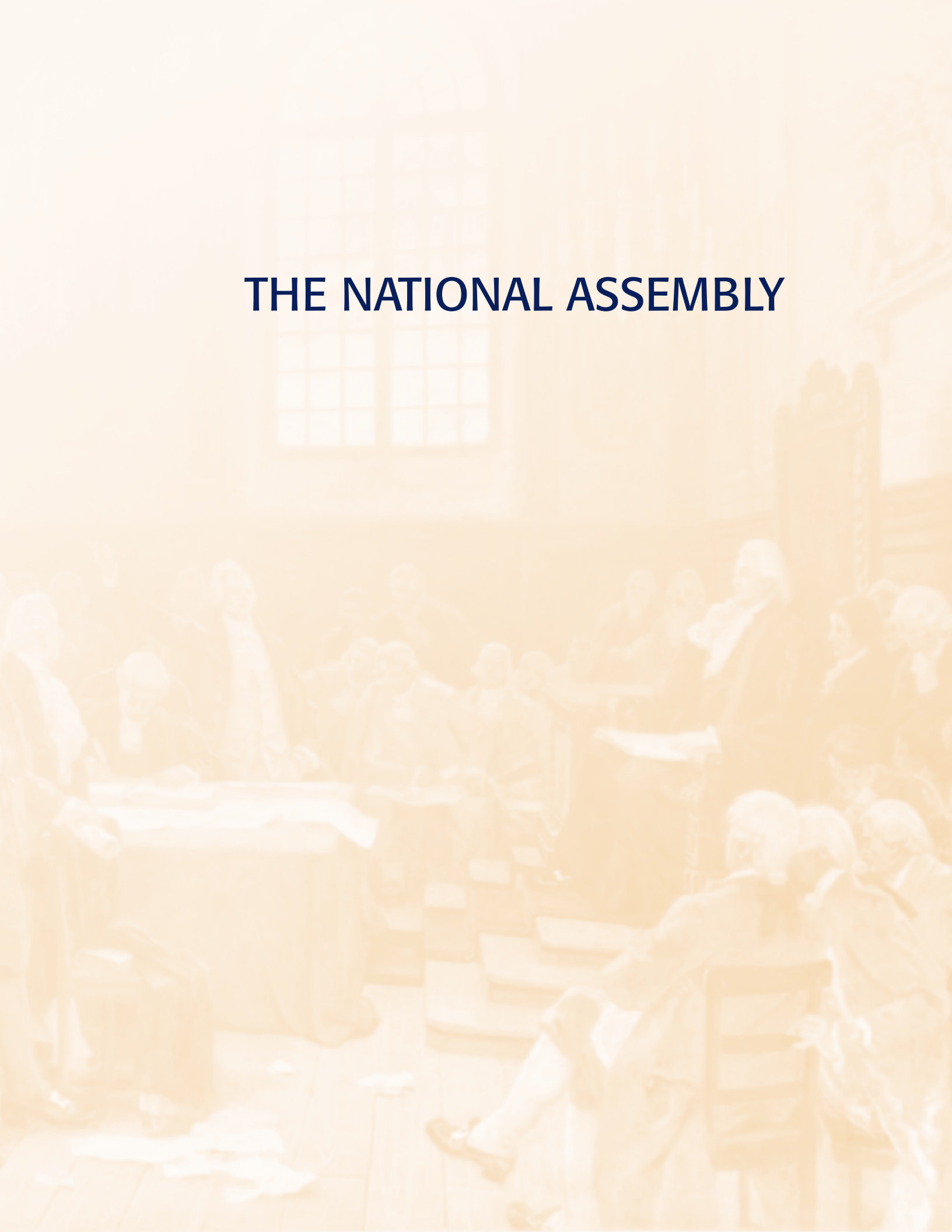
I wish to extend warm thanks to all of those who contributed to the realization of this project and I am confident in the interest that it will attract. I can already ensure you that the comments it will bring about shall be taken into consideration in subsequent publications.

The Secretary General,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierre Duchesne'.

Pierre Duchesne

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

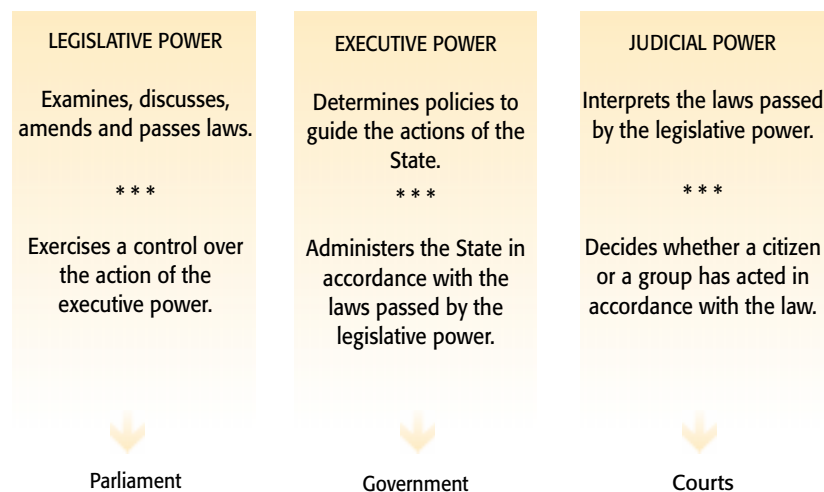
The origins of the National Assembly

The Government of Québec exercises its legislative function within a British-style parliamentary system, whose main characteristic is the right of the population to participate in the legislative process by means of an Assembly. This system, which has undergone certain changes in time, exists on our territory since the convening of the first sitting of the first House of Assembly, on 17 December 1792, thus implementing the provisions of the *Constitution Act of 1791*.

In 1867, in pursuance of the *British North America Act* (BNA), Québec shared the legislative authority with the Federal Parliament; moreover, the powers of Québec are stipulated in this Act. Also, in section 133 of this Act, the constitutional right of Members to use French or English in the House is stipulated. This same section states, however, the obligation for certain documents to be published in both languages. In order to comply with this specification, the National Assembly has therefore ensured the translation, since 1867, of all bills and Acts, as well as of the *Order Paper and Notices* and the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Originally, the legislative power of Québec consisted of two Houses: the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. In 1968, the Legislative Council was abolished. The Legislative Assembly then became the National Assembly of Québec.

THE THREE POWERS OF THE STATE



PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Parliament

Institution composed of the National Assembly - which passes laws - and of the Lieutenant-Governor - who assents to them. (126 persons)

National Assembly

Institution composed of 125 Members elected by the population in each of the electoral ridings of Québec. It holds its sittings in the *Parliament Building*.

Executive Council

Group composed of the Premier and the Government Ministers (in 1999, 26 persons). Synonyms: Council of Ministers, Executive.

Legislature

Period of time between two general elections; its maximum length is of 5 years. It begins on the **date of receipt**, by the Secretary General, of the list of candidates declared duly elected, transmitted by the Chief Electoral Officer, and not on the day of the general election. Since 1867, Québec has had 36 general elections: we are currently, since December 1998, in the 36th Legislature.

Session

Division of time within a Legislature; commences with the Opening Speech pronounced by the Premier and ends with the prorogation of the proceedings. There may be several sessions within a Legislature. The 1st Session of the 36th Legislature began on 2 March 1999.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Government Bill

Public bill of general interest and which may have a financial impact; it must be introduced by a Minister.

Private Member's Public Bill

Public bill of general interest, but which does not have a financial impact; it may be introduced by any Member, regardless of the political party he belongs to.

Private Bill

Bill which concerns specific interests (corporations, individuals) or local interests (municipalities); it is introduced in the Assembly by a Member, on behalf of the interested parties, who defray the cost thereof.

Immediately it is introduced, the paper version of the bill is distributed, and, within the following hour, it is available on the Internet site of the National Assembly.

The mission of the National Assembly

Parliamentary tradition recognizes two fundamental roles of parliamentary assemblies: that of legislating in the areas of their jurisdiction and that of exercising control over the executive power and the public administration. Assemblies are also called upon to examine current issues, via their Members. In faithful pursuance of this parliamentary tradition, this is the mission of the National Assembly:

To enact laws in the areas of its jurisdiction

From April 1999 to March 2000, the National Assembly passed:

111 bills	
84 introduced by Ministers	...74 % of which were passed unanimously
4 introduced by Members	...all passed unanimously
23 private bills	...all passed unanimously
78 days	
Is the average time period between the introduction of a Government bill and its passage.	
4684 pages	
In the <i>Annual Statutes Compilation</i> , covering the 1999 calendar year.	

Among the bills having received unanimous approval from the Members of the National Assembly this year, the following should be mentioned:

Bill 32, concerning *de facto* spouses and ensuring that, in Québec, *de facto* unions are recognized without regard to the sex of the persons concerned.

Bill 73, concerning the *preservation of water resources* by prohibiting the transfer outside of Québec of surface water or groundwater taken in Québec.

Bill 198, proclaiming *Holocaust-Yom Hashoah Memorial Day in Québec*, and whose passage, exceptionally and by leave of the Assembly, was jointly moved by a Member from each parliamentary group.

To control the actions of the Government and of its administration

The Members fulfill this part of the mission either in the Assembly or in parliamentary committees (for example, during the consideration of estimates or when hearing deputy ministers and heads of agencies). Traditionally, this responsibility of control has been assumed publicly by the Members in Opposition. This is particularly true during Oral Question Period, which is by far the control method that the population is most familiar with. The following is its statistical breakdown for 1999-2000:

66 hours	778 main questions	937 supplementary questions	23 written questions
were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers at the Assembly	were asked...	were allowed by the President and distributed as follows:	were placed on the <i>Order Paper and Notices</i> . The Standing Orders provide for this type of question in the following cases:
	95 % by the Official Opposition	Official Opposition: 852	1) the matters discussed do not justify an immediate answer;
	4 % by the Independent Member	Independent: 72	2) the answers requested require some research.
	1 % by the Government Members	Government: 13	

To decide on matters of public interest

The National Assembly has several options to choose from when it comes to deciding on important matters and issuing opinions. The Members may, for example, place a motion on the *Order Paper* or move a motion without notice during the Routine Proceedings of a sitting. Here are a few examples taken from the 1999-2000 fiscal year:

14 motions were placed on the *Order Paper* and discussed.

Among the subjects dealt with are the following:

- the problems related to the shortage of medical staff in Québec;
- the securing of Hydro-Québec's transmission and distribution network in the regions affected by the January 1998 ice storm.

124 motions without notice were carried.

The following are some noteworthy examples of the events marked by the Assembly:

- the anniversary of the day on which the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* was adopted by the United Nations;
- the creation of a new territory, Nunavut, and the establishment of its first government;
- Journée internationale de la Francophonie (international French-speaking peoples day);
- International Labour Day;
- the participation of Julie Payette in the Discovery space shuttle mission;
- Public Library Week.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Parliamentary Group

Defined in the Standing Orders of the Assembly as any group of not fewer than twelve Members returned to the Assembly by the same political party or that shall have received not less than 20 % of the popular vote in the most recent general election.

Government

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

Opposition

The group of Members who are not members of the parliamentary group forming the Government.

Official Opposition

The second-largest political party after the Government party; the leader of this parliamentary group becomes the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Independent

A Member of Parliament who is not a member of a **recognized** political party or who, during a term, leaves a group without joining another. An independent Member may join a parliamentary group at any time during a Legislature.

The Members of the National Assembly

Distribution of seats according to political parties represented in the National Assembly:

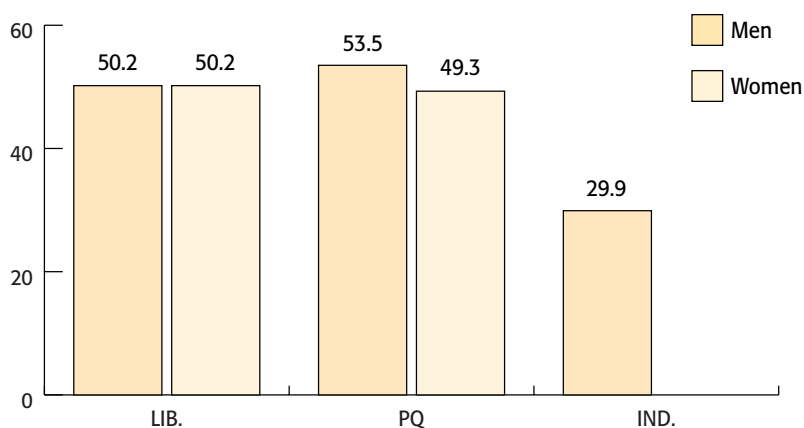
Parti Québécois	PQ	76
Québec Liberal Party	Lib.	48
Action démocratique du Québec	Ind.	1

In the Parti Québécois, 19 women make up one quarter of the seats (25 %) while, in the Québec Liberal Party, there are 10 women, thus representing slightly over one-fifth of the elected officials of this group (21 %).

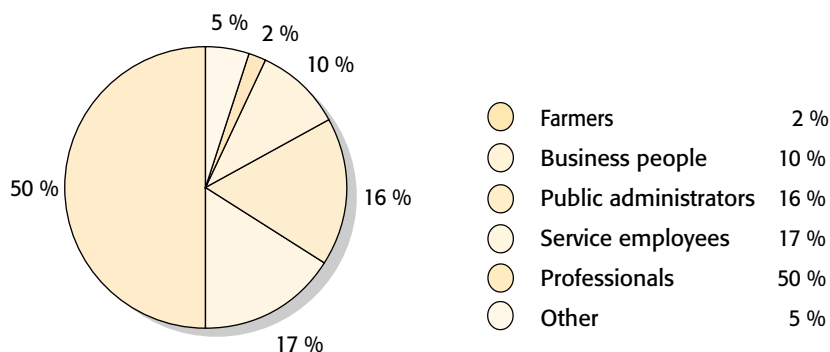
In the National Assembly, women hold 23 % of the seats.

7 women are members of the Cabinet; they compose 27 % of the Executive.

