



*A place for every citizen*

# ACTIVITY REPORT

of the National Assembly of Québec



2010-2011

[assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca)



*A place for every citizen*

# ACTIVITY REPORT

of the National Assembly of Québec



2010-2011

[assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca)

This publication was prepared in collaboration with the senior management and the personnel of all the administrative units of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise specified, the information in this activity report covers the National Assembly's activities from April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011.

**Supervision**

Jean Dumas

**Coordination and Editing**

Marjorie Houle

**Drafting Committee**

Louisette Cameron  
Dominic Dumont  
Sandra Girard  
Lucie Laliberté  
Suzanne Langevin

**Revision**

Nancy Ford  
Éliane de Nicolini  
Noémie Cimon-Mattar

**Translation**

Sylvia Ford

**Art Direction and cover**

Manon Paré

**Graphic Design**

Isabelle Jacques

**Photography**

National Assembly Collection  
With the participation of:  
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, p. 42  
Educational Programmes Directorate, p. 57

**Cover Printing:** Imprimerie LithoChic

**Reprographie:** Photocopying and Printing Services

This publication is available on the National Assembly website at [assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca)

Legal Deposit – 2011  
Library and Archives Canada  
ISBN 978-2-550-61779-2  
ISSN 1492-5753

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## HIGHLIGHTS

### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

### A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

<b>THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY</b> .....	11
Mission .....	12
Opening sitting of the Second Session of the 39 <sup>th</sup> Legislature .....	12
The three powers of the Québec state .....	12
The roles of members: legislators, controllers and intermediaries.....	13
Members of the 39 <sup>th</sup> Legislature as at 31 March 2011.....	14
Seating plan of the National Assembly as at 31 March 2011 .....	18
 <b>PARLIAMENTARY WORK</b> .....	21
Schedule of sittings.....	22
Extraordinary sittings.....	22
Work performed at the National Assembly.....	23
Standing committees.....	28
Persons appointed by the National Assembly.....	39
 <b>PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY</b> .....	41
Multilateral relations .....	42
Bilateral relations .....	47
Relations with European institutions.....	48
Interparliamentary cooperation .....	48
Official visits.....	49
 <b>CITIZENS</b> .....	53
Educational and research activities .....	54
A National Assembly that opens its doors to citizens .....	61
A forum for exchanges.....	66
Communications.....	70
A National Assembly that does its part for sustainable development.....	73
 <b>HERITAGE</b> .....	75
Documentary heritage .....	76
Architectural and urban heritage.....	77
 <b>ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION</b> .....	79
Administrative structure as at 31 March 2011 .....	80
Office of the National Assembly.....	81
A new parliamentary Secretary General at the National Assembly.....	81
Personnel .....	82
National Assembly Expenditures (2010-2011) .....	86
 <b>APPENDICES</b> .....	87





# HIGHLIGHTS

## 2010-2011



### CODE OF ETHICS – APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST ETHICS COMMISSIONER

The most recent of the officers appointed by the Assembly, the Ethics Commissioner is responsible for the administration of the Code of Ethics and Conduct of the Members of the National Assembly. On 9 December 2010, the latter unanimously appointed Mr. Jacques Saint-Laurent as Ethics Commissioner. Mr. Saint-Laurent took office for a five-year term on 6 January 2011, after having been sworn in by the President of the National Assembly.

### CIDEC

The *Interparliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* (CIDEC) was held on 2 and 3 February 2011 in Québec City, at the invitation of Mr. Yvon Vallières, President of the National Assembly of Québec and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie. Some 250 delegates representing more than 30 parliaments took part in this important meeting that focussed primarily on the implementation and follow-up of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in 2005 under the auspices of UNESCO. Presentations, case studies and debates, hosted by speakers from Québec and from abroad, punctuated both days of proceedings at the end of which a final declaration was adopted : the *Québec City Declaration on the Commitment of La Francophonie Parliamentarians to Implement the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*. The CIDEC was organized by the National Assembly of Québec together with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, in collaboration with the International Organization of La Francophonie and UNESCO.

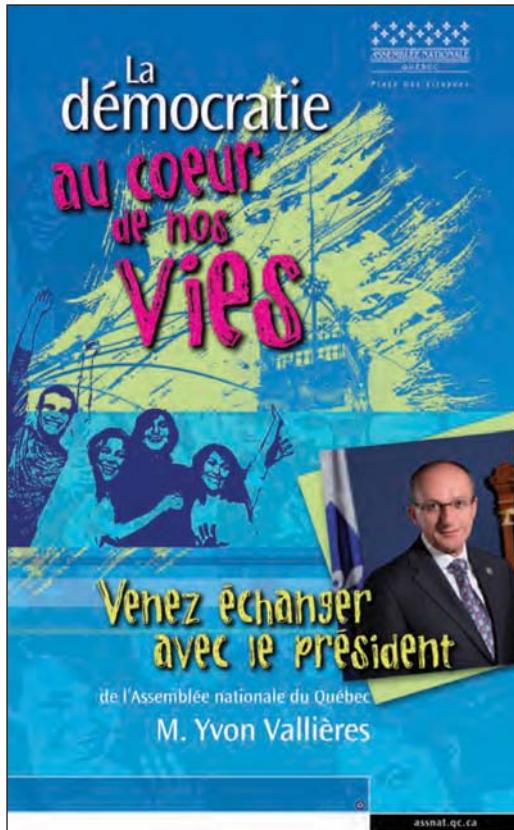
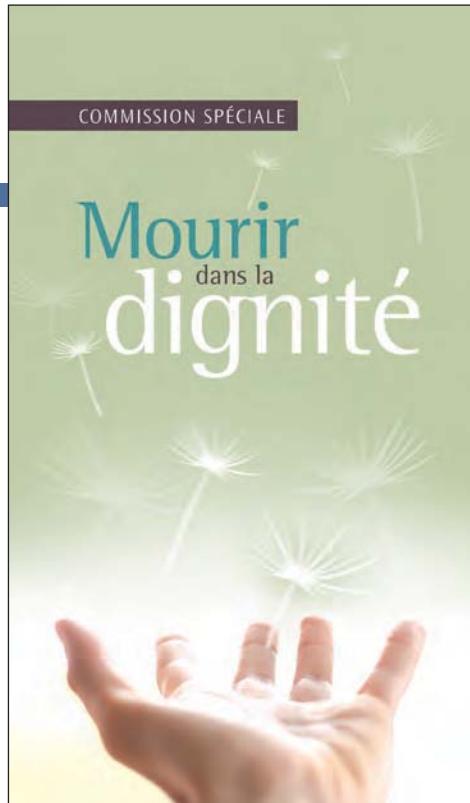


Left to right: Mr. Yvon Vallières, President of the National Assembly of Québec and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF), Mr. Régis Labeaume, Mayor of Québec City, Ms. Galia Souama-Forero, delegate of the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of La Francophonie, Mr. Jean Charest, Premier of Québec, and Mr. Jacques Legendre, Parliamentary Secretary General of the APF.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2010-2011

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON DYING WITH DIGNITY (SCDD)

The Select Committee generated great interest and gave rise to the massive participation of citizens and various agencies. It received more than 300 briefs and requests to be heard and close to 6,800 responses to the on-line questionnaire. The Committee began its hearings on 7 September 2010 in Montréal. It held sittings in the following 8 cities of Québec: Québec City, Montréal, Trois-Rivières, Saguenay, Rimouski, Sherbrooke, Gatineau and Saint-Jérôme. The hearings took place over a period of 29 days. The last were held in Québec City, at the Parliament Building, on 22 March 2011. This was one of the most popular general consultations to be held. Generally, committees that attract great interest from citizens receive approximately fifty briefs.



## PRESIDENT'S TOUR

From 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the President's Tour took the President of the National Assembly and the three Vice-Presidents, accompanied by the Members for the electoral divisions involved, to 48 high schools in 17 regions across Québec. Tour participants met with some 10,240 students interested in parliamentary institutions.

Set to the theme “Democracy at the heart of our lives”, this activity aims to increase students’ knowledge of the role of the President, Vice-Presidents and the National Assembly, to promote the importance of citizen participation and to allow young people to exchange views on various subjects of interest.

## **APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

On 10 June 2010, on a motion by the Premier, the National Assembly unanimously appointed Mr. Michel Bonsaint to the office of Secretary General of the National Assembly beginning on 21 September 2010. Mr. Bonsaint replaces Mr. François Côté, who had carried out this function since 2001, after having held various positions within the institution since 1984. Mr. Bonsaint has had a varied and successful career at the Assembly since he took office, in 1989, as legal advisor at the Legislation Directorate. During the debate on the motion, speakers did not hesitate to underline each in turn the quality of his work, to express their trust in him and to offer him their collaboration.