Average age of the Members of the 36th Legislature : 51 years of age



Professional background of Members:





LUCIEN BOUCHARD
Premier
Jonquière



ANDRÉ BOISCLAIR
Deputy Government
House Leader
Gouin



ANDRÉ BOULERICE
Deputy Government
House Leader
Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques



JACQUES BRASSARD
Government
House Leader
Lac-Saint-Jean



JOCELYNE CARON
Chief Government
Whip
Terrebonne



BENOÎT LAPRISE
Deputy Government
Whip
Roberval



LUCIE PAPINEAU
Deputy Government
Whip
Prévost



MAXIME ARSENEAU
Iles-de-la-Madeleine



DIANE BARBEAU
Vanier



GILLES BARIL
Berthier



JACQUES BARIL
Arthabaska



LOUISE BEAUDOIN
Chambly



FRANÇOIS BEAULNE
Marguerite-D'Youville



YVES BEAUMIER
Champlain



STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Chicoutimi



PAUL BÉGIN
Louis-Hébert



JEAN-PAUL BERGERON
Iberville



ROGER BERTRAND
Portneuf



ROSAIRE BERTRAND
Charlevoix



MANON BLANCHET
Crémazie



CLAUDE BOUCHER
Johnson



MARC BOULIANNE
Frontenac



DENISE CARRIER-PERREULT
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière



SOLANGE CHAREST
Rimouski



GUY CHEVETTE
Joliette



DAVID CLICHE
Vimont



JACQUES CÔTÉ
Dubuc



MICHEL CÔTÉ
La Peltre



CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand



RÉMY DÉSILETS
Maskinongé



SERGE DESLIÈRES
Salaberry-Soulanges



LÉANDRE DION
Saint-Hyacinthe



RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS
Rosemont



DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia



NORMAND DUGUAY
Duplessis



JOSEPH FACAL
Fabre



GABRIEL-YVAN GAGNON
Saguenay



FRANÇOIS GENDRON
Abitibi-Ouest



SERGE GEOFFRION
La Prairie



LINDA GOUPIL
Lévis



LOUISE HAREL
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve



JEAN-PIERRE JOLIVET
Lavolette



GUY JULIEN
Trois-Rivières



NORMAND JUTRAS
Drummond



ROBERT KIEFFER
Groulx



GILLES LABBÉ
Masson



CLAUDE LACHANCE
Bellevue



BERNARD LANDRY
Verchères



LYSE LEDUC
Mille-Îles



FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Rousseau



NICOLE LÉGER
Pointe-aux-Trembles



GUY LELIÈVRE
Gaspé



DIANE LEMIEUX
Bourget



JACQUES LÉONARD
Labelle



MICHEL LÉTOURNEAU
Ungava



AGNÈS MALTAIS
Taschereau



PAULINE MAROIS
Tailon



SERGE MÉNARD
Laval-des-Rapides



MICHEL MORIN
Nicolet-Yamaska



ROGER PAQUIN
Saint-Jean



JEAN-GUY PARÉ
Lotbinière



DAVID PAYNE
Vachon



ANDRÉ PELLETIER
Abitibi-Est



ROBERT PERREULT
Mercier



MATTHIAS RIOUX
Matane



HÉLÈNE ROBERT
Deux-Montagnes



JEAN ROCHON
Charlesbourg



CÉLINE SIGNORI
Blainville



JEAN-FRANÇOIS SIMARD
Montmorency



SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu



JEAN-CLAUDE ST-ANDRÉ
L'Assomption



RÉMY TRUDEL
Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue



CÉCILE VERMETTE
Marie-Victorin





EMBLÉE NATIONALE

Q U É B E C



JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
President of the National Assembly
Borduas



RAYMOND BROUILLET
First Vice-President
Chauveau



CLAUDE PINARD
Second Vice-President
Saint-Maurice



MICHEL BISSONNET
Third Vice-President
Jeanne-Mance



JEAN J. CHAREST
Leader of the Official Opposition
Sherbrooke



THOMAS J. MULCAIR
Deputy Opposition
House Leader
Chomedey



PIERRE PARADIS
Official Opposition
House Leader
Brome-Missisquoi



JEAN-MARC FOURNIER
Chief Opposition
Whip
Châteauguay



NORMAN MACMILLAN
Deputy Opposition
Whip
Papineau



LINE BEAUCHAMP
Sauvé



CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Kamouraska-Témiscouata



MADELINE BÉLANGER
Mégantic-Compton



ROBERT BENOIT
Orford



LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN
D'Arcy-McGee



YVAN BORDELEAU
Acadie



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
Limoulu



JACQUES P. DUPIUIS
Saint-Laurent



MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François



HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTHRIN
Verdun



RÉAL GAUVIN
Montmagny-L'Islet



JEAN-CLAUDE GOBÉ
LaFontaine



FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN
La Pinière



MONIQUE JÉRÔME-FORGET
Marguerite-Bourgeoys



GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier



RÉJEAN LAFRENIÈRE
Gatineau



JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAMOREUX
Aripu



MICHELE LAMOUGIN-ÉTHIER
Bourassa



PIERRE-ÉTIENNE LAPORTE
Outremont



DIANE LEBLANC
Beauce-Sud



NICOLE LOISELLE
Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne



COSMO MACIOCIA
Viger



YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil



PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin



ROBERT MIDDLEMISS
Pontiac



NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
Bonaventure



FRANÇOIS OUMET
Marquette



BENOÎT PELLETIER
Chapleau



NORMAND POULIN
Beauce-Nord



CHRISTOS SIRROS
Laurier-Dorion



ANDRÉ TRANCHEMONTAGNE
Mont-Royal



YVON VALLIÈRES
Richmond



DAVID WHISSELL
Argenteuil



RUSSELL WILLIAMS
Nelligan



MARIO DUMONT
Rivière-du-Loup

1998



The main parliamentary functions

In the National Assembly

President

He is elected amongst the Members for the duration of a Legislature. The duties of the office of President are threefold:

- he ensures 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;
- he oversees the services of the Assembly;
- he represents the Assembly in Québec and in its relations with other Parliaments.

The office of President being of a neutral nature, the Member holding this title does not belong to a parliamentary group during his mandate. He does not take part in the debates and votes only in the case of a tied vote.

Vice-Presidents

They are elected by their peers for the duration of one Legislature and assist the President in his duties. They enjoy the same prerogatives and the same authority as the latter when they replace him in his parliamentary functions. However, unlike the President, the Vice-Presidents remain members of their parliamentary group and take part in caucus meetings.

At the beginning of the 36th Legislature, for the first time in the parliamentary history of Québec, the National Assembly voted by secret ballot to elect its President. Two Members were in contention; after one ballot, the Member for Borduas, Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, was elected. He had held this office during the second session of the previous Legislature. The Jurisconsult and the Secretary General of the Assembly were responsible for the counting of votes.

Another first in the parliamentary history of Québec: in March of 1999, the National Assembly elected a third Vice-President at the beginning of the first session of the 36th Legislature. The first two Vice-Presidents are elected among the Members of the group forming the Government and the third is elected among those forming the Official Opposition. The Standing Orders of the Assembly were amended to establish this procedure for future legislatures. The Vice-Presidents were thus elected in the following order: Mr. Raymond Brouillet, Member for Chauveau; Mr. Claude Pinard, Member for Saint-Maurice; and Mr. Michel Bissonnet, Member for Jeanne-Mance.



National Assembly Collection



In parliamentary committees

Chairman

He is a Member of one of the parliamentary groups and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He organizes, plans and chairs the proceedings of his committee. Unlike the President of the Assembly, the committee chairman takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Vice-chairman

He is a Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chairman and is also elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He assists the chairman in his functions and replaces him whenever necessary.

In a parliamentary group

Leader

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

In order for the leader of a *political party* to become parliamentary leader:

- 1) he must be elected in a riding; and,
- 2) his party must be recognized as a "parliamentary group".

House Leader

A Member who is chosen by his Leader and who is responsible for establishing the parliamentary strategies of his group in compliance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and with parliamentary tradition.

The Government House Leader (always a Minister) and his deputy leaders plan the orders of the day for each sitting, excepting business having precedence and business standing in the name of Members in Opposition

The Official Opposition House Leader chooses, more specifically among the items of business standing in the name of Members in Opposition, those that will be debated on Wednesday mornings, during regular session. **Ten** Opposition motions were thus debated in 1999-2000.

Deputy House Leader

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

Whip

A Member, chosen by his Leader or elected by his peers, who is responsible for discipline within his group and who coordinates the action of Members in the Assembly, in committees and within delegations.

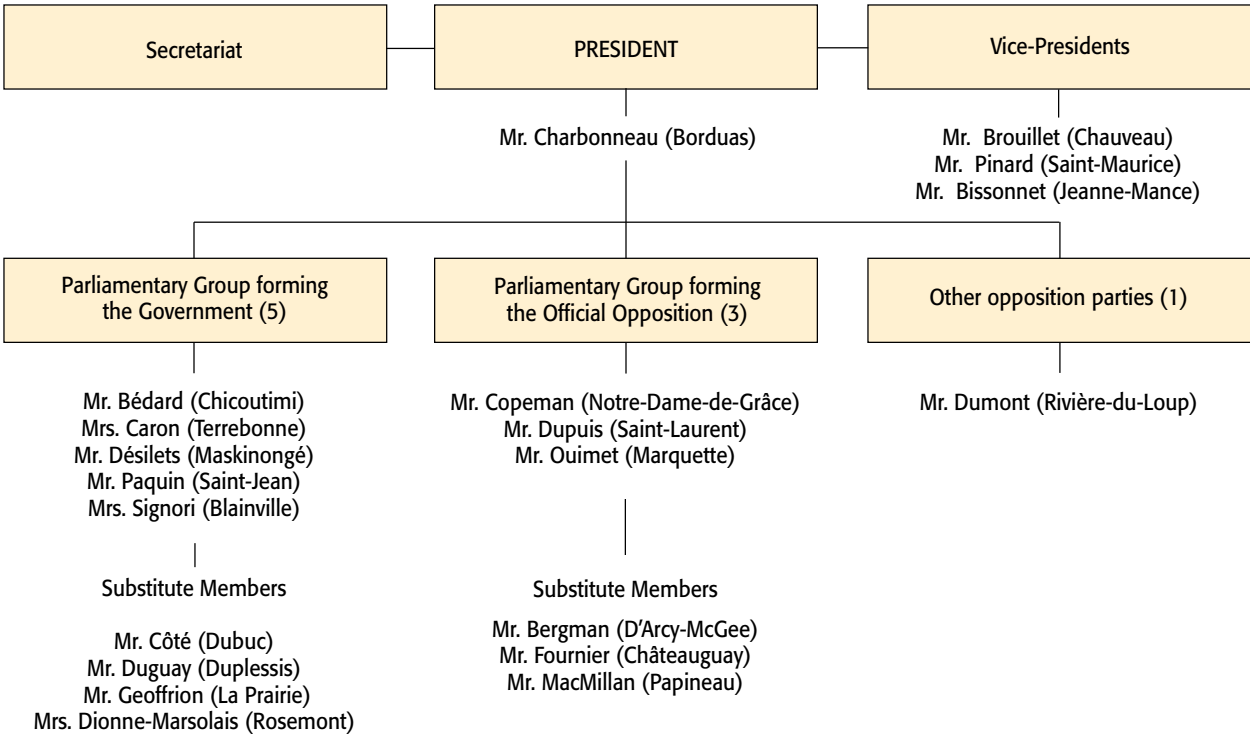
Deputy Whip

A Member who assists and replaces the whip in his functions.

The Office of the National Assembly

The management of the National Assembly is exercised within the framework of Acts, rules and regulations applying thereto. However, in order to maintain the administrative independence of the institution, the *Act respecting the National Assembly* established an Office of the National Assembly, which is similar to a board of directors.

Composition
Other than the President of the Assembly, who in this case also acts as its chairman, the Office of the Assembly is composed of 9 Members who are chosen by their peers. The Vice-Presidents of the Assembly may participate in the Office proceedings, but they do not have the right to vote.

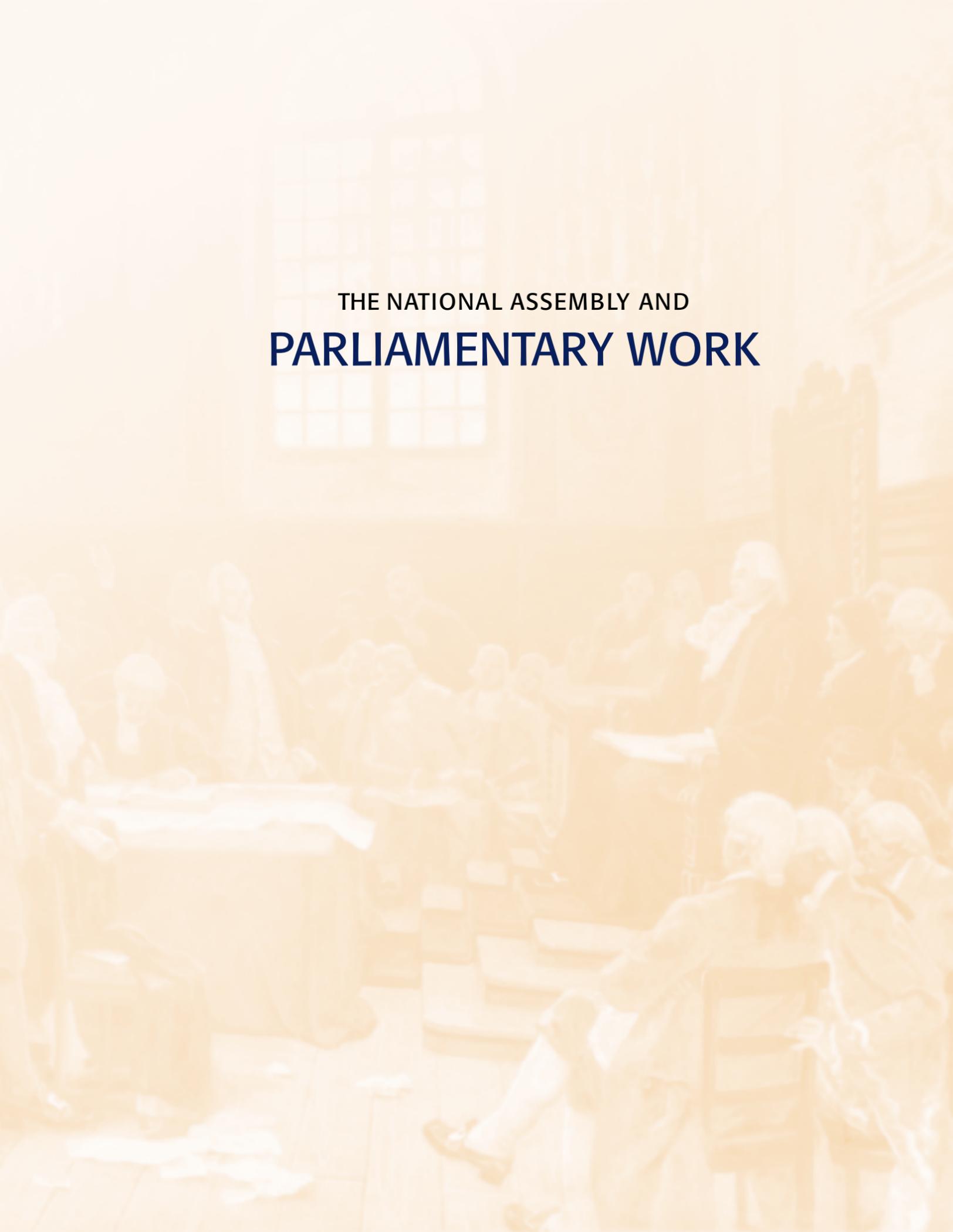


Secretariat

The Office of the Assembly is supported by a secretariat which ensures the organization and follow-up of proceedings. The Secretary General of the National Assembly is the secretary of the Office.

The Jurisconsult

On the motion of the Premier and with the approval of two-thirds of the Members, the National Assembly appoints a Jurisconsult to give, to Members who so request in writing, written and substantiated opinions on whether the situations they may be in are in conformity with the provisions on incompatible office and conflicts of interests stipulated in the *Act respecting the National Assembly*. It goes without saying that the Jurisconsult may not be a Member of Parliament. Since 19 June 1996, Mr. Claude Bisson, Q.C., former Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal of Québec, has been acting in the capacity of Jurisconsult of the National Assembly.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
PARLIAMENTARY WORK

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

Assessment of a year at the Assembly and in committees

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish the calendar of sittings. Hence, the proceedings of the Assembly take place each year beginning on the second Tuesday in March until 23 June at the latest, and then from the third Tuesday in October until 21 December at the latest. Within this time frame, the sittings take place on the days and during the hours indicated hereafter:

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	<i>if motion by House Leader:</i> 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	<i>if motion by House Leader:</i> following hours
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 standing committees may, for their part, hold sittings at any time of the year, although they usually do not sit in July. It should be added that the committees may not sit while the Assembly is taking Routine Proceedings. The following is the calendar of committee proceedings provided for in the Standing Orders:

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 Wednesday Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	
Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Sitting

Each working day in the Assembly or in committee. In the Assembly, a sitting is divided into two parts: Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day.

Ordinary Sitting

A sitting in the Assembly which takes place according to the periods, days or hours provided for in the Standing Orders.

Extraordinary Sitting

A sitting in the Assembly which has been convened at the request of the Premier and which does not take place within the periods, days or hours provided for in the Standing Orders. The Assembly met twice for extraordinary sittings in 1999-2000:

- On 2 July 1999, in order to pass Bill 72, An Act respecting the provision of nursing services and pharmaceutical services;

- On 21 March 2000, during the evening, in order to adopt a resolution by the Minister of Justice concerning the remuneration of the judges of the Court of Québec and of certain municipal courts.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

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 things, the stages at which bills are currently standing. This publication is available in its paper form and on Internet at 8.00 o'clock a.m. on the very morning of a sitting.

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 given sitting. The *Votes and Proceedings* also contains a summary of all the decisions rendered by the Chair. This publication is available on Internet within the hour following the end of the sitting, while the paper version is distributed the following morning.

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Parliamentary publication which contains the complete speeches given in the Assembly and in parliamentary committees. An unrevised version of the *Journal* devoted to the proceedings of the Assembly is available on paper and on Internet some thirty minutes after the end of a given address.

The following table provides concurrently the monthly data regarding sittings held and work hours completed in the Assembly and in committees during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	10	16:21	50	198:00
May	13	83:20	52	118:00
June	12	96:50	86	179:00
July	1	10:43	0	0
August	0	0	7	29:00
September	0	0	30	126:00
October	6	26:39	37	125:00
November	14	80:21	56	150:00
December	11	50:42	43	142:00
January	0	0	11	45:00
February	0	0	41	193:00
March	10	61:26	50	160:00

In the Assembly 77 sittings
426 h. 22 min.

In committees 463 sittings
1465 hours

During an Assembly sitting, various types of documents are tabled: either because they are required by law to be tabled in the Assembly, or because Ministers deem them to be of public interest, or because a Member is given consent by his peers to do so. All papers tabled are recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*; these papers are hence released and become part of the archives of the Assembly. The following is an overview of the **1033** papers that were tabled this year:

1292 documents

were tabled in the standing committees in 1999-2000, including 940 briefs.

• Answers to written questions placed on the <i>Order Paper</i>	20	2 %
• Mission reports	26	3 %
• Reports from the Law Clerk	26	3 %
• Decisions from the Office of the Assembly	29	3 %
• Petitions (200,678 petitioners)	96	9 %
• Reports from committees	154	15 %
• Other documents	280	26 %
• Annual reports (ministries and agencies)	402	39 %

The Standing Committees

It is mainly by means of one or the other of the eleven standing committees that Members fully exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of governmental activity. The names and terms of reference of the committees are listed hereafter, followed by a detailed assessment of the work completed in 1999-2000:

<div> <div>National Assembly</div> <div>Establishes the Standing Orders of the Assembly and its Rules of Procedure; coordinates the proceedings of the other committees.</div> </div> <div> <div>membership:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the President of the Assembly - the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly - the House leaders and the whips of the parliamentary groups - the chairmen of the standing committees </div>		
<div>Institutions</div> <div>Conseil exécutif, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations, the Constitution</div>	<div>Public Finance</div> <div>Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration, the public service, supply and services</div>	<div>Social Affairs</div> <div>The family, health, social and community services, the status of women, income security</div>
<div>Labour and the Economy</div> <div>Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science, technology, energy and resources, manpower</div>	<div>Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</div> <div>Agriculture, fisheries, food</div>	<div>Planning and the Public Domain</div> <div>Local communities, municipal planning, housing, recreation</div>
<div>Education</div> <div>Education, vocational training, consumer protection</div>	<div>Culture</div> <div>Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration, relations with the citizenry</div>	<div>Transportation and the Environment</div> <div>Transportation, public works, the environment, wildlife</div>
<div>Public Administration</div> <div>Parliamentary control</div>		

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Standing Committee

Group composed of ten or twelve Members who are appointed for a two-year period and who are responsible for the parliamentary work that comes under the terms of reference of their committee.

Order of the Assembly

Order given by the Assembly to a committee; concerns mainly the consideration of bills, the estimates of expenditure and the holding of consultations.

Order of initiative

Order of the initiative of the members of a committee; concerns mainly issues of public interest, the orientation, activities and management of public agencies, and, on occasion, draft regulations and regulations.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

General consultation

Invitation made by a Committee to any persons or organizations interested in forwarding a brief setting forth their views on some matter being examined by the Committee. The invitation is published in the *Gazette officielle*, in selected newspapers and on the Internet. Public hearings are then held in order to discuss the said briefs.

Special consultation

Special invitation transmitted by a Committee to a limited number of persons or organizations who have expertise or experience specific to a field it is investigating. Public hearings enable exchanges between these witnesses and the members of the Committee.

During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the activities surrounding parliamentary control constituted the major part of committee proceedings, followed closely by the consideration of bills. It should also be mentioned that, more than ever before, consultations are the preferred method used in order to obtain the opinion of the citizens, the Members thus being privy to a unique source of information. The following table provides an overview of the activities of the committees.

463 sittings		
Parliamentary control 40 %	Clause-by-clause consideration of bills 35 %	Consultations 25 %
Government estimates 26 % Surveillance of public agencies 25 % Accountability 20 % Initiative 14 % Financial commitments 7.5 % Interpellations 5.5 % Other 2 %	87 public 23 private	786 groups and individuals were given the opportunity to express their point of view on various issues dealt with during consultations, which represents an increase of 80 % on the average of the last fifteen years (the average being 437 per year).

The main issues examined by Members in 1999-2000 come under one or the other of the following sectors:

Sector	Number of sittings	%
Health and social services	72	15.5 %
Economy, finance, public administration	69	15.0 %
Municipal and regional affairs	58	12.5 %
Justice and public security	52	11.0 %
Labour, industry and trade	39	8.0 %
Culture and communications	34	7.5 %
Education	32	7.0 %
Transport and highway safety	30	6.5 %
Agriculture, fisheries	22	5.0 %
Natural resources	22	5.0 %
Environment, wildlife and parks	17	3.5 %
Institutions	16	3.5 %

The following are a few examples of orders undertaken by some of the standing committees in 1999-2000:

The Committee on Culture heard, in the course of public hearings, 22 experts and representatives of crucial sectors that could potentially be affected by the **Year 2000 date changeover**. At the end of its proceedings, which took place over a period of 9 months, the committee members came to the conclusion that the information they had obtained was reliable and allowed them to conclude that serious problems that could potentially affect the principal sectors involved were highly unlikely. The report mentioned that it was very likely that our geographical location spared us having to experience the most serious problems, since we are situated on the continent that is best prepared for such an event and that numerous reliability tests were performed throughout North America.

The Committee on Education held an extensive consultation on the **place of religion in schools**. The Committee received no less than 254 briefs from organizations and individuals who wished to express their opinion on this matter. This consultation resulted from the tabling, in March 1999, by a ministerial working group, of an important report entitled «*Laïcité et religions : perspective nouvelle pour l'école québécoise*» (*Secularism and religion: a new perspective for Québec schools*)

The Committee on Public Administration tabled in the National Assembly, in December 1999, its fifth report on the **accountability of deputy ministers and of chief executive officers of public agencies**. This report states the conclusions of the Committee following the sittings during which six deputy ministers and one chief executive officer were heard. It contains 14 recommendations aiming to improve the management of ministries and of the public agencies examined. The main subjects that were analyzed by the Committee were the management of the Fonds de lutte contre la pauvreté par la réinsertion au travail, the grants to municipalities programmes, the reform of the Public Curator, and the Centre de perception fiscale.

The Committee on Labour and the Economy examined the **2000-2004 strategic plan of Hydro-Québec**. This important Government-owned agency has the legal obligation to submit to the Committee this four-year plan before the Government gives its approval thereto. In order to undertake this order, the Committee consulted experts in the field beforehand so as to be adequately prepared for the public hearings during which the chief executive officers of Hydro-Québec came to explain the merits of the intervention strategies they proposed.

The decrease in personal income tax was a matter discussed in the course of a general consultation held by the Committee on Public Finance. Before proceeding with its mandate, the Committee took the initiative of organizing a conference whose objective was to discuss the public finances of the State and to identify the tax situation of its taxpayers. Subsequently, during 11 sittings, the Committee received 47 agencies who came to express their opinion on the way the Government should use the anticipated surplus with regard to personal income tax.



National Assembly Collection

The protection of agricultural activities in agricultural ("green") zones was a subject that especially interested the members of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Two years after the coming into force of the Act aiming to ensure harmonious cohabitation between the various farmers and residents of the rural territory, the Committee analyzed specific aspects that constitute problems. The Committee toured several regions in order to visit the farming areas and meet farmers to find out firsthand what their exact situation was. The Committee concluded its mandate by hearing the principal organizations representing the farming industry and the municipalities.

Several other subjects were the object of important mandates in committees, such as: the prescription drug insurance plan; the bill obliging citizens to identify themselves when voting; the quality of the environment and waste management; the reform of transportation by taxi; highway safety; and the new management frame proposed for the public service.



Daniel Lessard

The professional tools

In order to fully exercise their parliamentary duties, the Members of the National Assembly can count on various tools which are at their daily disposal. Here are a few such examples...

Recueil de décisions concernant la procédure parlementaire (Collection of decisions on parliamentary procedure)

Second to the Standing Orders of the Assembly, the decisions rendered by the Chair, both in the Assembly and in Committees, constitute an element of procedure that must govern parliamentary proceedings. In order to make these decisions available to readers, specialists in parliamentary procedure draft and update a collection of decisions in two volumes: the first one contains the decisions rendered in the Assembly, the second one, those rendered in the parliamentary committees.

In 1999-2000, the first volume was updated three times and the second volume, twice.

The Library of the Assembly

With its 413,812 titles and its 964,120 volumes, the Library of the National Assembly is, after the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, the largest library on public administration in Québec. Its specialization in parliamentary affairs enables it to more than adequately meet the needs of Québec's elected officials, the personnel of the Assembly, the journalists of the Press Gallery and researchers.

In 1999-2000, over **11,000** new titles were added to its catalogue. Among these are 1258 speeches by Québec Members of the Assembly, either current or former, and 1552 briefs presented to the standing committees.

Telecommunications

Whether they work in their riding offices or on Parliament Hill, the Members must have access to the latest in communications technology: telephone systems, including cellular phones; fax machines and electronic mail fax servers; access to Internet, to cable or television via satellite - all of this in order to enable Members to communicate in the most efficient way possible.

Mail and messenger services

Whether they cater to the political or to the administrative sectors, the mail and messenger services are the backbone of parliamentary proceedings. The following numbers, for the 1999-2000 fiscal year, are proof positive thereof:

Mail delivered	222,214
Distribution of messages	162,179
• buildings of the Assembly:	137,787
• other buildings on Parliament Hill:	16,495
• outside the premises:	7,897

Research service

With the help of a data bank and reference tools covering various aspects of parliamentary life (biographical components, photographs and prints, election results, terminology, calendars of events), the research service answered **433** research requests of variable complexity in the course of the year, most of which were for the standing committees.

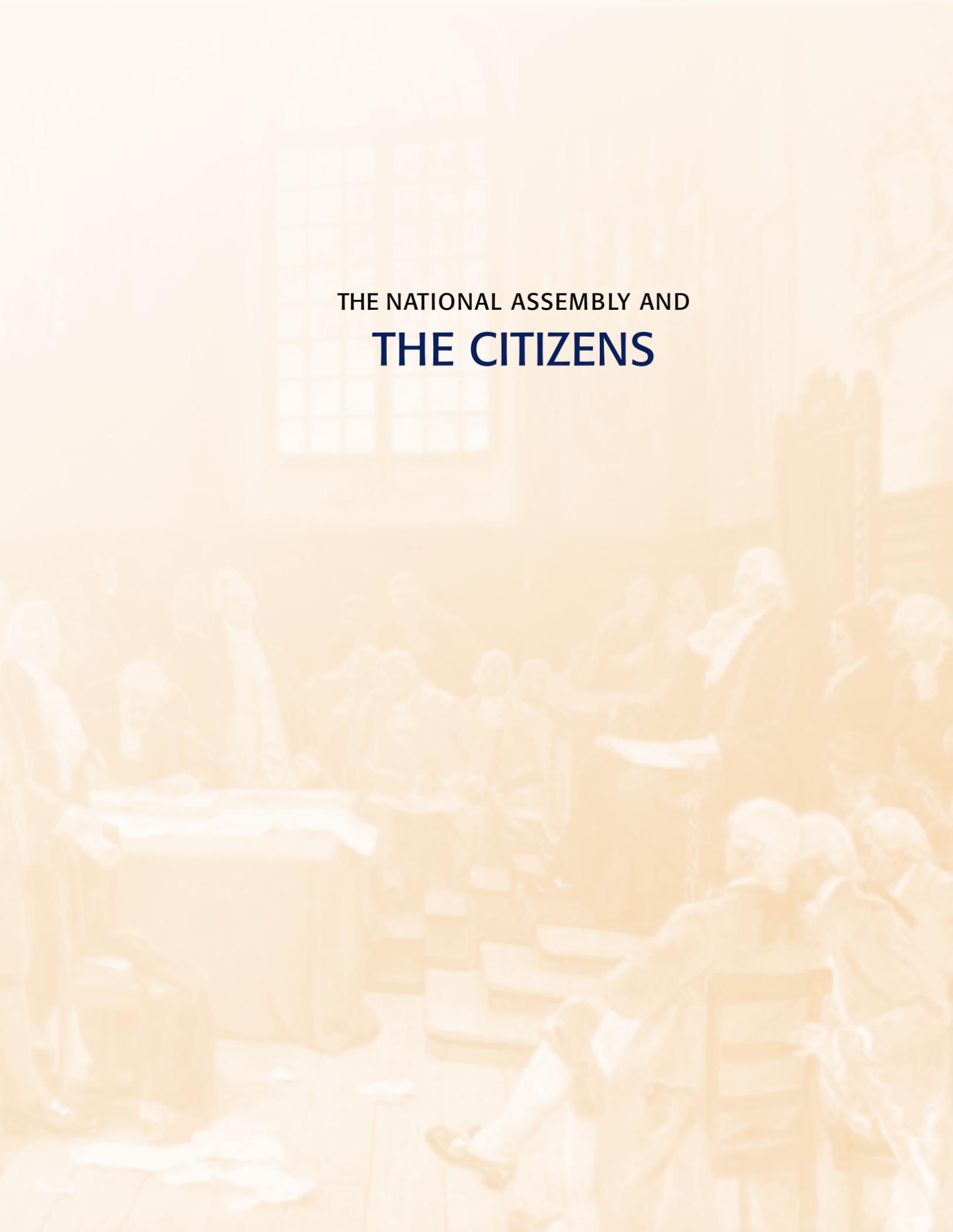
Reader service

The reader service, also known as the "reference" service, answered **14,227** requests for information and documentation. For their part, readers borrowed **5309** volumes.

Press documentation

All articles concerning the economic, political, social and cultural activity of Québec and of Canada, and which are published in a daily or periodical newspaper, can be found in one or the other of 629 files that are kept and updated by the press documentation service of the Library. In 1999-2000, **152,837** articles were added to these files for the benefit of Québec's parliamentary milieu.