Left to right: Mr. Robert Dutil, Ms. Louise Beaudoin, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Mr. Yvon Vallières, Ms. Monique Gagnon-Tremblay and Mr. Pierre Paradis

## **PARLIAMENTARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Five Members of the National Assembly were honoured, on 16 February 2011, during a ceremony marking their 10, 25 and 30 years of parliamentary life. Several guests of honour attended this event presided by the President of the National Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber.

## **A QUARTER CENTURY OF COMMITMENT**

On 10 December 2010, a ceremony was held in the company of the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, and several other guests to celebrate the dedication of staff who have worked for the National Assembly or as public servants for 25 years.



# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to present the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec 2010-2011*. The past year has been very busy for both Members and administrative staff. This report discusses the work of the Members in the National Assembly and in the standing committees, and highlights the achievements of the year.

In 2010-2011, 85 sittings were held in the National Assembly and 526 in the standing committees. Most of the committee work focussed on the examination of public bills (53.1%) and on parliamentary control activities (15.8%, including 12.3% for the estimates of expenditure of the Government).

Among the main accomplishments this year, the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity served as an extraordinary showcase for the work carried out by our parliamentarians, attracting great interest from our fellow citizens. This Committee received more than 300 briefs and requests to be heard and close to 6,800 answers to the on-line questionnaire. Moreover, it held 29 days of hearings in 8 cities of Québec.

Furthermore, the Code of Ethics and Conduct of the Members of the National Assembly was adopted unanimously. Appointed by the parliamentarians in December 2010, the first Ethics Commissioner, Mr. Jacques Saint-Laurent, took office in January 2011 for a five-year term.

The National Assembly also unanimously appointed its new Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, on a motion by the Premier, in June 2010.

Lastly, one of the more noteworthy achievements this year was undoubtedly the Interparliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (CIDE), organized by the National Assembly of Québec together with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, in collaboration with the International Organization of La Francophonie and UNESCO. Some 250 delegates representing more than 30 parliaments took part in this important meeting. At the end of their proceedings, the parliamentarians adopted the *Québec City Declaration on the Commitment of La Francophonie Parliamentarians to Implement the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*.

I hope you will enjoy learning more about the activities of the National Assembly of Québec in this report.



« the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity served as an extraordinary showcase for the work carried out by our parliamentarians, attracting great interest from our fellow citizens. »

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Chagnon".

Jacques Chagnon  
President of the National Assembly

## A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



« The Assembly's administration is entirely devoted to serving the 125 elected representatives from whom the population of Québec demands the best. »

Just like the President of the National Assembly, I am proud to present this twelfth activity report, which is the first in my capacity as Secretary General. The Members of the Assembly did me the honour of appointing me to this office in June 2010 and I have been carrying out my duties since September 2010. I wish to sincerely thank my predecessor, Mr. François Côté, who, after having held this office for close to 10 years, has assisted me in my new role during recent months.

The National Assembly is first and foremost a deliberative assembly where key societal debates are held. Parliamentary work is therefore at the heart of its activities. The Assembly's administration is entirely devoted to serving the 125 elected representatives from whom the population of Québec demands the best. For this reason, Members must be able to rely on an administrative personnel that is at once competent, honest, impartial and dedicated at all levels.

The administrative organization of the National Assembly is unique. It consists of three areas of activity, namely the administration, institutional affairs and parliamentary affairs.

The Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information, directed by Mr. Jacques Jobin, is responsible for the broadcasting of Assembly debates, the management of heritage buildings, computer and telecommunications support, the management of financial and human resources, the safety of persons and property as well as restaurant services.

The Directorate General for Information and Institutional Affairs, directed by Mr. Frédéric Fortin, coordinates communications, the promotion of parliamentary democracy, interparliamentary and international relations and the protocol and visitor services.

In addition to the Library and the Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate, the parliamentary sector brings together services that ensure the preparation, proper conduct and follow-up of the sittings of the Assembly and the committees, to wit the Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate, the Secretariat of the Assembly, the Committees' Secretariat, and parliamentary procedure expertise.

Lastly, a directorate of the Assembly is responsible for organizing and following up on the work of the Office of the National Assembly, which is, as it were, the management board of the National Assembly. Parliamentarians who are members of the Office play a primary role in the management of the Assembly.

The administrative structure of the Assembly is directed by a managerial staff whose aim is to ensure that the members of the personnel may use their expertise for the benefit of the Assembly's noble mission. I wish to thank each and every employee of the National Assembly who, day after day, provide their efficient and essential contribution to support those who represent this great Institution: the 125 Members of the Assembly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michel Bonsaint".

Michel Bonsaint

Secretary General of the National Assembly

THE  
NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY



## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly and the Lieutenant-Governor form the Parliament of Québec. This Parliament assumes all the powers conferred on the Legislature of Québec (*Act respecting the National Assembly*)

### MISSION

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility for debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also have the role of supervising the actions of the Government, particularly during Oral Questions and Answers and during consideration of the Government's estimates of expenditure. They also debate all matters of public interest, most notably in standing committees. The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, which is called a "legislature," is provided for in the Constitution and may not exceed five years.

### OPENING SITTING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

On 22 February 2011, upon the recommendation of the Cabinet, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Pierre Duchesne, prorogued the First Session of the Thirty-ninth Legislature and summoned the National Assembly to meet for the opening of the Second Session on Tuesday, 23 February 2011.

The Lieutenant-Governor's address was followed by the Opening Speech delivered by the Premier, in which he set forth the legislative agenda of his government and the programme he intends to submit to the Assembly in the course of the new session.



### THE THREE POWERS OF THE QUÉBEC STATE

JUDICIAL POWER	LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER
Interprets the laws passed by the legislative branch. Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.  Courts	Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws. Supervises the actions of the executive branch. Discusses matters of public interest.  Parliament	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State. Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative branch.  Government

A session is a period of time that elapses between the summoning of the National Assembly and its prorogation. A session is officially opened following the address of the Lieutenant-Governor, who, for the occasion, sits in the President's chair. The Standing Orders do not specify any time limit for his address.

---

## THE ROLES OF MEMBERS: LEGISLATORS, CONTROLLERS AND INTERMEDIARIES

At the National Assembly, the main role of Members is to participate in the legislative process. As legislators, they study, analyze and vote on bills. They exercise this role in several stages in both the National Assembly and the standing committees.

Members also have several means for controlling the actions of the Government, including the opportunity to question Ministers on topics of current interest during Oral Questions and Answers and to examine the activities and management of departments and agencies in committee. They have a notable role to play when standing committees hold public consultations on major issues of the day.

Lastly, Members play the role of intermediaries between citizens and the public administration. As representatives of the voters in their ridings, they defend their interests and explain their needs to the Government.

---

### Distribution of seats in the National Assembly

As at 31 March 2011, the distribution of the 125 seats according to political parties represented in the National Assembly was as follows:

	Number of seats
Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	65
Parti québécois (PQ)	52
Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ)	4
Independent Members	3
Québec solidaire	1
Vacant seats	0

### Resignations

Two Members resigned in 2010-2011:



**Mr. Jacques Dupuis**

First elected:

Date of resignation:

Electoral division of Saint-Laurent

30 November 1998

9 August 2010



**Mr. Claude Béchard**

First elected:

Date of resignation:

Electoral division of  
Kamouraska-Témiscouata

6 October 1997

3 September 2010

### Did you know ?

In the National Assembly, women occupy 29.6% of the seats:

QLP: 21      PQ: 15      ADQ: 1

Twelve of them are members of the Cabinet, thus representing 44.4% of the 27 members.