The National Assembly also ensures the distribution of documents to the journalists of the Press Gallery. In 1999-2000, **562,353** written documents were thus transmitted thereto.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
THE CITIZENS

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

Visiting the Assembly

No matter what the reason that brings citizens and tourists to our Parliament Building, each leaves with the impression of having touched history... that of generations before us, of course, but also that which is written daily, here and now, and of which future generations shall remember certain outstanding events. In 1999-2000, **154,533** persons came to the National Assembly for one or another of the reasons listed hereafter:

To attend a sitting

Whether it be in committee or in the Assembly, the public is invited to attend the parliamentary proceedings. The National Assembly Room has a gallery containing some 125 seats, which are at the disposal of the public, and two lateral galleries which are reserved for the guests of the President, the leaders of parliamentary groups and the ministers. The standing committee rooms also have seats reserved for the public. The parliamentary proceedings attracted:

Upon entering the building, each person must undergo a brief security check, which is required procedure in order to ensure the safety of all. Briefcases and handbags are searched and passed through a metal detector, and an identification card is required of each person.

In the Assembly	9165 persons	In committees	8590 persons
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To visit the building

The guided tour of the National Assembly provides visitors with information on its Members and its organization and procedures, as well as on the history and architecture of the Parliament Building. Among those who went on the tour this year, two-thirds were from the Province of Québec.

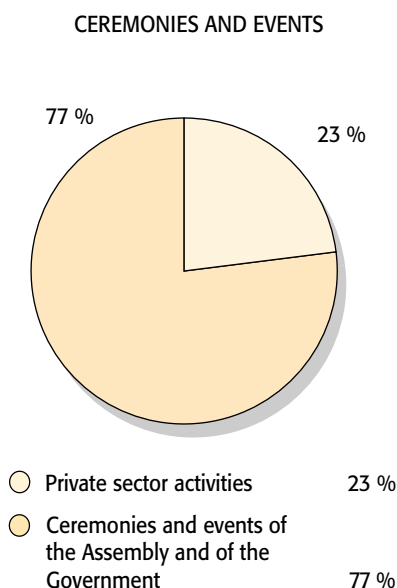
Guided tours		Visitors (by place of origin)	
In French	44,376	Québec	63 %
In English	18,025	Other provinces	9 %
In Spanish	467	United States	12 %
Total	62,868	Other countries	16 %

Included in the numbers indicated above are **22,168** individuals who benefited from the pedagogical programme, prepared in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale (national capital commission). This option is available to school groups of all levels as well as to immigrant adults registered with the COFI (organization providing French language courses and initiation to Québec culture), for both indoor and outdoor tours. Their participation is distributed as follows:

Elementary	47 %
High school	34 %
General and vocational college	4 %
University	3 %
COFI	2 %
Outdoor tours	10 %



Daniel Lesard



In the summer of 1999, the National Assembly and the Commission de la capitale nationale gave visitors the opportunity to discover the Parliament Building at their own pace. With the help of a folder published in three languages (French, English and Spanish) and guides who are available all along the tour, visitors were able to explore, in addition to the several rooms where parliamentary proceedings take place, the Presidents' Gallery, the President's Lounge, the Flag Room and the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant. This experience, held solely on weekends and legal holidays from June to September, enabled **19,621** persons to visit the Assembly.

To take part in official ceremonies and special events

Close to **80** major activities hosted by the National Assembly took place in the course of 1999-2000. Among these are the following:

- Dictée des Amériques 1999 (Dictation of the Americas 1999)
- Hommage Bénévolat Québec ceremony (tribute to volunteers)
- Prix québécois de la sécurité civile ceremony (public safety award)
- Prix du civisme ceremony (civic action award)
- Ordre national du Québec ceremony
- Prix du Québec ceremony
- Ordre de la Pléiade ceremony

To enjoy a meal

The Parliament of Québec boasts a special attraction: it is one of the only parliaments in the world to open its restaurants to the public. Of course, its principal patrons are the Members, their guests and the personnel of the Assembly, but all visitors are welcome. In contrast with private establishments, the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant and the *Le Mini-Débat* cafeteria are open solely during the week, from Monday to Friday, and according to the schedule of the parliamentary proceedings. It is always best to reserve in order to make sure that this dining experience is not missed!

All Québec regions represented



Regional cuisine of Québec

In recent years, the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant has been a veritable showcase for promoting Québec's regional cuisine, the restaurants and products from all regions of Québec.

The visibility that has been afforded the food production and transformation businesses, the establishments, the artisans, as well as the chefs and pastrycooks was made possible thanks to the partnership established between *Le Parlementaire* and:

- The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (department of agriculture, fisheries and food),
- The Institut de Tourisme et d'Hôtellerie du Québec (Québec school of tourism and hotel management),
- The Corporation "La Cuisine régionale au Québec" (regional cuisine of Québec corporation).

In 1999-2000, this partnership, which Tourisme Québec joined, allowed the restaurant to go a step further by emphasizing the collaboration with regional chefs and by providing even greater visibility to establishments and their artisans.

A look at the menu for the “Summer of 1999”

Magdalen Islands harp seal terrine
and marsh samphire

Portneuf tomatoes with Island of Orleans herbed oil

Potted nordic shrimps and milkweed pickles

Albert Perron’s St-Prime cheddar and vegetable quiche

Charlevoix Migneron fondue, tender greens
with ground cherry vinaigrette

Smoke-cured salmon, banique bread from the Huron Village,
baby leaves and spruce sap dressing

Saint-Charles-de-Drummond boneless chicken breast,
Montréal cider and apple nugget sauce

Ink-black ravioli with smoked salmon filling Lower
Saint-Lawrence salt herb bisque

Pork medallions from the Beauce, beet and cranberry mulligan,
lemon-grass infusion

Roberval ouananiche (land-locked salmon),
Lac-Saint-Jean blueberry sauce

Lower North Shore seafood-filled pastry
with shellfish sauce

Sautéed Nunavik caribou meat,
Tundra berry chutney and
conifer jelly sauce

Maple granité

Seasonal berry sorbet

Sweet surprise

Choice of beers, wines and
ciders made in Québec

Marc Lajoie

The **Le Parlementaire** restaurant is open to the public for breakfast and lunch and, during the intensive sessional periods, for dinner. **29,580 meals** were served during the year.

Appealing in both the grandness of its physical environment and the regional cuisine that it promotes with such flair, the restaurant is also the ideal place for the holding of official receptions hosted by the President of the Assembly and by the Government.

The **Le Mini-Débat** cafeteria mainly serves breakfasts and lunches; it is open during the evening only when the House is sitting during extended hours of meeting and is closed during the summer (July and August). **35,592 meals** were served during the year.

The Boutique gift shop

To make the tour of the Parliament Building complete, a stop by the National Assembly gift shop is in order. Newspapers, gift items and a wide range of souvenirs are available to the Members, the population and tourists. The profits made from the sales at The Boutique are turned over to the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation, which sees to the education of young people with regard to democracy.

And, as a bonus, to discover...

Exhibitions

By organizing thematic exhibitions that are open to visitors, the National Assembly wishes to increase the population's awareness with regard to the different aspects that have marked the evolution of Québec society. Visitors in 1999-2000 were able to view the following exhibitions:

- **The 150 years of the Québec Bar Association**

Exhibition on the place of law in our parliamentary democracy, illustrating the natural relationship between the legal profession and parliamentary office. *On display at the Parliament Building.*

- **The archives of the Assembly**

This exhibition gave visitors an excellent idea of the importance of the archives of the National Assembly and the historical value of a certain number of documents: letters signed by political or literary figures (Maurice Duplessis, George-Émile Marquis, Claude-Henri Grignon, Jean Drapeau, etc.), documents concerning the Blanche Garneau case, original texts and important Acts (such as the 1937 Padlock Act) and historical material relating to the Conference of Québec in 1943 or on women's right to vote. *On display at the Library of the National Assembly.*

- **Québec and the Boer War**

Exhibition on the Québec perspective regarding this conflict, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, inaugurated in January 2000 by the High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency André Jaquet, and by the Consul General in Montréal, Mr. Eli Bitzer. *On display at the Library of the National Assembly.*

Daniel Lessard



The Assembly in your home

The broadcasting of debates

The broadcasting of all of the proceedings of the Assembly, since 1978, as well as the more recent broadcasting of numerous standing committee proceedings, press conferences and special events enable television viewers to learn more about day-to-day parliamentary activities.

Broadcast time in 1999-2000	
Broadcasting of events*	1210 hours
Computerized bulletin boards	2850 hours
Total broadcast time of the Assembly channel	4060 hours

*Broadcasting of events: distribution of hours			
	live coverage	pre-recorded	rerun
National Assembly	456:57		72:55
Standing committees	312:36	235:02	
Press conferences	23:34	50:18	
Special events	27:41	15:45	15:05
Total	820:48	301:05	88:00

The broadcasting of radio spots

A 12-month radio broadcast campaign began at the end of the summer of 1999. This pilot project on public awareness and information, which stems from the collaboration between the National Assembly and a radio station operating in the Capital region, is entitled "L'Assemblée nationale, une histoire à suivre ..." (The National Assembly, a story worth following...). Short messages lasting 45 seconds and broadcast at regular intervals promote a better understanding of the democratic role of the Assembly, inform the population on the various aspects of the mission of the institution and highlight the work of Members.

Regional visits

Twice a year the National Assembly takes part in the Québec Government's *Salon Info-services* (information services exhibition), in order to meet the citizens from the regions of Québec. At the Assembly stand, visitors can get answers to questions they have regarding the various services offered by the institution; it is also an opportunity for them to obtain various documents which complement this information.

ALMA April 1999
13,810 persons

Centre régional d'éducation physique et des sports (now the Centre Mario Tremblay)

RIMOUSKI October 1999
over 8000 persons

Colisée de Rimouski

Library loans

To meet the documentation needs of a portion of its clientele, the Library of the National Assembly loans out a significant number of documents to other libraries. In 1999-2000, **4114** documents were loaned: 3569 of these within the State libraries network and 545 to school, municipality and business libraries.

Parliamentary documents

Though most parliamentary documents are available on the Internet, citizens may obtain a paper version of a document. Whether by means of a subscription to the *Journal des débats* (Hansard), the *Order Paper and Notices* or the *Votes and Proceedings*, or by the purchase of specific issues of these publications, certain briefs or the certified true copies of Acts, the National Assembly sold **78,188** documents in 1999-2000.

The institution's publications

In order to promote a better understanding of the institution, the National Assembly provides the Members and citizens with a series of publications. During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, **70,000** issues of these publications were distributed.



The Assembly through Internet

One of the most recent ways to reach a large number of citizens is through the Internet. The National Assembly views this as an excellent way to participate in the democratization of information by giving the citizens the opportunity to obtain any information relating to parliamentary proceedings.

495,727 Internetters

accessed **7.5 million** pages among the **26,800** files available.

N.B. One accessed page may contain anywhere from a few paragraphs to hundreds of pages.

429 questions

were asked during the year via our Web site. Whether the questions deal with the institution in general or with the proceedings, the Webmaster ensures that an answer is provided quickly.

A few additions to the site in 1999-2000:

Index of the Journal des débats (Hansard)

Since June 1999, the electronic version of this document is available in the "Parliamentary Proceedings" section. The virtual index enables quick access to all excerpts from the *Journal des débats* which concern, for example, a specific subject or which contain the speech of a particular Member. The index is created from a list of descriptors taken from the *Journal des débats Thesaurus* which, incidentally, can be used as a research tool. The index provides access to the proceedings of the session that is currently underway (1st Session, 36th Legislature) and to those of the previous session (2nd Session, 35th Legislature).

A parliamentary **session** comprises:

between 20,000 and 50,000 pages of text to be indexed,
200,000 references,
1500 cross-references.

www.assnat.qc.ca



Virtual Tour

A team from the Assembly devised and created a multimedia virtual tour of the Parliament Building. The tour allows viewers to enter the areas where Members work while offering general information on the organization and procedures and the history of the institution, as well as on the architectural design which was elaborated by Eugène-Étienne Taché.

A brief inventory of our site...

(as titles appear on our home page - French titles indicate text available in French only)

The Members

- Biographies, names and addresses of the Members of the 36th Legislature:
 - By name of Member
 - By name of electoral division
- Holders of various parliamentary and ministerial functions

The Parliamentary Proceedings — 36th Legislature, 1st Session

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Assembly Proceedings: | • Committees Proceedings: |
| Télédiffusion | Télédiffusion |
| Order Paper and Notices | Calendrier des travaux |
| Journal des débats (Hansard) | Journal des débats (Hansard) |
| Index du Journal des débats | Index du Journal des débats |
| Bills | General Consultations |
| Draft Bills | Committee Reports & discussion papers |
| Votes and Proceedings | Members, terms of reference and duties |
| Statistiques sur les travaux | |
- Participation of citizens:
 - Public consultations conducted by parliamentary committees
 - Introduction of a Private Bill
 - Presenting a petition to the National Assembly
 - Standing Orders and other Rules of Procedure
 - Archives: 35th Legislature, 2nd Session
 - Description of documents

Organization and Procedures

To find out everything there is to know on various subjects: history of the Assembly, voting procedure, Parliament and Government, role of Members (voting on bills, surveillance of Government actions), parliamentary committees, Standing Orders and other Rules of Procedure, specific responsibilities of Members, the three institutions which come under the Assembly, the Parliament Building.

Interparliamentary Relations

- Members of the Québec sections of interparliamentary organizations
- Multilateral activities
- Bilateral relations
- Interparliamentary cooperation

La mission pédagogique (the educational mission)

- Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant
- Activités
- Le Cyberjournal:

The voice of democrats, where Internetters can express their views, either individually or as a school group, on the theme of democracy. Since the objective is to discover instruments for democracy, educational games are proposed on this site in order to measure knowledge on parliamentarism and democratic institutions.

- La Veille pédagogique (pedagogical alert):

A virtual site which aims to foster and promote research in the field of education on democracy; the principal interested parties (professors, researchers, etc.) can find pertinent information here and exchange on various topics with others.

- Documents
- Album
- Contact

In addition, you may click on...

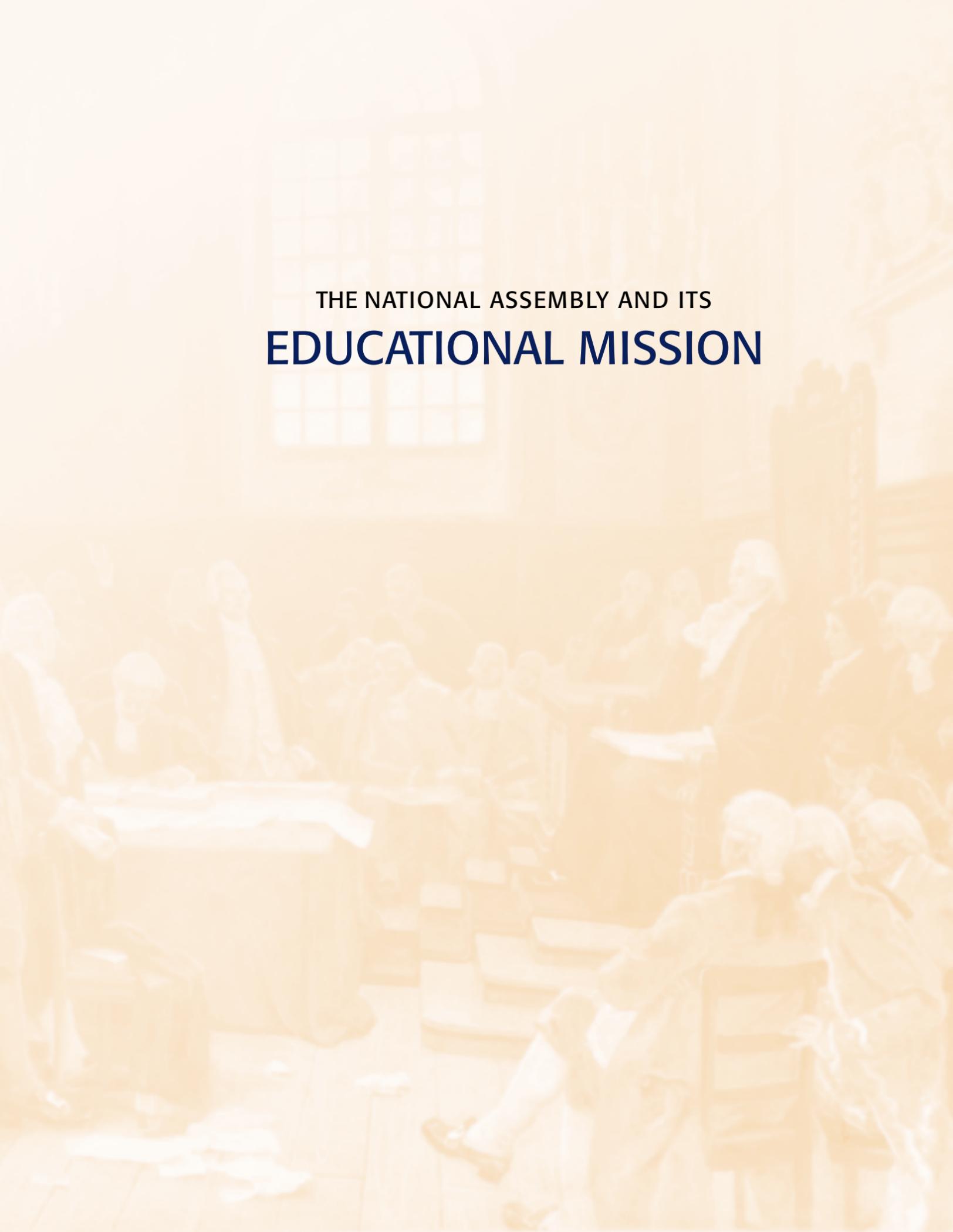
Visite virtuelle
Communiqués de presse
Conférences de presse
Télédiffusion des travaux
President's Mailbox
Information
Administration
Français
Site Plan
Search
Quoi de neuf ?

And links with...

Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant
Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec
Lieutenant-Governor
Government of Québec
Tribune de la presse
Other Parliaments
Conférence parlementaire des Amériques



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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS
EDUCATIONAL MISSION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The parliamentary simulations...

In order to help young people of all ages become familiar with the parliamentary system of Québec, the National Assembly organizes and conducts parliamentary simulations and a tournament on democracy. In 1999-2000, close to 5000 young people prepared to take part in these various activities.

Activities	Preparation in class	Participation at the National Assembly
Pupils' Parliament	3000	110
Student Forum	800	181
Youth Parliament	300	85
Student Parliament	120	120
Young Democrats Tournament	700	359
Total :	4920	855

The Pupils' Parliament 3rd Legislature - 19 May 1999

The *Pupils' Parliament*, which was introduced and is chaired by the President of the National Assembly, allows Grade 6 elementary school students to write up legislative acts in their class and to elect the 110 pupil-parliamentarians who will represent them at the National Assembly.

In the Assembly, the pupil-parliamentarians debate on the passage in principle of three bills, which are then sent to committees for clause-by-clause consideration before returning to the Assembly for their final passage.

The Student Forum 8th Legislature - 9 to 14 January 2000

Established by the National Assembly in 1992, the Student Forum is intended for college-level students who are taking the course entitled "La politique au Canada et au Québec" (Politics in Canada and in Québec), but also allows the participation of other college students who wish to develop a better understanding of the organization and proceedings of parliamentary institutions.

Under the supervision of their professors and the professionals of the National Assembly, the students prepare the speeches, bills, question periods, statements by Ministers and the proceedings of the parliamentary committees for the duration of the mock Parliament.

The Youth Parliament 50th Legislature - 26 to 30 December 1999

The *Youth Parliament* is a non-profit corporation of young people which recruits its participants each year from among universities throughout Québec. In 1999, five students from Belgium participated in our Youth Parliament, which is part of an exchange of friendly services, given that four Quebecers have been travelling to Belgium on an annual basis in order to take part in the *Parlement Jeunesse francophone de la Wallonie* since its creation, in 1997.



Daniel Lessard

Bill No. 1,
An Act respecting the obligation for elementary schools and high schools to devote one hour to sports activities.

Bill No. 2,
An Act respecting the elimination of any form of drug use at school.

Bill No. 3,
An Act respecting the obligation for schools to name two sixth-grade students as members of the institutional council.

Bill No. 1,
An Act to amend the Parks Act

Objective: to devote 12 % of Québec territory to the development of parks.

Bill No. 2,
An Act promoting assistance to students.

Objective: to give grants to businesses who hire students (training or summer jobs); to maintain \$3000 as the amount of revenue generated by student work when calculating loans and bursaries.

Each year, in view of preparing the next legislature of the Youth and Student Parliaments, the personnel of the National Assembly provides an information session to those who will be holding parliamentary and administrative offices during the simulation.

The absence of party discipline here encourages debates and develops, among the participants, stringent respect both of the rules of decorum to be observed and of the National Assembly.

The four bills passed by this Parliament in 1999 concerned the control of Members on foreign affairs, biomedical research, bank services, and a reform of the voting procedure and of the financing of political parties.

The Student Parliament 14th Legislature - 3 to 7 January 2000

The *Student Parliament*, which is based on the model of the Parliament of Québec, is a non-profit corporation whose membership is composed of university students (95 %) and college students (5 %). Two parliamentary groups — 59 "blues" and 61 "reds" — occupy the seats, in alternation during a same simulation, of both the Government and the Opposition.

Although the 120 Members stand behind their parliamentary group, compromises are often made in order to adopt and amend a motion that is in the public interest.

This year, these student Members adopted a budget as well as eight bills and introduced two white papers. The legislative work undertaken dealt with cultural goods, legal aid, the reform of prehospital emergency services, amendments to the *Environment Quality Act* and the creation of a sustainable development assistance fund, and, finally, the establishment of a landfill sites corporation and of a drug addiction committee.

The Young Democrats Tournament 7th Edition - 23 to 25 April 1999

The *Young Democrats Tournament* is a type of quiz game which enables young people to learn about the evolution of democracy, from ancient Greece to modern Québec.

The competition, which is included in the curriculum of fourth-year high school courses on Québec and Canadian history, of fifth-year high school courses on civilization, and of college-level history and political science courses, takes place over a two-day period and rewards the teams that make it to the finals and semi-finals with scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2000.

The tournament takes place at the Petit Séminaire de Québec but concludes in the Legislative Council Room with the holding of the high school level finals followed by those of the college level. For the third year in a row, these finals were broadcast live on the Assembly channel, on Sunday, 25 April 1999.



$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & 700 & \text{young people prepared} \\
 + & 50 & \text{teachers} \\
 + & 47 & \text{educational institutions} \\
 + & 359 & \text{participants} \\
 \hline
 = & 1 & \text{Tournament}
 \end{array}$$



Various internships within the directorates of the Assembly

Within the framework of the programme entitled «internships for new graduates» established by the Conseil du Trésor, the National Assembly welcomed in 1999-2000:

- 1 electrical engineering trainee
 - *broadcasting of debates*
- 1 computer graphics and multimedia trainee
 - *broadcasting of debates*
- 1 marketing trainee
 - *restaurants*
- 1 library science trainee
 - *documentary studies*

Following agreements reached with several institutions in the National Capital Region, the Assembly also provided, in 1999-2000, some hands-on experience to:

- several electrical engineering trainees
 - *broadcasting of debates*
 - *property management*
- 2 records management trainees
 - *parliamentary archives*
- 1 office automation trainee
 - *reconstruction of debates*
- 1 communications trainee
 - *public relations*
- 1 cabinet-making trainee
 - *property management*
- 1 plumbing and heating trainee
 - *property management*
- 1 political science trainee
 - *Library*
- 1 business administration trainee
 - *security*
- 2 documentation techniques trainees
 - *Library*
- 1 microcomputer techniques trainee
 - *computers*

Within the framework of the interprovincial summer employment exchange programme for students, the National Assembly welcomed from May to August 1999:

- 1 trainee from Alberta
 - *reception and information service*

The parliamentary internships of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

The *Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant*, whose main objective is youth education on democracy, offers scholarships and organizes parliamentary internships for Québec university students. Each year, the programme offers four bursaries to holders of bachelor's degrees in social studies and humanities to enable them to undertake a 10-month internship at the National Assembly. In this way, they get to know the institution and, through assignment to MNAs, participate in their work as legislators, supervisors of government actions and representatives of the people. During the past year, an agreement was reached between the Fondation and Laval University to grant the academic recognition of the internship.

History internships

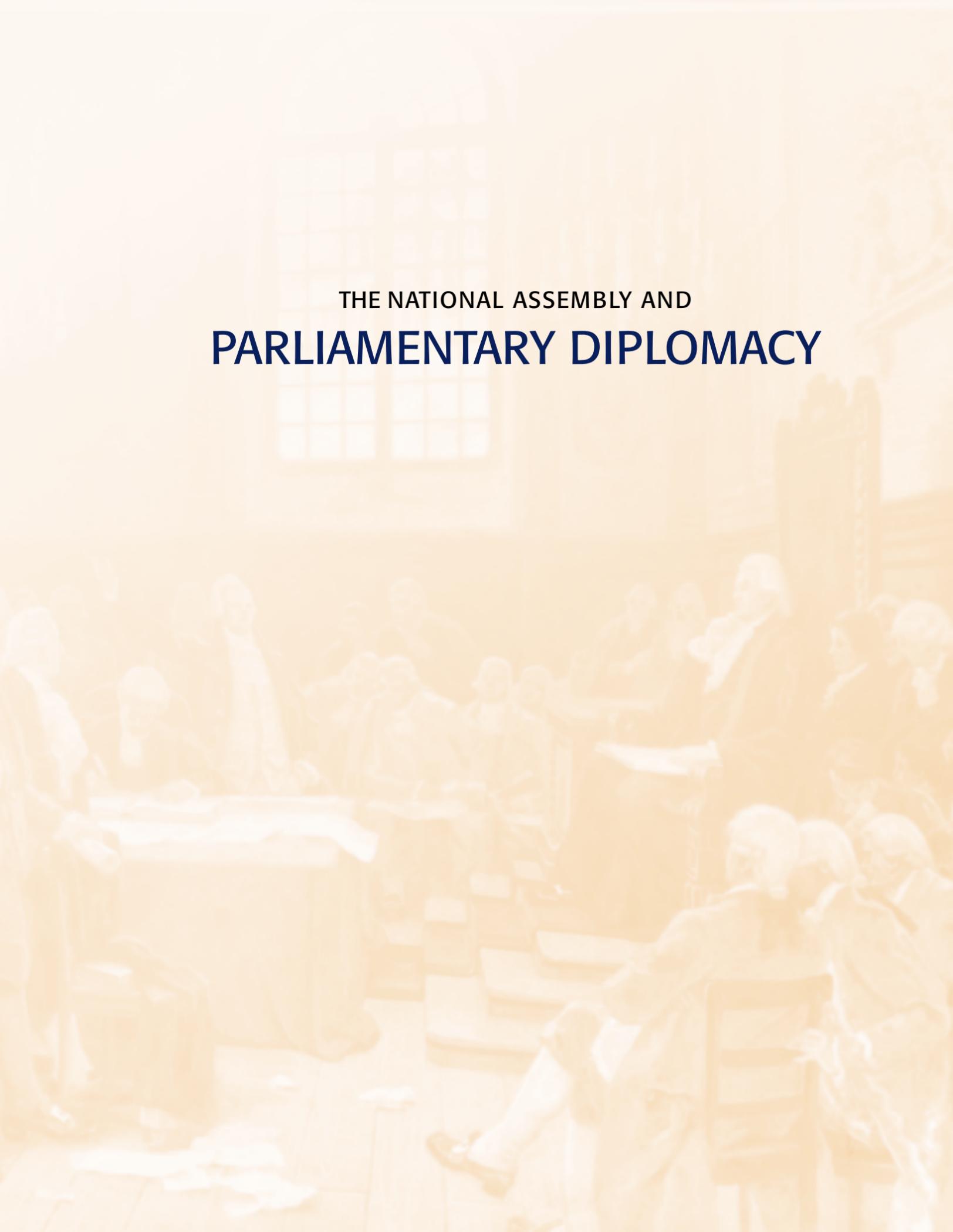
Since 1991, the Library has been offering graduates of Québec universities the opportunity to work on a historical reconstruction project. During an 18-month internship, which includes a bursary, the students reconstruct the debates of an entire session prior to 1964 (year in which the *Journal des débats* was established). In order to be eligible for the internship, the candidates must have a bachelor's degree in history and must be studying to obtain a master's degree or a doctorate in the history of Québec or must have obtained such degree in history less than one year prior to the internship. Four students were selected in 1999; their work will have enabled the reconstruction of the debates of the sessions from 1943 to 1947.

Horticulture internships

In 1986, the National Assembly entrusted the landscaping and groundskeeping work around the Parliament Building to specialists from Laval University. The agreement that was reached, and which has since been renewed, enables three students from the Faculty of Agriculture and Food to hone their skills in ornamental horticulture, under the supervision of the Centre de recherche en horticulture (horticulture research centre) of the said university. For a 16-week period, the students pass from theory to practice, much to the delight of Members, employees and visitors, who are numerous during the summer season.

Food service internships

The *Le Parlementaire* restaurant welcomes trainees from the Centre intégré en alimentation et tourisme de Québec and the Centre de formation professionnelle du Trait-Carré de Charlesbourg. This collaboration enables six students to experiment, either in the dining room or in the kitchen, the theoretical notions acquired during their studies. The trainees can thus take advantage of working in a unique professional environment which includes daily food service activities, of course, but also protocolary receptions and important ceremonies.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The international network of the Assembly

Members are at the forefront of Québec politics, but their involvement internationally is equally important. The National Assembly enables them to play this international role thanks to the network of interparliamentary relations that it has established for over half a century and which has expanded, in the course of the past decade and more particularly in recent years, in proportion with the evolution of the international system at the close of the century. Indeed, it is now commonplace to hear, on the international scene, of the existence of a genuine parliamentary diplomacy which is increasingly elaborate and dynamic.

The multilateral relations of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is a member of four major international organizations which are composed of Parliaments from the five continents.

APF

The *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie*, established in 1967, is composed of 62 Parliaments of Unitary, Federal and Federated States from 49 countries, including the National Assembly of Québec since 1974.

CPA

The *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association*, established in 1911, today is composed of 147 Parliaments of Unitary, Federal and Federated States from 54 countries, including the National Assembly of Québec since 1933.

CSG

The *Council of State Governments* of the United States, established in 1933, brings together representatives from the legislatures of the 50 American States, the 6 American territories, and, since December 1995, the National Assembly of Québec as an Associate International Member.

COPA

The *Conférence parlementaire des Amériques* (Parliamentary Conference of the Americas) is an initiative of the National Assembly, which, in 1997, convened all parliamentarians of the Americas to meet in Québec. The COPA has carried on its work, in 1999-2000, of ensuring the participation of parliamentarians in the Summits of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and in the negotiation of a Free-Trade Area for the Americas.