# MEMBERS OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

JEAN CHAREST  
Premier  
Sherbrooke



JEAN-MARC FOURNIER  
Government  
House Leader  
Saint-Laurent



ROBERT DUTIL  
Deputy Government  
House Leader  
Beauharnois-Salaberry



HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTHRIN  
Deputy Government  
House Leader  
Verdun



LUCE CHARLEBOIS,  
Chief Government Whip  
Soulanges



VINCENT AUCLAIR  
Deputy Government Whip  
Vaudreuil-Soulanges



RAYMOND BERNIER  
Deputy Government Whip  
Montmorency



LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN  
Caucus Chair  
D'Arcy-McGee



PIERRE ARCAD  
Mont-Royal



CLAUDE BACHAND  
Arthabaska



RAYMOND BACHAND  
Outremont



LINE BEAUCHAMP  
Bourassa-Sauvé



DANIEL BERNARD  
Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue



STÉPHANE BILLETTE  
Huntingdon



MARGUERITE BLAIS  
Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne



YVES BOLDUC  
Jean-Talon



JULIE BOULET  
Laval-des-Rapides



MARC CARRIÈRE  
Chapleau



FRANCINE CHARBONNEAU  
Mille-Îles



GERMAIN CHEVRIE  
Îles-de-la-Madeleine



PIERRE CORBEIL  
Abitibi-Est



MICHELLE COURCHESNE  
Fabre



JEAN-D'AMOUR  
Rivièrel-du-Loup



JEAN-PAUL DIAMOND  
Maskinongé



ANDRÉ DROLET  
Jean-Lesage



EMMANUEL DUBOURG  
Viau



MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY  
Saint-François



MARYSE GAUDREAU  
Hull



CLÉMENT GIGNAC  
Marguerite-Bourgeoys



JOHANNE GONTIER  
Métabetchouan-Lac-à-la-Croix



SAM HAMAD  
Louis-Hébert



PATRICK HUOT  
Vanier



YOLANDE JAMES  
Nelligan



GEOFFREY KELLEY  
Jacques-Cartier



CHARLOTTE L'ÉCUYER  
Pontiac



GILLES LEHOUILLER  
Lévis



LAURENT LESSARD  
Frontenac



NORMAN MACMILLAN  
Papineau



GEORGES MAMELONI  
Gosford



YVON MARCOUX  
Vaudreuil



PIERRE MARSAN  
Robert-Baldwin



MICHEL MATTE  
Portneuf



NICOLE MÉNARD  
Laporte



PIERRE MOREAU  
Châteauguay



NORBERT MORIN  
Montmagny-L'Île-d'Orléans



NATHALIE NORMANDEAU  
Bonaventure



GUY OUELLETTE  
Chomedey



FRANÇOIS OUIMET  
Marquette



ALAIN PAQUET  
Laval-des-Rapides



PIERRE PARADIS  
Brome-Missisquoi



MICHEL PIGEON  
Charlesbourg



PIERRE REID  
Orford



FILOMENA ROTIROTI  
Jeanne-Mance-Viger



SERGE SIMARD  
Dubuc



GERRY SKLAVOUNOS  
Laurier-Dorion



DANIELLE ST-AMAND  
Trois-Rivières



CHRISTINE ST-PIERRE  
Acadie



LISE THÉRIAULT  
Anjou



STÉPHANIE VALLÉE  
Gatineau



DOMINIQUE VIEN  
Bellechasse



KATHLEEN WEIL  
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce



DAVID WHISSELL  
Argenteuil





## ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

Q U É B E C

*A place for every citizen*



**PAULINE MAROIS**  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Charlevoix



**YVON VALLIÈRES**  
President  
Richmond



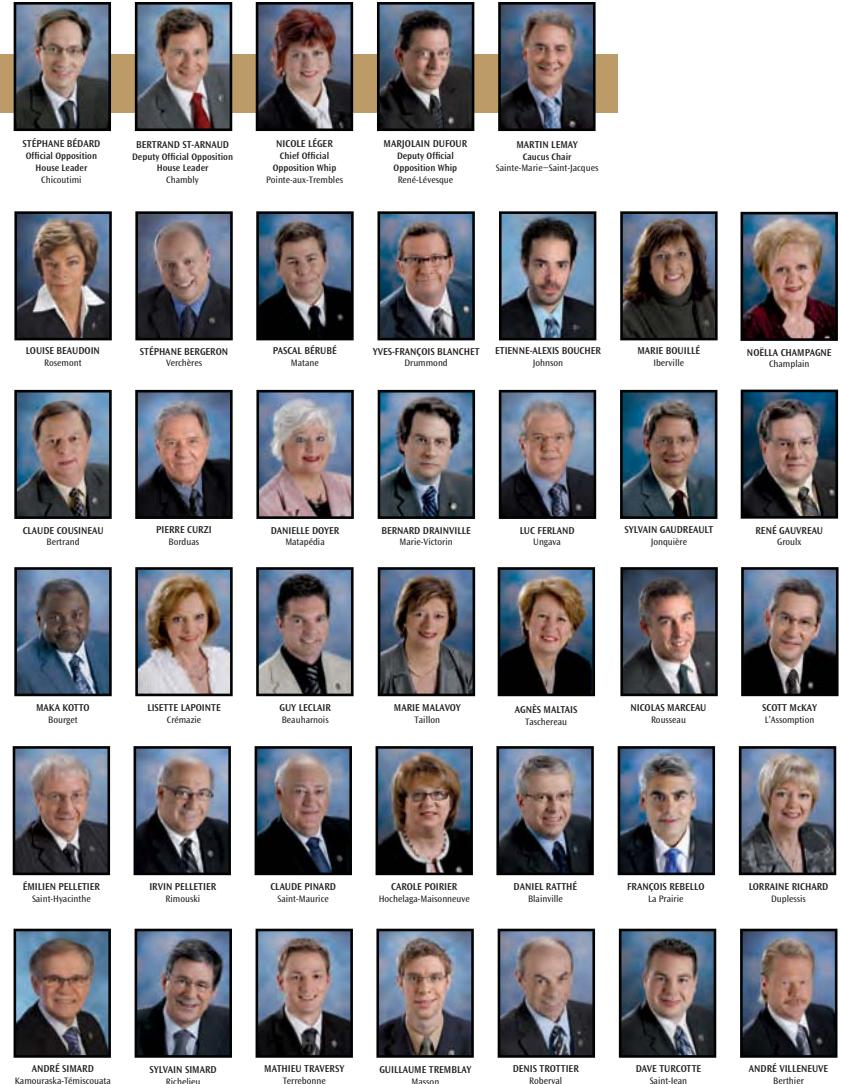
**FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN**  
First Vice-President  
La Pinière



**JACQUES CHAGNON**  
Second Vice-President  
Westmount-Saint-Louis



**FRANÇOIS GENDRON**  
Third Vice-President  
Abitibi-Ouest



**GÉRARD DELTELL**  
Second Opposition Leader  
Chauveau



**SYLVIE ROY**  
Leader  
Lotbinière



**FRANÇOIS BONNARDEL**  
Shefford



**JANVIER GRONDIN**  
Beauce-Nord



**ÉRIC CAIRE**  
La Pêtrée



**AMIR KHADIR**  
Mercier



**MARC PICARD**  
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière



**TONY TOMASSI**  
LaFontaine



## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

---

### By-elections

A by-election is held in an electoral division for the purpose of filling a vacancy arising from the resignation or death of a Member or further to a legal ruling. When a seat becomes vacant, a government order instituting the holding of an election must be forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer within six months of the first day of vacancy.

In accordance with a government order dated 2 June 2010, a by-election was held on 5 July 2010 in the electoral division of Vachon, at the outcome of which Ms. Martine Ouellet (PQ) was declared elected by the Chief Electoral Officer.



**Martine Ouellet**  
Vachon

On 13 September 2010, another by-election was held – this time in accordance with a government order dated 11 August 2010 – in the electoral division of Saint-Laurent, at the outcome of which Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (QLP) was declared elected by the Chief Electoral Officer.



**Jean-Marc Fournier**  
Saint-Laurent

Finally, in accordance with a government order dated 27 October 2010, a by-election was held on 29 November 2010 in the electoral division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata, at the outcome of which Mr. André Simard (PQ) was declared elected by the Chief Electoral Officer, following the resignation and death of Mr. Claude Béchard.



**André Simard**  
Kamouraska-Témiscouata



On 21 September 2010, the National Assembly paid a final tribute to the former Member for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, Mr. Claude Béchard, and offered its condolences to his family and loved ones.

### Changes of political affiliation

One Member changed political affiliation in 2010-2011:



**Mr. Tony Tomassi**

First elected: 14 April 2003  
Date of change of affiliation: 6 May 2010  
From Québec Liberal Party to independent Member

---

## Parliamentary anniversaries

On 16 February 2011, five Members of the National Assembly were honoured at a ceremony to celebrate their 10, 25 and 30 years of parliamentary life. Several guests of honour attended the event, which was presided by the President of the National Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber.



**Louise Beaudoin**  
Rosemont  
10 years



**Robert Dutil**  
Beauce-Sud  
10 years



**Jacques Chagnon**  
Westmount–Saint-Louis  
25 years



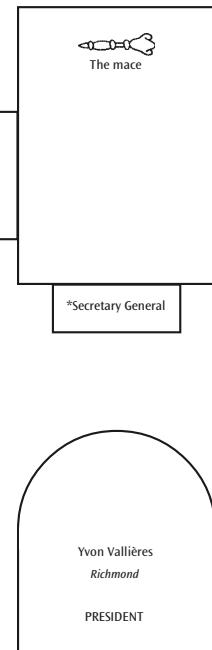
**Monique Gagnon-Tremblay**  
Saint-François  
25 years



**Pierre Paradis**  
Brome-Missisquoi  
30 years



## SEATING PLAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS AT 31 MARCH 2011



- ◊ Leader of the Official Opposition
  - Official Opposition House Leader
  - △ Chief Opposition Official Whip
  - ◆ Leader of the Second Opposition
  - Second Opposition House Leader
  - Other Members

- Vice-President
  - ◆ Premier
  - Government House Leader
  - ▲ Chief Government Whip
  - Ministers

### + Public servants

## Recipients of the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly

In 2010-2011, the President awarded the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly to nine public figures from all walks of life. These medals were awarded to individuals deserving of recognition from all parliamentarians for a variety of reasons. The President awarded these medals at formal ceremonies in which several dignitaries, including Members and ministers, took part.

18 May 2010



**Ms. Nicole Poirier**

To underline her body of work as Director of Maison Carpe Diem in Trois-Rivières, which houses persons with Alzheimer's disease.



10 June 2010



**Mr. Pat Burns**

To underline his community involvement.  
(The medal was awarded to Mr. Jason Burns, who represented his father.)

## Did you know?

### The four medals of the National Assembly

At the National Assembly, four medals may be awarded in recognition of an individual's particular merit. They are the President's Medal, the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly, the Medal of the National Assembly and the MNA's Medal. Each of these distinctions is a reproduction of an original medal engraved by artist Serge Santucci, and the material used varies according to the type of medal.

The President's Medal is awarded only to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians at the National Assembly as well as by the general public.

The Medal of Honour of the National Assembly is awarded to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians. These individuals are chosen following a unanimous recommendation made to the President of the National Assembly by a committee composed of Members representing all of the parliamentary groups. The committee meets behind closed doors once or twice a year.

The Medal of the National Assembly is awarded exclusively by parliamentarians to individuals they believe are deserving of special recognition. It may also be awarded as an official gift to other elected officials or public figures during parliamentary missions outside Québec or official receptions at the National Assembly.

The MNA's Medal is awarded to each Member of the National Assembly who is elected or re-elected to a new legislature or following a by-election.



## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Two former Members, Messrs. Guy Saint-Pierre and André Gaulin, were honoured by their peers on 18 May 2010, at the sixteenth General Assembly of the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec. The Prix René-Chaloult was awarded to Mr. Guy Saint-Pierre, Member for Verchères from 1970 to 1973 and for Champlain from 1973 to 1976, and the Prix Jean-Noël-Lavoie was awarded to Mr. André Gaulin, Member for Taschereau from 1994 to 1998.

- The Prix Jean-Noël-Lavoie is awarded to former parliamentarians who particularly distinguished themselves by their involvement with the Amicale and its members.
- The Prix René-Chaloult is for its part awarded to former parliamentarians in recognition of their commitment to serving their fellow citizens before, during and after their parliamentary life.

4 October 2010



Ms. Michelle Bachelet

To underline her political and social involvement, as Under-Secretary-General of UN Women and President of Chile from 2006 to 2010.

29 March 2011



Messrs. David Lafrenière, René Doyon and Christian Marois

For their contribution to astronomy and for achieving the first photograph of a planetary system located outside of our solar system.

Mr. Pierre Lalonde

For his contribution to Québec's artistic community.

Mr. Pierre Lavoie

For organizing the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie and his contribution to promoting healthy lifestyle habits.

# PARLIAMENTARY WORK



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

### SCHEDULE OF Sittings

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a parliamentary work calendar divided into two sessional periods during which the Assembly meets: one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring sessional period runs from the second Tuesday in February, with 16 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting. The fall sessional period runs from the third Tuesday in September, with 10 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting. A total of five weeks is set aside for work in the electoral districts.

Schedule of National Assembly sittings*			
Period	Day	Time Routine Proceedings	Time Orders of the Day
During ordinary hours of meeting	Tuesday	1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting	Tuesday	1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

\* The National Assembly may sit on Mondays on motion by the Government House Leader.

Outside the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly holds extraordinary sittings at the request of the Premier. This request is made to the President or, in the President's absence, to the Secretary General. Standing committees may sit at any time during the year, from Monday to Friday, at the times set in the Standing Orders. The Assembly and committees may not sit during weeks set aside for work in electoral districts.

### EXTRAORDINARY SITTINGS

In 2010-2011, the Members of the National Assembly were summoned for extraordinary sittings on three occasions. On 11 June 2010, the Premier summoned the Assembly to complete the legislative process respecting Bill 100, An Act to implement certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 30 March 2010, reduce the debt and return to a balanced budget in 2013-2014. Bill 100 was given royal assent by the Lieutenant-Governor on 12 June 2010.

---

The second extraordinary sitting was held on 18 October 2010 and was convened to introduce Bill 115, An Act following upon the court decisions on the language of instruction, as well as to carry out all of the legislative stages in its consideration. Bill 115 was given royal assent on 19 October 2010.

Finally, on 21 February 2011, the Assembly held an extraordinary sitting to introduce Bill 135, An Act to ensure the continuity of the provision of legal services within the Government and certain public bodies, as well as to carry out all of the legislative stages in its consideration. This bill was given royal assent on 22 February 2011.

## WORK PERFORMED AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### Sittings of the National Assembly and the standing committees

In 2010-2011, 85 sittings were held at the National Assembly and 526 in standing committee. The table below provides a breakdown:

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	10	39 hr. 29 min.	64	187 hr. 06 min.
May	12	41 hr. 23 min.	80	246 hr. 20 min.
June	9	38 hr. 10 min.	54	124 hr. 03 min.
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	25	105 hr. 24 min.
September	6	28 hr. 15 min.	48	178 hr. 29 min.
October	10	52 hr. 43 min.	47	127 hr. 09 min.
November	13	44 hr. 44 min.	79	229 hr. 59 min.
December	7	25 hr. 41 min.	28	64 hr. 22 min.
January	0	0	7	36 hr. 09 min.
February	9	54 hr. 57 min.	53	152 hr. 50 min.
March	9	55 hr. 12 min.	41	97 hr. 32 min.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>380 hr. 34 min.</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1,549 hr. 23 min.</b>



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

---

### Did you know?

#### Debates Upon Adjournment

Any Member who is of the opinion that a matter he has raised during oral question period has not been sufficiently discussed may debate it further upon adjournment. He must give notice to the President, not later than thirty minutes after the conclusion of oral question period, of the matter he wishes to debate.

Such debates may be held upon the adjournment of a Tuesday or Thursday sitting each week, at 6:00 p.m. Not more than three debates may be held upon adjournment of any sitting day. When more than one Member has requested a debate, the President decides the order in which such matters are to be raised, and in so doing he shall have regard to the sequence in which the notices were received, the urgency of the matters raised, rotation among the parliamentary groups, and the presence of independent Members.

The Member raising the matter and the minister responding thereto may each speak for up to five minutes, and the Member may thereafter speak for up to two minutes in reply.

There are no debates upon adjournment during any period in which the Assembly has extended hours of meeting or during extraordinary sittings.

The distribution of debates upon adjournment must reflect that of questions during Oral Questions and Answers.

In 2010-2011, 29 debates upon adjournment were held.

#### Conduct of a sitting at the National Assembly

An Assembly sitting consists of two distinct periods: Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day.

Routine Proceedings	Orders of the Day
<p>Routine Proceedings are divided into 11 items of business devoted to information provided by the Government to the National Assembly. Oral Questions and Answers takes place on every sitting day. The items of business are considered in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>0.1 Statements by Members</li><li>1. Statements by Ministers</li><li>2. Introduction of bills</li><li>3. Tablings</li><li>3.1 Oral Answers to Petitions</li><li>4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations</li><li>5. Oral Questions and Answers</li><li>6. Deferred Divisions</li><li>7. Motions Without Notice</li><li>8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees</li><li>9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly</li></ol>	<p>Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at any stage of consideration. At this time, the National Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The five items of business for this period are considered in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Business Having Precedence</li><li>2. Urgent Debates</li><li>3. Debates on Reports from Committees</li><li>4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper</li><li>5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition</li></ol>

There are numerous means of control at the disposal of Members. One of the methods that is most familiar to citizens, owing to its media coverage, is without a doubt the period set aside for Oral Questions and Answers. During this 45-minute period, Members can question Ministers on current matters of public interest.