The **Executive Committee** of the COPA met in Québec last October for the purpose of establishing, among other business, the date of the next general assembly of the parliamentarians of the continent, whose theme will be "Building a Fair and Prosperous Community of the Americas" (Puerto Rico, 19 to 23 July 2000).

For its part, the **International Secretariat of the Conference**, which has its offices at the Québec National Assembly, continued its work, particularly of revamping its Internet web site (www.copa.qc.ca), where all the information on the proceedings of the Conference as well as a data bank on the Parliaments of the Americas can be found.



PARLACEN

The bilateral relations of the National Assembly

The National Assembly maintains bilateral relations with the National Assembly of France, the French-speaking Belgian Parliamentary Assemblies, the Central American Parliament, the National Union of State Legislatures of Brazil, the Parliament of Haiti, the Parliament of Bavaria and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The Assembly regularly makes numerous contacts with the European institutions, headed by the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as with the Parliaments of other States and international organizations.

The objectives pursued

The establishment of such a network falls within the pursuit of four major objectives in the international relations of the Assembly:

- the maintenance and reinforcement of the effectiveness of the parliamentary institution and of the elected officials in the exercise of their duties.
- the active participation of the National Assembly in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity.
- the improvement of the international positioning of the National Assembly, thereby contributing to the increased outreach of Québec society.
- the institutional influence of the National Assembly within the interparliamentary networks.

The network expands ...

Three new bilateral agreements were reached by the National Assembly in 1999-2000:

6 May 1999

in La Antigua (Guatemala): signing of an agreement with the Central American Parliament. The *National Assembly of Québec - Central American Parliament Interparliamentary Committee* met for the first time in Quebec City from 4 to 8 October 1999, at the end of which a joint declaration on cultural diversity in the context of globalization was adopted.

8 October 1999

in Québec: signing of a framework agreement on cooperation with the National Union of State Legislatures of Brazil (UNALE).

12 October 1999

in Munich: signing of an agreement, with the Landtag of Bavaria, aiming to intensify interparliamentary dialogue and cooperation.

May 1999

First meeting of the *Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas*, chaired by a female Member of Québec, in La Antigua (Guatemala).

January 2000

At the initiative of the National Assembly, the APF decided, during the meeting of its Bureau which was held in Québec, to form a working group on the establishment of a *Network of Women Parliamentarians of the French-speaking world* (Francophonie).

The network of women parliamentarians...

Granted, an increasing number of women have entered the political arena in the past twenty or thirty years, but, at the present time, they still form only 13.2% of the total number of Members and 10.9% of senators worldwide, when, it should be noted, women constitute more than half of the global population (52 %). With a female representation of close to 25 %, it was the perfect opportunity for the National Assembly to increase its involvement, in 1999-2000, in the existing networks of women parliamentarians (particularly in that of the CPA) and to promote the establishment of new networks within the Americas and the French-speaking world (Francophonie).

The Conference of the Council of State Governments in Québec

From 2 to 7 December 1999, the National Assembly hosted the Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum of the Council of State Governments. Some 1700 participants, including over 700 elected officials from the 50 American States and territories and from Québec as well as business people and academics, attended this activity which was held for the first time in history outside of the United States. As is the custom with regard to this annual interparliamentary meeting, American State governors also attended the Conference.

The preparation and proceedings of a major event such as this requires the participation of both Québec parliamentarians and the personnel of the National Assembly: once again, all were ready and willing to take up the challenge!

Overview of the schedule of events

Ten plenary sessions, several workshops and numerous committee and working group meetings will have enabled participants to exchange on relations between the States and the American Federal Government, but also on the socio-economic and political tendencies in the United States. The following is a brief look at some of the themes dealt with:

- Building Tomorrow's Workforce
- Governing in the 21st Century
- The Future of NAFTA and Regional Trade Zones
- International Dimensions of American Agriculture
- Elections 2000: The Road to the White House

"Québec, more than a neighbour"

This was the theme for the *Québec Host Event*, which provided an opportunity for the 1100 people who were in attendance to discover the talents of several dozens of Québec artists.

This was also the theme for the exhibition stand, located in the heart of the *Exhibit Show*, where Conference participants were able to discover a modern, dynamic Québec society, taking its rightful place within the Americas while remaining faithful to its age-old traditions of exchanging and sharing, as well as the fields in which it excels most. It should be noted that the Assembly, which coordinated the presentation of this stand, was able to count on the much-appreciated collaboration of the ministries and the agencies of the Government of Québec.



Daniel Lessard



The official delegations

The international obligations of the National Assembly bring a greater number of foreign dignitaries to Québec. Furthermore, as a State symbol, the Parliament Building constitutes a privileged setting for most of the official visits and international delegation receptions hosted by the Government of Québec. During the last fiscal year, the National Assembly thus welcomed several official visitors, among which were the following Heads of State and Government:

The official delegations enjoy much visibility on Parliament Hill: for each of these visits, the flag of the country or organization represented by the guests at the Assembly waves from the top of one of the towers of the Parliament Building. In 1999-2000, 55 flags were hoisted beside the Québec flag, which, due to its precedence, is placed atop the central tower.

Omar Bongo President of Gabon (May 1999)	Jacques Chirac President of the French Republic (September 1999)	Edmund Stoiber Minister-President of Bavaria (October 1999)
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...as well as the following Presidents of Parliaments:

1999	
May	Johann Böhm , President of the Parliament of Bavaria
August	The Speakers of the Canadian Legislative Assemblies on the occasion of the 38 th Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA
October	Juan Duch Martinez , President of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, Miguel Martini , President of the UNALE of Brazil, Kenneth McClintock , Chairman of the CSG on the occasion of the Executive Committee meeting of the COPA
December	Five American Governors and 22 Speakers of the House of Representatives and Presidents of the American Senate on the occasion of the CSG Conference
2000	
January	Eight Presidents of European and French-speaking African State Parliaments within the framework of the Bureau of the APF

The following table provides additional details with regard to the visits hosted, in 1999-2000, at the Parliament Building:

Official delegations	
Delegations of Heads of State or Government, of Presidents of Parliaments, of Ministers	11
Delegations of parliamentarians	28
Delegations of diplomats, of senior public servants	50

The promotion of democracy

The promotion of democracy and the State of Law has for the longest time been an objective of the National Assembly, an objective of which it chose to further the promotion in 1999-2000. Indeed, in the past our institution has strived mainly to develop this aim within the multilateral framework of the French-speaking world (Francophonie); henceforth, it shall also pursue a bilateral effort of interparliamentary cooperation.

For the National Assembly, well-established democracies have the obligation to provide technical support to parliamentary institutions of States that are emerging and entering democratic consolidation, thus allowing for the reinforcement of their parliamentary and administrative organization. It is for this purpose that the following actions were taken in 1999-2000.

At the Sommet de la Francophonie in Hanoi, in 1997, Québec announced its *Programme intégré d'appui à la démocratie et aux droits de la personne* (PIAD), a programme established by the National Assembly and whose multisectorial approach enables the efficient complementary contribution of various Québec resources in the fields of justice, human rights, electoral issues and several others. In July 1999, in Benin, within the framework of this programme, the National Assembly planned, organized and held a seminar in order to meet the needs of parliamentarians and public servants of the National Assembly of Benin. The following themes were discussed:

- the organization and procedures of a parliamentary assembly,
- the duties of the Member (controller of the executive power, legislator, representative of the population),
- the institutional structure of parliamentary committees,
- the administrative structure of parliamentary committees,
- the duties of a committee clerk.

The seminar allowed Members and specialists in these fields from our National Assembly to share their experience with their Beninese counterparts.

In order to properly explain its intention to establish a technology transfer programme to assist both Members and administrative personnel of partner parliamentary institutions, the Assembly published, in September 1999, a document entitled "*Un partenaire dynamique pour la consolidation de la démocratie dans le monde : l'Assemblée nationale du Québec*".

The Library of the Assembly takes an active role in providing technical assistance to emerging democratic institutions: in 1999-2000, three libraries* received over one hundred documents, volumes, periodicals and CD-ROMs, chosen among supplementary collections.

* Those of the Parliament of Haiti, of the National Assembly of Djibouti and of the UNESCO Chair for human rights and democracy in Benin.

The Library of the National Assembly also participated in this technical support by sending an archivist on a mission to the Beninese National Assembly.

The National Assembly provided its expertise in matters of legislative drafting to the Provisional Electoral Council of Haiti for the preparation of the country's draft electoral decree.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

As other Parliaments and numerous businesses worldwide, the National Assembly must equip itself with modern work tools and allow its personnel and the Members to take full advantage thereof. To keep abreast of the latest developments, among the myriad of modifications that technological progress has brought about, particularly in the field of information, the National Assembly has taken concrete measures throughout the 1999-2000 fiscal year. Certain adjustments, specifically concerning the Year 2000 date changeover, were also made. The following is a brief look at these changes.

With regard to the computer sector, in view of the Year 2000 date changeover, **37** applications were tested and subsequently updated, and **85** softwares, software packages, and operating systems were thus replaced.

- **266** micro-computers were replaced by Pentium-type units in the administrative sector on Parliament Hill. The same steps had been taken during the previous year in the political sector. In the electoral ridings, **104** printers were replaced by new high-performance equipment, while **24** printers were changed at the Parliament. Finally, some thirty printers were installed in network environments.
- Since the modifications made to the computers included the installation of Windows 98 and Office 97, it was necessary to assist all staff members involved by providing them with adequate training. Hence, **406** persons received the equivalent of **1006** days of training in 1999-2000. In addition to this, a number of self-teaching tools were prepared and made available to the employees.

In order to ensure the protection of persons and property, the Assembly acquired, in 1999-2000, an **integrated security system**. From one main computerized workstation, it is now possible to check strategic surveillance areas, entry control points and fire alarms.

The Assembly has a **centralized control system for ventilation, heating, and air conditioning**. This system is an important tool in managing energy conservation, and it ensures, via remote control, the comfort of the occupants of a room and the ready identification of problems when they occur. As yet, the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant, the National Assembly Room and the Legislative Council Room systems have been integrated into the central system.

In 1999-2000, the National Assembly purchased a **computer-assisted maintenance management** software. This software, which is used for preventive and corrective purposes, ensures optimal maintenance planning for all the mechanical and electrical equipment of the Assembly buildings and also provides a complete inventory thereof.

850 electronic mailboxes

"changed address" in 1999-2000!
This change was brought about by the installation of the Outlook 98 software on **700** workstations in the political and administrative sectors.

Whether it be in relation to computers, the security system or sound digitization, several services of the National Assembly work together in order to assess, purchase and install the equipment.

After a trial period in December of 1999, the **captioning** of the Oral Question Period rebroadcasting has officially been provided since 14 March 2000. Certain special events are also subtitled when rebroadcast. This was the case for the Budget Speech and the speech by the Official Opposition representative, thus marking the beginning of the debate on this Speech.

In its 35 years of existence, the *Journal des débats* has undergone several technological changes. In 1999-2000, in addition to having standardized the office automation environment and installed all of its workstations in a network system, Phase 1 of the **sound digitization** project was implemented and completed. After having searched for and acquired the products and components of the technological architecture capable of meeting the requirements, the selected equipment and software were installed and are currently undergoing testing. Sound digitization will be completed during the next fiscal year.

During the Hommages 99 Gala, the Financial Resources Directorate of the National Assembly was given the *Award of Excellence* for having established the **Assembly Information Centre**. This award, which is granted by the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie, (Department of Industry, Trade, Science and Technology), marks the excellence of projects in the field of information technologies in the public and parapublic sectors. The Assembly Information Centre enables management to have access to all of the financial data of the Assembly via a user-friendly and secure system.



Private Collection

The background image is a historical painting depicting a legislative assembly, likely the National Assembly of the French Revolution, in a grand hall. The scene shows numerous men in 18th-century attire seated at long tables, engaged in discussion and reading. A large, multi-paned window is visible in the upper left. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent orange filter.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND **ITS HERITAGE**

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS HERITAGE

The documentary heritage

The archives of the Assembly

Unlike the practice observed by the ministries and other Government authorities or agencies, the National Assembly manages its own archives. Since 1981, the Legislative Library is responsible for their management and filing, as well as for ensuring their accessibility to Members, employees of the public administration and researchers.

In compliance with Québec legislation, the National Assembly must rely on a classification system which enables file retrieval and on a calendar which determines the conservation period as well as specifications regarding their removal from active file (accessioning or disposal). The records management programme of the Assembly, which allows the institution to meet these requirements, is made up of several components:

- the development of policies and procedures;
- the implementation and follow-up of services;
- the training of persons in charge of file stations;
- the identification and protection of “essential” series.

The reconstruction of debates

It is only since 1964, the year in which the *Journal des débats* was established, that the integral transcript of speeches by Members in the Assembly has been available. For the years prior to this (1867 to 1963), one must refer to newspapers and other documents of the era and “reconstruct” the debates, which is precisely the work that the National Assembly historians have been accomplishing for a certain number of years now.

The administrative personnel of the Assembly produces and receives a significant amount of documents. The printed administrative corpus is currently estimated at 70,000 files. In 1999-2000, over 160 boxes of files were sent from the various branches for accessioning. After screening, **3900** files were transferred to the archives of the Assembly.

Assessment of the reconstruction of the debates in 1999-2000

With the contribution of trainees and the collaboration of several other branches of the Assembly, the team working on this project was able to give a written account of the debates for the period from 1948 to 1953, which represents **5** sessions and over **5000** pages of text in legal size format.

The session of 1913-1914 was also edited during the year.

The reconstruction programme is making good progress; to this day, there remain a dozen sessions to reconstruct out of the 82 that took place before the establishment of the *Journal des débats*.

The protection of collections

In May 1999, the authorities of the National Assembly proposed to the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications the classification of the collection of former Premier Chauveau, who was the first to take this office in Québec (1867-1873). The proposed classification would give formal recognition to the library which this political figure constituted for the most part between 1864 and 1889, and for which he made a handwritten catalogue listing over 3000 books and pamphlets. The catalogue and collection of Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau were donated to the Library in 1892.



The architectural heritage

The National Assembly occupies a group of buildings with a unique heritage due to their functions and inherent architectural qualities. To preserve and enhance these heritage treasures, specialists of the Assembly call upon consultants from the Centre de conservation du Québec and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications when work is required on specific elements.

During 1999-2000, restoration work was done on the following:

- the exterior doors of the Parliament Building and of Pamphile-LeMay, Honoré-Mercier and Jean-Antoine-Panet Buildings;
- a concealed door in the National Assembly Room, near the galleries;
- six bronze statues adorning the front of the Parliament Building.

Annual work must be scheduled in order to preserve the integrity of the buildings on the Hill. The Assembly thus undertook the following maintenance tasks in 1999-2000:

- the waterproofing of the foundations (Parliament Building);
- the restoration of the exterior stairs (Parliament Building and Pamphile-Le May Building);
- the repair and painting of windows (Parliament Building);
- the repair of the masonry pediments;
- standards' maintenance work and the renovation of sections of the Pamphile-Le May Building, including the restoration of the Press Conference Room.

April 1999

To mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Mr. **Daniel Johnson** (senior), former Premier and father of two other premiers of Québec, Pierre Marc and Daniel, the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant named one of its dining rooms the *Salon Johnson*.

June 1999

Unveiling of a new bronze statue on the grounds of the Parliament, that of Mr. **René Lévesque**, Premier of Québec from 1976 to 1985. The bronze sculpture is the work of Fabien Pagé.