---

## 45 hours were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers

The number of questions asked can be broken down as follows:

- Main questions: 677
- Supplementary questions: 1,178

A few numbers	
Number of statements by Ministers:	1
Number of questions of privilege:	2
Number of personal explanations:	0
Number of debates on reports from committees containing recommendations:	9

## A closer look at Routine Proceedings

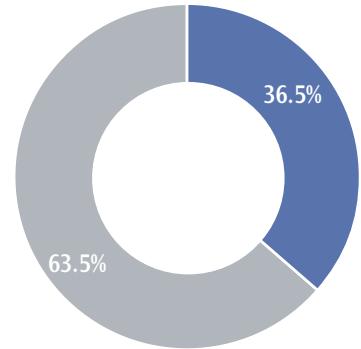
**Statements by Members** - This item of business, which signals the beginning of a sitting, is an opportunity for Members, including ministers, to make a one-minute statement on a matter close to their heart. Up to ten Members may make a statement per sitting.

**Statements by Ministers** - Ministers may make statements to the Assembly on any subject they deem appropriate, such as the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a particular event.

**Introduction of Bills** - Bills may be introduced during Routine Proceedings. Members do not discuss the content at this point; they simply allow bills to be submitted for consideration during subsequent stages of the legislative process.

**Presenting Papers** - 1,038 documents were tabled in the Assembly from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. They are distributed as follows:

- Report on a mission (1)
- Reports from the Law Clerk (14, or 1.3%)
- Decisions from the Office of the Assembly (28, or 2.7%)
- Petitions (208, or 20%)
- Government answers to petitions (116, or 11.2%)
- Committee reports (114, or 11%)
- Annual reports from ministries and agencies (276, or 26.6%)
- Answers to written questions placed on the Order Paper (14, or 1.3%)
- Other documents (267, or 25.7%)



In all, 9,196 persons attended Oral Question Period.

## Did you know?

During Oral Question Period and during all debates, the work of the Table officers consists, among other things, in timing and calculating each Member's speaking time for each address. The Table officers work in collaboration with the Secretary General, who is in constant communication with the President, in order to provide him with the information he needs to carry out his work.

The *Sitting Management* computer programme facilitates the Table officers' duties. They may exchange information via on-line chat with the Secretary General. Furthermore, they dispose of a digital timer and of four full-screen monitors in the National Assembly Chamber, which display speaking times.



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

---

### Did you know?

Each year, the National Assembly publishes, in French and English, a legislative directory of Acts having received royal assent during the calendar year (from 1 January to 31 December). This directory, which provides a brief description of the legislative activity, contains information relating to public Acts, namely:

- a fact sheet for each of them;
- a table indicating modifications made thereto;
- the list of these Acts by department or by sector;
- an alphabetical index.

#### Petitions

The right of citizens to present a petition to the National Assembly is a fundamental right that is codified in the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Therefore, any Québec resident may address a petition to the National Assembly through a Member. The petition may be started by a person or an association of persons, and may be signed on paper or on-line.

A petition must be drafted in temperate, respectful language. It must also comply with the following general rules:

- asks for the redress of a grievance that falls within the competence of the State;
- does not exceed 250 words, including a clear and accurate statement of the facts and a request for action;
- does not deal with a subject that is before a court or a quasi-judicial body or under investigation;
- does not use language that is forbidden or considered unparliamentary under Standing Order 35 of the National Assembly;
- contains the intervention sought on every sheet that bears signatures;
- contains the handwritten signature of all the petitioners and, if any, the group to which they belong.

The originator of a petition is responsible for asking a Member to present it. Any Member may present a petition except the President. However, Cabinet Members generally refrain from presenting petitions. The Member need not endorse the content of a petition to present it in the House.

#### Bills passed

From 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011,  
the National Assembly passed 55 bills.

Government bills:	40
Private Members' public bills:	1
Private bills:	14

\* The average time between the introduction and the passage of a bill is 85 days.

\*\* These bills are published and printed in French and English.

---

## A closer look at Orders of the Day

**Business Having Precedence** - As the name indicates, this business takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The opening speech of the session, delivered by the Premier, and the speeches by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives during the subsequent debate rank first among business having precedence. Other business having precedence includes the budget speech and want of confidence motions.

**Debates on Reports from Committees** - Committee reports that contain recommendations are entered on the Order Paper and Notices the day after they are tabled in the National Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days.

**Other Business Standing on the Order Paper and Notices** - At this time, the National Assembly goes through the various stages of studying bills, notably passage in principle, consideration of reports from committees that have examined bills and the passage of bills.

Only a Minister may introduce a bill having financial implications. However, barring this exception, any Member has the right to introduce a bill to the National Assembly. Members who are not ministers may use the Assembly's legal and legislative services to have it drafted.

---

**The *Journal des débats* is a parliamentary publication that has provided a full account of the proceedings of the National Assembly and its committees since 1964. It is available at the following address: [assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca).**

---

---

## *Did you know?*

In keeping with section 133 of the Constitution Act, 1867, and section 7 of the Charter of the French language, all bills and Acts having received royal assent are printed and published in both of the official languages of Canada. Consequently, the Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate translates from French to English all bills and the amendments made thereto by the standing committees and the Assembly, with a view to their introduction in the House.

This work is an essential component of the legislative proceedings of the Assembly. It enables the anglophone citizens of Québec and Internet users worldwide to gain knowledge of Québec laws.

---



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

### Did you know?

In the wake of the parliamentary reform of 21 April 2009, the National Assembly unanimously adopted a document entitled “*Recognition of the Action démocratique du Québec as a Parliamentary Group and Allocation of Various Measures Among the Members Sitting in Opposition for the Duration of the 39<sup>th</sup> Legislature.*” Among other things, this document establishes new criteria for recognizing a parliamentary group for the duration of the 39<sup>th</sup> Legislature. According to these criteria, any group of not fewer than five Members returned to the Assembly by the same political party and that received 11% of the popular vote in the most recent general election forms a parliamentary group.

#### Committee chair

The committee chair is a Member of a parliamentary group and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He organizes and chairs the proceedings of the committee, takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

#### Committee vice-chair

The committee vice-chair is a Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chair and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He assists the chair in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

In all, 9,785 persons took part in the standing committees.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

A considerable portion of parliamentary work is carried out in standing committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions. These committees bring together a dozen or so Members of the various political parties that make up the National Assembly and are responsible for examining any matter under their authority. In committee, the public can express its views during public consultations on bills or important societal issues. In committee, Members also closely examine bills and the government's estimates of expenditure, as well as monitor the activities of departments and government agencies. Furthermore, on their own initiative, they may elect to investigate any other matter under their authority.

There are eleven permanent standing committees, nine of which are sector-based. Six committees are chaired by a Member from the group forming the Government and three committees, by Members from the group forming the Official Opposition. A Member of the Official Opposition chairs the Committee on Public Administration, and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

Schedule of standing committee sittings\*

Date	Day	Time
Outside National Assembly hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday to 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.
During ordinary hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

\*Committees may not sit during Routine Proceedings.

---

## **Terms of reference and composition of the standing committees**

In pursuance of Standing Order 127, not later than the third day on which the Assembly meets after the election of the President at the opening of a Legislature, and from time to time thereafter as the necessity may arise, the Committee on the National Assembly must meet to select the Members to serve on the standing committees and to name the date on which they are first to meet. Hence, the chairs and vice-chairs of the current standing committees were elected by the Members of each committee during elections held on 10 February 2011.

---

### **COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**



Standing Orders and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings,  
coordination of work of other committees

#### **Members as at 31 March 2011:**

**The President of the National Assembly:** Mr. Yvon Vallières (Richmond)

**The Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly:** Ms. Fatima Houda-Pépin (La Pinière)  
Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)  
Mr. François Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)

**House leaders of the parliamentary groups:** Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (Saint-Laurent)  
Mr. Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)  
Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

**Whips of the parliamentary groups:** Ms. Lucie Charlebois (Soulages)  
Ms. Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)

**Committee chairs:**  
Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)  
Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)  
Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapedia) Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)  
Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu)  
Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon) Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)

---

### **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**



Examination of financial commitments, accountability and the Auditor General

#### **Members as at 31 March 2011:**

**Chair:** Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) **PQ**

**Vice-chairs:** Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) **QLP**  
Mr. François Bonnardel (Shefford) **ADQ**

**QLP**  
Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)  
Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)  
Mr. Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun)  
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)  
Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)  
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)

**PQ**  
Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)  
Mr. François Rebello (La Prairie)  
Mr. André Simard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata)



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

The importance of parliamentary control		
Parliamentary control activities represent close to 15.8% of the work carried out in committee, as the following numbers indicate:		
<b>Parliamentary control</b>		
Government estimates of expenditure	191 hr. 08 min.	12.3%
Interpellations	27 hr. 38 min.	1.8%
Oversight of agencies	4 hr. 41 min.	0.3%
Accountability	21 hr. 36 min.	1.4%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>245 hr. 03 min.</b>	<b>15.8%</b>
Consideration of public bills	822 hr. 43 min.	53.1%
Consideration of private bills	10 hr. 20 min.	0.7%
Other orders of the National Assembly	250 hr. 53 min.	16.2%
Delegated legislation	0	0%
Other orders set out in an Act or under the Standing Orders	70 hr. 03 min.	4.5%
Orders of initiative	77 hr. 28 min.	5%
Examination of petitions	12 hr. 06 min.	0.8%
General organization and election of chairs and vice-chairs	60 hr. 47 min.	3.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,549 hr. 23 min.</b>	<b>100%</b>

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Agriculture, fisheries, food, energy and natural resources

#### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) **QLP**

**Vice-chair:** Mr. Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) **PQ**

#### QLP

Mr. Daniel Bernard  
(Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue)  
Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup)  
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)  
Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)  
Mr. Georges Mamelon (Gaspé)  
Mr. Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)  
Mr. David Whissell (Argenteuil)

#### PQ

Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville)  
Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)  
Mr. Denis Trottier (Roberval)

#### ADQ

Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)

#### QS

Mr. Amir Khadir (Mercier)

### COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN



Land use planning and development, municipal affairs, housing, sports and recreation, local and regional community development

#### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon) **PQ**

**Vice-chair:** Mr. Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet) **QLP**

#### QLP

Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau)  
Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup)  
Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)  
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)  
Mr. Georges Mamelon (Gaspé)  
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)

#### PQ

Mr. Daniel Ratthé (Blainville)  
Mr. Guillaume Tremblay (Masson)  
Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)

#### ADQ

Mr. Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

### COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION



Culture, education, vocational training, higher education and communications

#### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) **QLP**

**Vice-chair:** Mr. Pierre Curzi (Borduas) **PQ**

#### QLP

Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)  
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)  
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)  
Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)  
Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)  
Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

#### PQ

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Drummond)  
Ms. Monique Richard (Marguerite-D'Youville)  
Mr. Gilles Robert (Prévost)

#### ADQ

Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

---

## COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY



Industry, trade, tourism, labour, manpower, science, technology and income security

### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette) **QLP**

**Vice-chair:** Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères) **PQ**

**QLP**

Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska)  
Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup)  
Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)  
Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)  
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)  
Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)

**PQ**

Mr. Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean)  
Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)  
Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)

**ADQ**

Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)

### Temporary chairman

**A Member appointed by the President of the National Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chair or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity.**

### Temporary chairs as at 31 March 2011:

#### QLP

**Mr. Daniel Bernard**  
(Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue)  
**Ms. Johanne Gonthier**  
(Mégantic-Compton)  
**Mr. Patrick Huot** (Vanier)  
**Mr. Gilles Lehouillier** (Lévis)  
**Mr. Guy Ouellette** (Chomedey)  
**Mr. Michel Pigeon** (Charlesbourg)  
**Mr. Pierre Reid** (Orford)  
**Ms. Filomena Rotiroti**  
(Jeanne-Mance-Viger)  
**Mr. David Whissell** (Argenteuil)

#### PQ

**Ms. Denise Beaudoin** (Mirabel)  
**Mr. Pascal Bérubé** (Matane)  
**Mr. Luc Ferland** (Ungava)  
**Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault** (Jonquière)  
**Ms. Martine Ouellet** (Vachon)  
**Mr. Sylvain Pagé** (Labelle)  
**Mr. Irvin Pelletier** (Rimouski)  
**Mr. Denis Trottier** (Roberval)

---

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE



Finance, budget, government administration, public service, revenue, services, supply and pension plans

### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) **QLP**

**Vice-chair:** Ms. Agnès Maltais (Taschereau) **PQ**

**QLP**

Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmoryency)  
Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)  
Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau)  
Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)  
Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)  
Mr. David Whissell (Argenteuil)

**PQ**

Mr. Jean-Martin Aussant (Nicolet-Yamaska)  
Mr. Nicolas Marceau (Rousseau)  
Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)

**ADQ**

Mr. François Bonnardel (Shefford)

---

## COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS



Chairmanship of the Executive Council, justice, public security, the Constitution, aboriginal affairs, international and intergovernmental relations

### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) **PQ**

**Vice-chair:** Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau) **QLP**

**QLP**

Mr. Vincent Auclair (Vimont)  
Mr. Daniel Bernard  
(Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue)  
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)  
Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)  
Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)  
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)

**PQ**

Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)  
Ms. Louise Beaudoin (Rosemont)  
Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette)

**ADQ**

Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

### The orders of the standing committees

Sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of orders: orders of reference, statutory orders and orders of initiative. The list of orders carried out by the standing committees in 2010-2011 can be found in the appendix.

### Select Committee

The National Assembly has the power to set up select committees. It determines their terms of reference and designates their members. It may also set the length of their term and appoint committee chairs and vice-chairs. Unless otherwise decided by the Assembly, standing committee rules also apply to select committees. Unless otherwise decided by the Assembly, the rules relating to standing committees apply to select committees. All select committees cease to exist the moment they table their report in the National Assembly.

### COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS



Citizen relations, cultural communities, immigration, status of women, family, seniors, youth and consumer protection

#### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) **QLP**

**Vice-chair:** Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) **PQ**

#### QLP

Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)  
Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)  
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)  
Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)  
Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)  
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)

#### PQ

Mr. Benoit Charette (Deux-Montagnes)  
Ms. Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)  
Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)  
  
**ADQ**  
Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES



Health, social and community services

#### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) **QLP**

**Vice-chair:** Mr. Maka Kotto (Bourget) **PQ**

#### QLP

Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)  
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)  
Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)  
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)  
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)  
Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)

#### PQ

Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe)  
Mr. Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne)  
Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)

#### ADQ

Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)

### COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Transportation, environment, wildlife and parks

#### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapedia) **PQ**

**Vice-chair:** Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) **QLP**

#### QLP

Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)  
Mr. Marc Carrrière (Chapleau)  
Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)  
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)  
Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)  
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)

#### PQ

Mr. Etienne-Alexis Boucher (Johnson)  
Mr. Nicolas Girard (Gouin)  
Ms. Martine Ouellet (Vachon)

#### ADQ

Mr. Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

---

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON DYING WITH DIGNITY



Examine the issue of dying with dignity

### Members as at 31 March 2011:

**Chair:** Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull) **PQ**

**Vice-chair:** Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette) **QLP**

**QLP**

Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)  
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)  
Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)  
Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)  
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)  
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger)  
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)  
Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

**PQ**

Mr. Benoit Charette (Deux-Montagnes)  
Ms. Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)  
Ms. Monique Richard (Marguerite-D'Youville)

**ADQ**

Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

**QS**

Mr. Amir Khadir (Mercier)

---

## Did you know?

Aside from the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity, only four other select committees have ever been set up by the National Assembly since the adoption of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly in 1984: the Select Committee on Vocational Training (1995), the Select Committee on a New Management Framework for Government Administration (1999), the Select Committee on the Future Site of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (2005) and the Select Committee on the Election Act (2005).

### Select Committee on Dying with Dignity

In December 2009 the National Assembly unanimously carried a motion creating a select committee to investigate the issue of dying with dignity. Following the prorogation of the First Session, in February 2011, this motion was extended by the National Assembly to the Second Session.

A discussion paper was produced in spring 2010 in order to help the citizens and interested parties take part in the travelling general consultation, public hearings and on-line consultation.

This Select Committee attracted great interest and gave rise to the massive participation of citizens and various agencies. Indeed, the Committee received over 300 briefs and requests to be heard and close to 6,800 answers to the on-line questionnaire. Furthermore, the Committee broke new ground in allowing an open-mike period at the end of each sitting. As a result, more than 100 people also had the opportunity to be heard. The Committee began its hearings on 7 September 2010 in Montréal, for 29 days, and travelled to the following 8 cities: Québec, Montréal, Trois-Rivières, Saguenay, Rimouski, Sherbrooke, Gatineau and Saint-Jérôme. Its final day of public hearings was held in Québec City at the Parliament Building, on 22 March 2011.