6680 heritage objects

are part of the inventory of the National Assembly.

The Heritage Buildings

1 THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING

Architect: Eugène-Étienne Taché
 Square plan, 5 levels
 Style: Second Empire, inspired by the Palais du Louvre
 Construction: 3 wings, from 1877 to 1880
 main front wing, 1883 to 1886
 renovations: 1976 to 1989
 Building layout: 27,234 m²
 Exterior siding: limestone and granite
 Roof: tinned copper
 Houses principally the Assembly Room, the Legislative Council Room, the parliamentary committee rooms, the offices of Members

4 JEAN-ANTOINE-PANET BUILDING

Architects: Audet, Beaulé & Morissette
 Construction: 1931-1932
 renovations & standards'
 maintenance work: 1984-1985
 Building layout: 8230 m²
 Exterior siding: limestone and granite
 Roof: copper
 Houses principally administrative services of the Assembly, the offices of the Auditor General of Québec

5 LE PARLEMENTAIRE BUILDING

In the inner courtyard of the Parliament Building
 Architects: J.O. Marchand & G.E. Tanguay
 Construction: 1910, extension in 1966
 Renovations: 1991
 Building layout: 3097 m²
 Houses principally the restaurants

2 PAMPHILE-LE MAY BUILDING

Architects: J.O. Marchand & G.E. Tanguay
 5 levels
 Style: in harmony with the Parliament Building but more conservative
 Construction: 1913
 exterior renovations: 1985
 renovations and standards'
 maintenance work: 2000-...
 Building layout: 7127 m²
 Houses principally the Library, the Press Conference Room, the offices of the Government House Leader, and of administrative services of the Assembly

3 HONORÉ-MERCIER BUILDING

Architects: Tanguay & Chênevert
 Symmetrical plan, 5 levels
 Style: Beaux-Arts
 Construction: 1922
 Building layout: 7652 m²
 Houses principally administrative services of the Assembly



Archives nationales du Québec



Commission de la capitale nationale

The natural heritage...

Architect Eugène-Étienne Taché had a comprehensive concept of the Parliament Building when he designed its plans. In compliance with these plans, the French-type gardens were built around the Parliament Building near the end of the 19th century and the finishing touches were added at the beginning of the 20th century. In time, the grounds were and continue to be embellished and developed. Thus, in an agreement reached between the City of Québec, the Société immobilière de Québec and the National Assembly, the National Capital Commission elaborated a management plan for the enhancement of Parliament Hill in which a completely new layout of the grounds is proposed. The first phase of this redevelopment was completed in the fall of 1999.



Réal Lestage

1393.5 m²

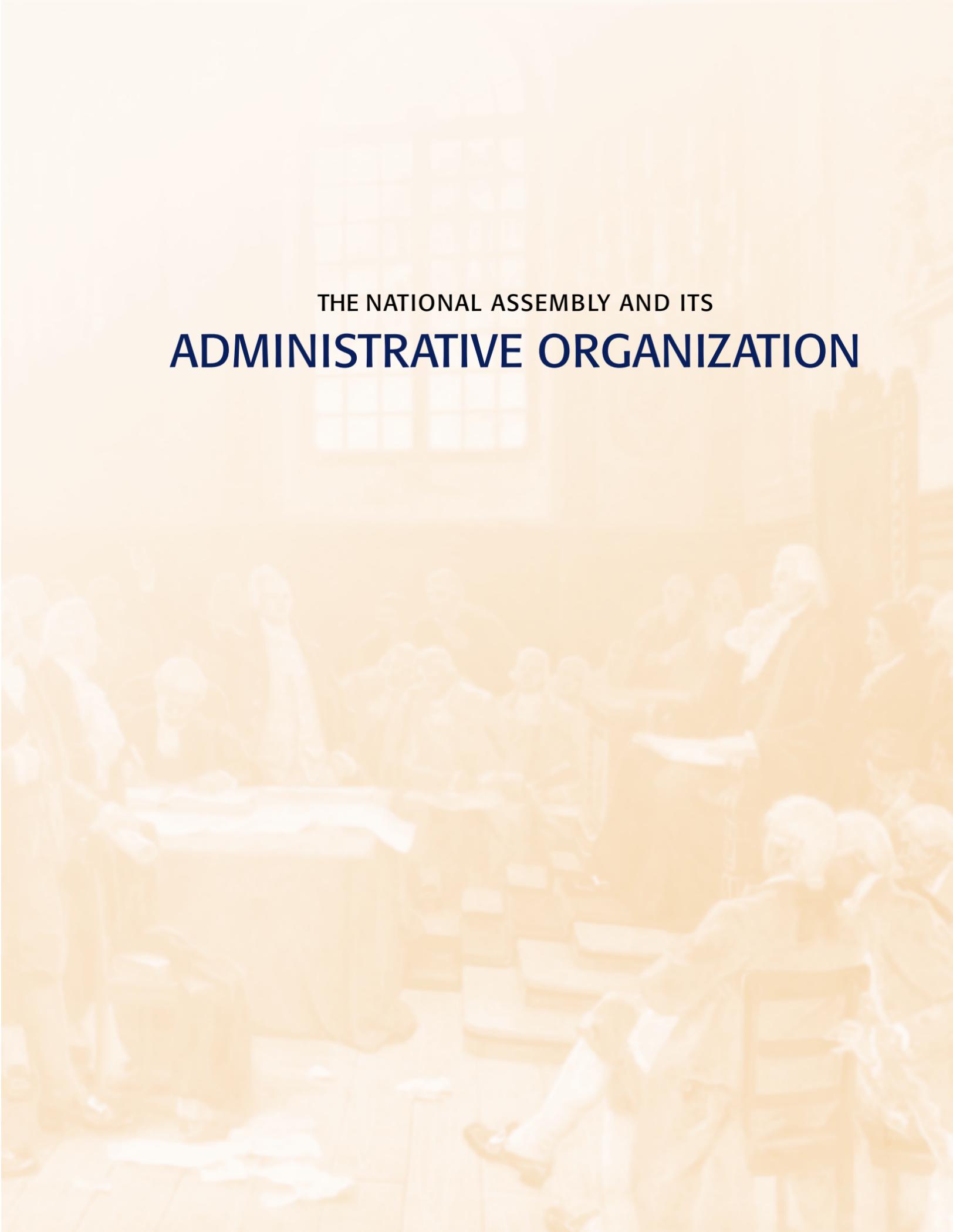
Flower bed surface
(15,000 square feet)



Réal Lestage

18,580 m²

Lawn surface
(200,000 square feet)

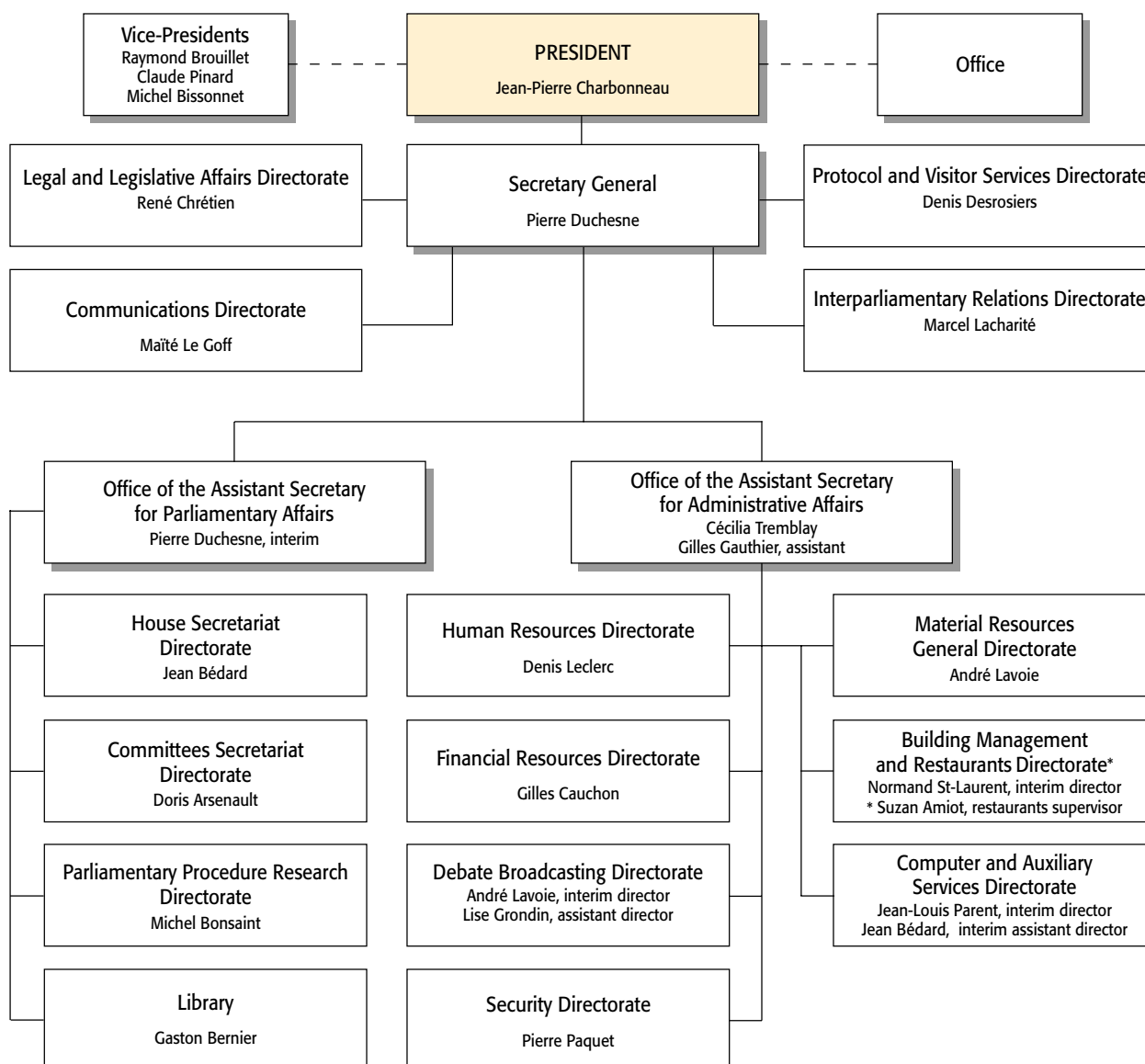


THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The administrative structure

To allow the Members to play their role properly, the National Assembly must be supported by an efficient administrative structure which is well-suited to the needs of a parliamentary institution. Hence, the administration must implement the necessary measures for the exercise of legislative power and its outreach.



The following is an overview of the mandates that are accomplished by the various administrative branches of the National Assembly:

Secretary General:

The highest-ranking public servant at the National Assembly is the Secretary General, who is also the Assembly's chief advisor to the President in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, sees to the administration of routine business and is responsible for the Assembly's archives. He is the secretary of the Office of the National Assembly.

Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate:

Provides legal advice to the Assembly and sees to the translation, editing and printing of all bills and annual statutes, and provides assistance for the preparation of private bills.

Communications Directorate:

Is responsible for promoting the National Assembly as an institution and for informing the public on the different aspects of the institutional life of the Assembly, more specifically its democratic and educational roles. It is responsible for the communications of the institution.

Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate:

Plans, organizes and handles the logistics of all visitors' activities at the Assembly and is responsible for protocolar activities and ceremonies. It provides all visitors and information services, as well as guided tours.

Interparliamentary Relations Directorate:

Advises the President and the Members of the Assembly on all aspects of relations with parliamentarians from outside Québec and plans, organizes and handles the logistics in this sector.

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs:

Plans, directs, coordinates and oversees the operations of the parliamentary affairs directorates.

House Secretariat Directorate:

Ensures the preparation, proper functioning 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:

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

Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate:

Counsels the President of the Assembly and the chairmen of the parliamentary committees in matters of parliamentary procedure.

Library:

Provides research services and documents to Members and to the personnel of the Assembly. It ensures the conservation of parliamentary documents and facilitates their retrieval. It is responsible for maintaining a collection which corresponds to current and future needs.

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administrative Affairs:

Plans, directs, coordinates and oversees the operations of the administrative sector directorates. It provides the required administrative support to the Office of the National Assembly. It coordinates the information technologies of the Assembly.

Human Resources Directorate:

Counsels and coordinates activities concerning the organization of work and the management of human resources of the administrative units and of Members.

Financial Resources Directorate:

Counsels and provides services to the administrative units and the Members as regards financial management, budget planning and accounting operations.

Debate Broadcasting Directorate:

Is responsible for the audio and television broadcasting of the parliamentary proceedings as well as for their transcribing, editing and publishing in the *Journal des débats* (Hansard).

Security Directorate:

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.

Material Resources General Directorate:

Provides material support to the Members and to the parliamentary units.

Building Management and Restaurants Directorate:

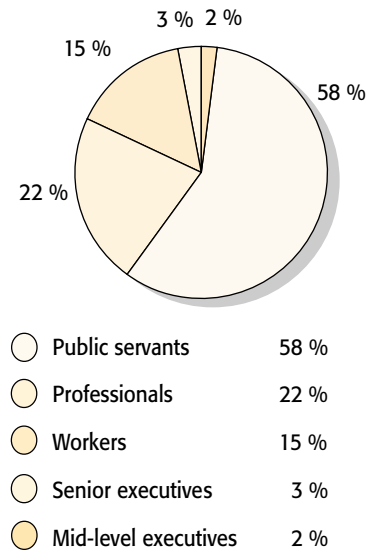
Provides goods and services in relation to building management, office facilities and telecommunications. It also provides the food services via the restaurants management.

Computer and Auxiliary Services Directorate:

Counsels and provides office automation and computer services and ensures the management of the computer installations and the telecommunications network. It also provides supplies, mail delivery and messenger services, and is responsible for the printing, reproduction and distribution of parliamentary documents.

The personnel

The personnel - administrative sector



The political sector has some **470** employees on Parliament Hill and in the riding offices.

For its part, the administrative sector of the Assembly has **600** staff members who are divided almost equally between permanent and casual employees.

- 72% of these employees work full time, while a little over one quarter are hired solely during peak periods related to the proceedings of the Assembly and of committees.

The National Assembly, as an employer, is required to implement the *Act to foster the development of manpower training* and thus set aside 1 % of its wage bill for the purpose of providing training and advanced courses for its staff. During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Assembly surpassed by a large margin the standard stipulated in the aforementioned Act by devoting 1.8 % of its wage bill, which is approximately \$400,000, to its Annual Human Resources Development Plan.

* * *

The administrative staff of the National Assembly benefits from an Employees Assistance Programme, in the same fashion as the other employees in the public service. This service is available through individual counseling. In 1999-2000, some forty people had recourse to this programme.

A series of training and information seminars, established by the senior management staff of the organization, will encourage, in the coming months, the development of a sense of belonging among the employees of the administrative sector by promoting a better understanding of the role of the organization in the functioning of the Assembly and the importance of the work of each individual in the attainment of objectives.

It was deemed appropriate to begin such a series by the simulation of a sitting in the Assembly, which took place on Friday, 17 March 2000, in the National Assembly Room, in the presence of the President and two Vice-Presidents. The participants were given information on how a sitting is prepared, the conduct of a sitting and its follow-up, the principal tools required by the Members, as well as the architectural details of the Room.

Over **360** employees took part in this simulation, most of whom stood on the floor of the House for the first time.