Hearing with the Québec Bar in the Legislative Council Room on 30 September 2010. The Québec Bar created a Committee on dying with dignity that drafted the brief presented before the Select Committee.



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

This was one of the most popular general consultations to be held. Generally, committees that attract great interest from citizens receive approximately fifty briefs. A final step remains to be carried out. Indeed, the Committee members will be working on drafting the report that is scheduled to be tabled in autumn 2011. Until then, Internet users will still have the opportunity to send in their comments via the website of the Assembly.

It should be noted that since last 10 February, the Select Committee is under the chairmanship of Ms. Maryse Gaudreault, Member for Hull, in replacement of its first chair, Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, following his appointment to the Cabinet.



### Orders of reference

#### Orders of reference

At the request of the National Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure and any other matter that may be referred to them. These are known as “orders of reference.”

#### Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The standing committees examined 54 bills of which a complete list may be consulted in the appendix. For all the bills submitted for consideration by the standing committees, a total of 2,498 sections were examined and 850 amendments were adopted out of the 1,109 amendments introduced.

#### Special consultations

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

#### Public hearings

In 2010-2011, 816 groups and individuals came before the committees to give their opinions on various matters within the framework of general or special consultations. The standing committees received 847 briefs. Consultations enable parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration.

---

For instance, the Committee on Culture and Education was directed to hold a general consultation on Bill 82, Cultural Heritage Act. The Committee received 56 briefs and held 10 days of hearings during the months of January, February and March 2011. This bill proposes a reform of the law applicable to the protection of cultural heritage, which is currently governed by the Cultural Property Act. Its goal is to modernize this law.

The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was ordered to hold a general consultation on Bill 79, An Act to amend the Mining Act. During the 11 days of hearings held in May, August and September 2010, over 60 individuals and organizations appeared before the Committee. Furthermore, the parliamentarians received 78 briefs, which provided them with plenty of food for thought on the matter.

For its part, the Committee on Institutions held a general consultation on Bill 94, An Act to establish guidelines governing accommodation requests within the Administration and certain institutions. As stipulated in the explanatory notes, the purpose of this bill is to establish the conditions under which an accommodation may be made in favour of personnel members of the Administration or certain institutions or in favour of persons to whom services are provided by the Administration or certain institutions. Twelve days of public hearings were held in the months of May, October and November 2010, as well as in January 2011. The Committee received 66 briefs and 57 on-line comments. It also heard 59 individuals representing citizens and agencies, including 3 who had requested to be heard without presenting a brief.

The following bills were also submitted for public hearings:

- Bill 102, An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs
- Bill 103, An Act to amend the Charter of the French language and other legislative provisions
- Bill 107, An Act respecting the Agence du revenu du Québec
- Bill 109, Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act
- Bill 123, An Act respecting the amalgamation of the Société générale de financement du Québec and Investissement Québec
- Bill 131, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie du logement and various Acts concerning municipal affairs
- Bill 133, An Act respecting the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises.

#### General consultation

General consultations are open to the population at large. They must be preceded by a public notice published in selected newspapers and in the *Québec Official Gazette*, inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to submit a brief to the committee. Citizens may also send a request to be heard without submitting a brief. Public hearings are then held before the committee, with a period not exceeding 45 minutes set aside for all requests without a brief to be heard.



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

---

### Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2010-2011

During the last week of April and the first week of May 2010, the standing committees examined the estimates of expenditure of the Government, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. By the conclusion of their proceedings, the committees had devoted 191 hours to the examination of the estimates of expenditure allocated to the Government ministries and agencies.

### Interpellations

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the National Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held). During 2010–2011 the Government's ministers were interpellated 14 times in standing committees, on various subjects such as the selection and integration of immigrants, Hydro-Québec, the situation of public finance, and shale gas exploration and development.

Some orders of the standing committees come from an act or regulation, others from the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

### Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

#### Statutory orders

Pursuant to the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level, the Committee on Culture and Education is required to hear the head of each university institution at least once every three years during an important accountability exercise. In the course of these proceedings, the Committee heard the representatives of 18 of Québec's university level institutions, from 16 August to 7 September 2010. Its report, tabled on 8 February 2011, contains ten recommendations adopted unanimously by its members. The recommendations were based more particularly on the four subjects prioritized by the Committee members, namely the financing of the university network, management and accountability, universities as stakeholders in their communities, and finally, the university mission. It should be mentioned that this exercise is justifiable in that close to two-thirds of the university operating funds come from the estimates voted by the National Assembly.

#### Accountability - surveillance of public bodies

Certain standing committees also carried out orders of accountability or surveillance in order to examine the activities, policy directions and management of public bodies falling within their areas of competence in accordance with Standing Orders 293.1 and 294.

The Committee on Transportation and the Environment completed its orders of surveillance of public bodies with regard to the Commission des transports du Québec and the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement. Its reports on both subjects were tabled on 28 April 2010.

---

Within the framework of an order of surveillance of public bodies it had adopted in June 2009, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain examined the policy directions, activities and management of the Régie du logement. This order was carried over to the Second Session.

### **Orders of initiative**

In 2010-2011, committee members took the initiative of examining issues concerning various sectors of activity. The organization of these orders of initiative requires several meetings during which the members prepare discussion or information papers, hear experts, plan public hearings and draft a final report that may contain observations, recommendations and conclusions addressed to the Government.

The Committee on Transportation and the Environment, having taken the initiative to examine the situation of lakes in Québec as regards cyanobacteria, tabled its report in December 2010. It should be mentioned that a discussion paper had been prepared and made public in June 2009. The Committee held five days of public hearings during the months of August and September 2010 and received 29 briefs. The Committee focussed on the following aspects concerning the proliferation of cyanobacteria: governance, efficiency of interventions, knowledge and dissemination of information, septic installations, the relevance of agricultural waste and the use of fertilizers. The members made 16 recommendations in their final report.

For its part the Committee on Public Finance continued its proceedings with regard to an order of initiative on the indexation of pension plans in the public and parapublic sectors. At the end of its proceedings, the Committee recommended, in its report tabled on 8 June 2010, the creation of an advisory committee on services to pensioners and the issues of indexation, separate from the pension committees, within the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances (CARA).

### **Petitions**

On its own initiative and following a petition tabled in the Assembly, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment examined the project consisting of building a railway network to connect several regions of Québec: the TransQuébec Express. In its final report, tabled on 20 October 2010, the Committee recommends, among other things, that the Government examine the feasibility and the conditions for the successful achievement of such a rail line. It should be noted that this order of initiative was conducted in accordance with the new provisions of the Standing Orders that allow a Committee to examine a petition tabled in the National Assembly, which is a first for a standing committee at the National Assembly of Québec.

#### **Orders of initiative**

On their own initiative, committees examine draft regulations and regulations, the policy directions, activities and management of the departments and agencies, petitions and any other matter that may be of public interest.



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

---

### The contribution of the Research Service to exercising parliamentary control

In 2010-2011, the Research Service provided support to 10 standing committees in carrying out 29 orders, most of which were of the committees' own initiative. As at 31 March 2011, the service had prepared 115 papers and reports for the committees. It also assists the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity.

On 28 October 2010, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food adopted an order of initiative in order to examine a petition on the treatment of animals. It held hearings on 17 November 2010 and heard the chair of the Working Group on the Welfare of Pets and Member for Jacques-Cartier, Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, the Associate Deputy Minister at the Direction générale de la santé animale et de l'inspection des aliments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Québec (MAPAQ), Ms. Madeleine Fortin, and the president of the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec, Mr. Joël Bergeron. Three issues were of special concern to the parliamentarians and gave rise to recommendations in the report tabled in November 2010. These recommendations focussed on the abandonment of animals, overpopulation and puppy mills.

### The Committee on Public Administration

The Committee on Public Administration calls public administrators to account on their management. It fulfills this mission by inviting the deputy ministers and the chief executive officers of public bodies to come before it to answer the questions of parliamentarians on their annual management reports or to discuss the observations contained in the Auditor General's reports.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding \$25,000 granted to departments and public agencies whose estimates of expenditure are voted on by the Assembly. In scrutinizing these expenditures, the Committee ensures itself of their advisability, the observance of government rules and standards governing the granting of contracts and subsidies and the equitable allocation of public funds.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Committee on Public Administration tabled in the National Assembly its 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> reports on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies. These reports contain 40 recommendations adopted unanimously by the Committee members. In the course of its work, the Committee held deliberative meetings to examine 16 annual management reports of small entities subject to the Public Administration Act. It also held hearings and examined such topics as support to judicial activities in the law courts, the watch relating to the projects to modernize Montréal's university hospital centres and the selection of qualified immigrant workers.