Daniel Lessard

National Assembly Expenditure for 1999-2000

	Expenditure	Authorized staff	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
Office of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries			
Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries	663,400	9	1
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	907,600	17	4
Communications Directorate	1,026,100	10	11
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	1,177,700	7	16
Interparliamentary Relations Directorate	1,908,000	6	17
	5,682,800	49	49
Parliamentary Affairs			
House Secretariat Directorate	480,900	7	5
Committee Secretariat Directorate	979,000	15	4
Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate	316,200	6	0
Library	3,232,700	54	12
	5,008,800	82	21
Administrative Management			
Human Resources Directorate	5,483,800	18	0
Financial Resources Directorate	886,400	21	0
Debate Broadcasting Directorate	3,523,500	53	22
Security Directorate	1,492,100	6	24
	11,385,800	98	46
Material and Technical Support			
Material Resources General Directorate	151,500	3	0
Building Management and Restaurants Directorate	8,422,600	24	25
Computer and Auxiliary Services Directorate	6,348,500	66	29
	14,922,600	93	54
Statutory support services to Members			
	35,164,700		
Salary retroactivity			
	1,031,700		
Fixed assets depreciation			
	3,357,500		
Total expenses	76,553,900	322	170

* The figures indicated here correspond to the authorized full-time equivalents.

APPENDICES



List of Bills Passed in 1999-2000

Public Bills Introduced by the Government

- 1 An Act respecting the obligation to establish one's identity before voting and amending other legislative provisions pertaining to elections (*modified title*)
- 2 An Act respecting the reform of government accounting policies
- 3 An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions
- 4 An Act respecting Immobilière SHQ
- 5 An Act to harmonize public statutes with the Civil Code
- 7 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation in order to establish the advisory committee on the financial accessibility of education
- 8 An Act respecting the leasing of part of the water power of the Shipshaw river
- 9 An Act respecting Financement-Québec
- 15 An Act to amend the Watercourses Act
- 17 An Act to amend the Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons
- 18 An Act to amend the James Bay Region Development Act
- 19 An Act to amend the Act respecting the determination of the causes and circumstances of death
- 20 An Act to amend the Act respecting liquor permits and the Act respecting the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux
- 21 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions of a fiscal nature
- 22 An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning the pension plans in the public and parapublic sectors
- 23 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Communauté urbaine de Montréal
- 24 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Automobile Insurance Act and other legislative provisions
- 25 An Act to amend various legislative provisions relating to building and the construction industry
- 26 An Act to amend the Act respecting childcare centres and childcare services
- 27 An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services as regards access to users' records
- 28 Midwives Act
- 30 An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and other legislative provisions
- 31 An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure
- 32 An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning de facto spouses
- 33 An Act respecting the Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie
- 34 An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards names and the register of civil status
- 35 An Act to amend the Agricultural Merit Act
- 36 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec
- 38 An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards publication of certain rights by means of a notice
- 39 An Act respecting the Société nationale du cheval de course
- 40 Appropriation Act No. 3, 1999-2000
- 41 An Act to repeal the Grain Act and to amend the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products and other legislative provisions
- 42 An Act concerning the construction of infrastructures and equipment by Hydro-Québec on account of the ice storm of 5 to 9 January 1998
- 43 An Act respecting certain declarations of exception in Acts relating to education
- 44 An Act to amend the Police Act
- 45 An Act to amend certain legislative provisions respecting the Public Curator

- 46 An Act to amend the Act respecting municipal taxation and the Act respecting municipal debts and loans
- 47 An Act respecting the conditions of employment in certain sectors of the clothing industry and amending the Act respecting labour standards
- 48 An Act respecting the Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et des aides-pêcheurs du Québec (*modified title*)
- 49 An Act respecting the flag and emblems of Québec
- 50 An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards and other legislative provisions concerning work performed by children
- 51 An Act to amend the Public Service Act and the Act respecting the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies
- 52 An Act to amend the Fire Investigations Act
- 53 An Act respecting the Corporation d'hébergement du Québec
- 54 An Act to amend the Act respecting Attorney General's prosecutors
- 55 An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
- 56 An Act respecting the Société de développement de la Zone de commerce international de Montréal à Mirabel
- 58 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions
- 59 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Affaires municipales and other legislative provisions
- 60 An Act respecting environmental assessment of the proposed Churchill River hydroelectric development
- 61 An Act respecting the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec
- 62 An Act to delimit the high water mark of the St. Lawrence River in the territory of Municipalité régionale de comté de La Côte-de-Beaupré
- 63 An Act respecting certain contracts entered into by the Ministère du Revenu
- 64 An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting municipal courts
- 65 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Conseil exécutif as regards Native affairs
- 66 An Act to provide for the implementation of agreements with Mohawk communities (*modified title*).
- 67 An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards as regards differences in treatment
- 69 An Act to amend the Act respecting prescription drug insurance
- 70 An Act to ensure that essential services are provided to the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal
- 71 An Act respecting the transport of bulk material under municipal contracts
- 72 An Act respecting the provision of nursing services and pharmaceutical services
- 73 Water Resources Preservation Act
- 74 An Act respecting the terms of the directors of certain public health and social service institutions
- 75 An Act respecting the opening hours of certain establishments on 1 January 2000
- 76 An Act to amend the Act respecting the energy efficiency of electrical or hydrocarbon-fuelled appliances
- 77 An Act respecting international financial centres
- 78 An Act to again amend the James Bay Region Development Act
- 79 An Act to amend the Act respecting occupational health and safety
- 80 An Act to amend the Act respecting the class action
- 81 An Act respecting the amalgamation of Municipalité de Mont-Tremblant, Ville de Saint-Jovite, Municipalité de Lac-Tremblant-Nord and Paroisse de Saint-Jovite
- 83 An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act and other legislative provisions
- 84 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société des loteries du Québec
- 85 An Act to amend the Savings and Credit Unions Act
- 88 An Act to amend the Act respecting immigration to Québec
- 89 An Act to amend the Transport Act as regards bulk trucking

- 90 An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislation as regards the management of residual materials
- 91 An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act concerning the procedure for environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects
- 92 An Act respecting the Ministère des Finances
- 95 An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs
- 96 An Act to amend the Act respecting farm income stabilization insurance
- 98 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie des installations olympiques
- 101 Appropriation Act No. 1, 2000-2001
- 104 Appropriation Act No. 4, 1999-2000
- 106 Appropriation Act No. 2, 2000-2001

Private Members' Public Bills

- 195 An Act to amend the Act to establish Fondation, le Fonds de développement de la Confédération des syndicats nationaux pour la coopération et l'emploi
- 196 An Act respecting the pension plan of the non-teaching staff of the Commission des écoles catholiques de Montréal
- 198 An Act to proclaim Holocaust-Yom Hashoah Memorial Day in Québec
- 199 An Act respecting animal breeds forming part of Québec's agricultural heritage

Private Bills

- 201 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec
- 203 An Act respecting The Sisters of the Good Shepherd of Québec
- 204 An Act respecting certain immovables of the cadastre of the parish of Saint-Esprit
- 205 An Act respecting Ville de Victoriaville
- 206 An Act to again amend the charter of Les Filles de Jésus (Trois-Rivières)
- 207 An Act to amend the charter of the City of Laval
- 208 An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Basile-le-Grand
- 209 An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Jean-de-Matha
- 210 An Act to amend the charter of the city of Québec
- 211 An Act respecting the Commission de l'aqueduc de la Ville de La Tuque
- 212 An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté de Vaudreuil-Soulanges
- 213 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Mouvement des caisses Desjardins
- 214 An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Hubert
- 215 An Act respecting the pension plan of certain employees of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université Laval
- 216 An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Laurent
- 217 An Act respecting Magog Social and Curling Club, Limited
- 218 An Act respecting Ville de Chapais
- 220 An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Joachim
- 221 An Act to amend the charter of the City of Laval
- 222 An Act respecting Industrial-Alliance, Life Insurance Company
- 223 An Act to authorize National Bank Financial Corp. to continue under Part IA of the Companies Act of Québec
- 224 An Act respecting the FÉRIQUE funds
- 226 An Act respecting Agropur, Coopérative agro-alimentaire

List of standing committee mandates undertaken during the 1999-2000 fiscal year

Committee on Public Administration

Examination of financial commitments:

Ministries: Regions, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Culture and Communications, Transport, Child and Family Welfare, Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, Health and Social Services, Natural Resources, Public Security, Social Solidarity

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public agencies with regard to:

- the management of social services for young people
- the 1997 management report of the Centre de recouvrement en sécurité du revenu
- emergency prehospital services in Québec
- the examination of the 1998-1999 management report of the Centre de perception fiscale
- the management of grant programmes to municipalities
- the Fonds de lutte contre la pauvreté par la réinsertion au travail
- the follow-up of the recommendations made by the Auditor General and the Committee regarding the management of the Public Curator
- the management of the Laboratoire de biologie médicale
- the new provisions of the family policy
- the departure incentive programmes of the Conseil du trésor
- the 1998-1999 management report of the Régie des rentes du Québec

Other mandate:

- Hearing of the Auditor General of Québec within the framework of the examination of his annual report and financial commitments

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 5 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Surveillance of agencies:

- Hearing of the Société de financement agricole
- Hearing of the Régie des assurances agricoles du Québec
- Hearing of the Commission de protection du territoire agricole
- Hearing of the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec

Order of initiative of the Committee:

- *Application of the Act to amend the Act to preserve agricultural land and other legislative provisions in order to promote the preservation of agricultural activities*

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 5 public bills

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Interpellations:

- The policy of the Parti Québécois Government with regard to young people with problems
- The inaction of the Parti Québécois Government with regard to disabled persons
- An assessment of the equilibrium and equity of the various components of the family policy of the Parti Québécois Government

Consultation:

- Evaluation report of the prescription drug insurance plan

Surveillance of agencies:

- Hearing of the Conseil québécois de la recherche sociale
- Hearing of the Conseil médical du Québec

Other mandates:

- Hearings of the Lanaudière, Montérégie, Québec, Estrie, Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec, and the Montréal-Centre Regional Health and Social Services Boards within the framework of the examination of their 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 annual reports
- Examination of the activities report of the Fonds de lutte contre la pauvreté par la réinsertion au travail, from June 1997 to March 1999

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 10 public bills 12 private bills

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Interpellations:

- Municipal taxation
- The governmental coordination in relation to the regions policy

Surveillance of agencies:

- Hearing of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec
- Hearing of the Commission municipale du Québec

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 15 public bills 8 private bills

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:

- The impact of taxation on Québec's economy

Consultations:

- The reduction of personal income tax
- Bill 84, *An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société des loteries du Québec*

Surveillance of agencies:

- Hearing of the Commission des valeurs mobilières du Québec

Other mandate:

- Debate on the Budget Speech

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:

- The situation in the cultural community of Québec

Consultation:

- Report on the implementation of the *Act respecting the Conseil des aînés*

Surveillance of agencies:

- Hearing of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec
- Hearing of the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles

Orders of initiative of the Committee:

- Year 2000 compliance
- Globalization and cultural diversity (in progress)

Other mandate:

- Examination of the 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 annual reports of the Commission d'accès à l'information

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:

- The reinvestment plan of the Minister of Education and Vice-Chairman of the Conseil du Trésor

Consultations:

- The working group on the place of religion in school
- The place of religion in school

Other mandate:

- Hearing of the executive directors of the 19 university institutions with regard to their 1997-1998 reports

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 15 public bills

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Interpellations:

- The development of employment and labour
- The free movement of businesses and workers from the Outaouais

Consultations:

- Bill 67, *An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards as regards differences in treatment*
- The securement of the transportation and distribution network of Hydro-Québec in the regions affected by the ice storm of January 1998
- Report concerning the interest arbitration with regard to municipal police officers and firemen.

Other mandate:

- Examination of the 2000-2004 strategic plan of Hydro-Québec

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 19 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Consultations:

- Draft bill entitled «An Act to amend the Engineers Act and other legislative provisions»
- Draft bill entitled «Fire Safety Act»
- Bill 99, *An Act respecting the exercise of the fundamental rights and prerogatives of the Québec people and of the Québec State*
- Bill 87, *An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions*

Surveillance of agencies:

- Hearing of the Office des professions du Québec

Order of initiative of the Committee:

- Examination of the Free Trade Zone of the Americas project (in progress)

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 10 public bills

Examination of the 1999-2000 estimates of expenditure

Consultations:

- Bill 61, *An Act respecting the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec*
- Draft bill entitled “An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions as regards waste management”
- The taxi transportation reform: For better quality taxi services
- Highway safety in Québec: a collective challenge
- Bill 90, *An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislation as regards the management of residual materials*

Select Committee

Consultation:

- A new governmental management framework proposed in the policy statement entitled “Improving services for Quebecers - A new management framework for the Public Service”.

List of English publications by the National Assembly

Educational Mission of the National Assembly
(Communications)

Getting to Know the National Assembly
(Parliamentary relations and services to Members)

Open House at the National Assembly
(Commission de la Capitale nationale)

Order Paper and Notices
(House Secretariat)

Questions and Answers about the National Assembly
(Communications)

Standing Orders of the National Assembly
(House Secretariat)

Votes and Proceedings
(House Secretariat)

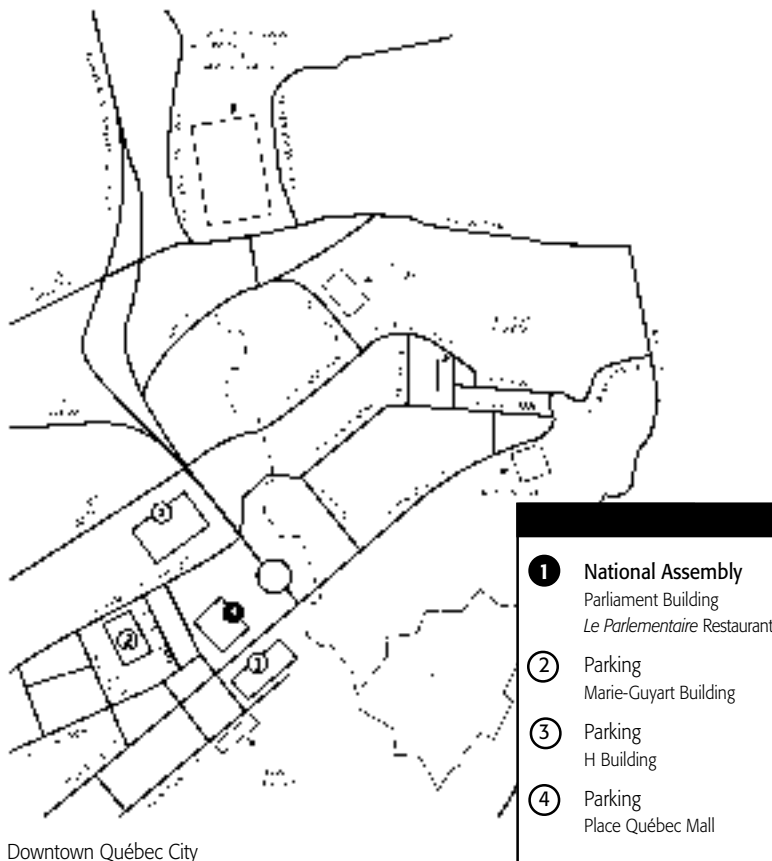
Welcome to the City of Quebec
(Communications)

Welcome to the Parliament Building
(Communications)

What is the National Assembly?
(Communications)

The branch or agency responsible for producing the said publication is indicated in parentheses.

Some practical information



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General information

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<http://www.assnat.qc.ca>

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June 23 to Labour Day

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

Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays,
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* May be changed without notice.