### The Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees

From 29 to 31 August 2010, the National Assembly and the Auditor General of Québec welcomed participants to the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) and the Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA). These conferences provide a forum for discussion with respect to public accounts, and for the sharing of information, opinions and experiences as regards accountability. The members of the Committee on Public Administration were closely associated with this meeting. The practices

of the public accounts committees regarding the follow-up given to recommendations made by committees as well as communications issues were among the main themes discussed. It should be noted that this activity brought together 65 parliamentarians and staff members of the federal, provincial and territorial public accounts committees throughout Canada; 36 auditors general or staff members of the legislative auditors of the provinces and Canada; 20 observers or speakers, including observers hailing from Australia, Bangladesh and Ghana.

#### On-line consultations and comments

Since 2009, citizens who so desire may submit comments on most of the proceedings underway, particularly those under the authority of the standing committees. Comments may be submitted on the content of a bill during any of the legislative stages of the bill, right up until its passage. In certain cases, a committee may also decide to hold an on-line consultation at the same time as a public consultation, for example. In these circumstances, it is generally via an on-line questionnaire that citizens may express their views on the matter being examined. On-line comments and answers to questionnaires are forwarded to the Committee members and their staff.

In 2010-2011, 1026 comments were submitted with regard to all of the committee proceedings. Three questionnaires were made available on-line for as many orders, and 6,969 citizens and groups answered them. The Select Committee on Dying with Dignity alone received 6,779 answers.

### PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

#### Appointment of the first Ethics Commissioner

On 9 December 2010, the Members of the National Assembly appointed Mr. Jacques Saint-Laurent as Ethics Commissioner. This appointment follows the adoption, by the National Assembly, of Bill 48, Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly. Mr. Saint-Laurent took office on 6 January 2011 for a five-year term.

#### Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer

On 9 December 2010, the National Assembly appointed Mr. Jacque Drouin as Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, to replace Mr. Marcel Blanchet. His term of office began on 1 January 2011 for a period of seven years.

### Did you know?

The Committees Secretariat issues an annual statistical report on the work of the standing committees.

The 2010–2011 report may be consulted on the National Assembly website at [assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca).



Mr. Jacques Saint-Laurent, Ethics Commissioner, and Mr. Yvon Vallières



Mr. Jacque Drouin, Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, and Mr. Yvon Vallières



## PARLIAMENTARY WORK

---

### The five persons appointed by the National Assembly

Five persons are appointed by the National Assembly and are accountable thereto. This procedure helps ensure that they remain independent and impartial in the performance of their duties.

**The Ethics Commissioner** is responsible for the administration of the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly. He provides Members with advisory opinions containing any recommendations on any matter concerning Members' obligations under the Code. He conducts inquiries, on his own initiative or in response to a request from a Member, to determine whether the Code may have been violated by a Member or a Minister, and reports to the Assembly. Within three years after the coming into force of the Code and every five years thereafter, he must report on the carrying out of the Code and the advisability of amending it. The report is examined by the competent committee of the National Assembly. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term of office. The Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of National Assembly is now available on the website of Publications du Québec and of the Ethics Commissioner.

**The Lobbyists Commissioner** is tasked with monitoring and controlling the lobbying of holders of public office. The Commissioner develops a code of conduct for lobbyists and conducts investigations and examinations of all violations of the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act* or the code of conduct. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

**The Chief Electoral Officer** oversees the application of the *Election Act*, the *Referendum Act* and part of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* and also chairs the Commission de la représentation électorale, which is charged with drawing up Québec's electoral boundaries. The Chief Electoral Officer must be chosen from among the electors. He is appointed for a seven-year renewable term.

**The Public Protector** prevents and corrects errors or injustices committed against any individual or group of individuals in connection with a Québec government ministry or agency. He also intervenes in cases where citizens feel their rights have been breached or ignored by an establishment in the health and social services network. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

**The Auditor General** fosters, through audit, parliamentary control over public funds and other public property, and informs Members on how the Government and its agencies and enterprises manage public funds. He is appointed for ten years.

# PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY



## PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

---

**The National Assembly's interparliamentary and international relations are based on four major objectives:**

- 1. Reinforce the effectiveness of the parliamentary institution and elected officials in their duties as legislators, overseers of government actions, defenders of the public interest and representation;**
- 2. Improve the position of the National Assembly on the international scene and its institutional reach within interparliamentary networks;**
- 3. Actively participate in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;**
- 4. Broaden the reach of Québec society, particularly by promoting its sectors of excellence.**

### PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

In democratic systems based on the separation of powers, parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism. The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution in international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by having delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the National Assembly. Over the years the Assembly has developed an extensive network of multilateral and bilateral interparliamentary relationships.

### MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

#### Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)

The National Assembly of Québec plays a very active role within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie. Indeed, this organization has been presided by the National Assembly since July 2009, and it will continue to do so until July 2011. During the past year, the President of the National Assembly and President of the APF, Mr. Yvon Vallières, notably continued his work towards promoting the French language and the diversity of cultural expressions, strengthening the APF's political role with other member bodies of the Francophonie, and consolidating peace, democracy and human rights in the French-speaking world.



Ms. Aminata Lo, Minister of the Exterior of Senegal, Mr. Yvon Vallières, President of the APF, and Mr. Mamadou Seck, President of the National Assembly of Senegal

---

It is in this context that a National Assembly delegation took part in the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the APF that was held in Dakar, from 4 to 8 July 2010, at the invitation of the National Assembly of Senegal. Chaired by Mr. Yvon Vallières, the Dakar Session provided an opportunity to broach various topics that have been in the news in recent months, among others, the situation in Haiti following the serious earthquake in January 2010. The members of the Québec delegation also participated in the general debate on the situation of parliamentary democracy in the French-speaking world. At the conclusion of proceedings, parliamentarians attending the plenary session adopted resolutions, including

three that had initially been introduced by Québec Members. These resolutions concerned the protection of rights and freedoms within the context of the fight against terrorism, freedom of the press in Parliaments of the Francophonie, and the fight against human trafficking in the French-speaking world.

On 2 and 3 February 2011, the President of the National Assembly welcomed in Québec City some 250 delegates of the parliamentary Francophonie on the occasion of the *Interparliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* (CIDEQ), which conference was organized in partnership with the APF, the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At the end of this meeting, the APF members adopted the *Québec City Declaration*, a final declaration whereby they made a commitment to promoting the implementation of UNESCO's *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* to their respective governments. During the days that preceded this important conference, meetings of various APF bodies, particularly that of the Office, were held in the Parliament Building. Please visit [www.cidecquebec2011.org](http://www.cidecquebec2011.org) for more information.

#### Excerpts from the *Québec City Declaration*

The members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie gathered in Québec City,

Commit to:

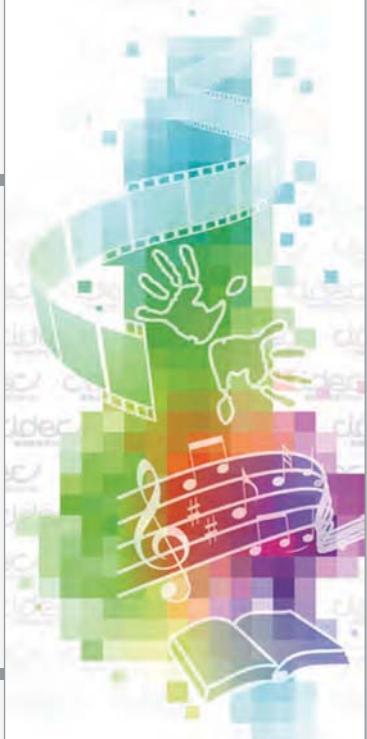
- adopt legal texts that will promote the diversity of cultural expressions and the development of cultural industries [...];
- monitor trade negotiations that affect the field of culture and ensure that the observance of the Convention's clauses be considered in these negotiations;

Call upon heads of State and government:

- to use the full weight of the Convention in trade negotiations to defend their right to adopt or maintain policies and measures that support and promote cultural expressions;
- to make annual contributions to UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity equal to 1% of their contributions to UNESCO;
- to actively uphold development cooperation in order to grant preferential status to cultural artists, professionals, and agents, particularly regarding mobility, as well as to cultural goods and services in developing countries.

Call upon the OIF:

- to inventory, study and evaluate the cultural policies and programmes implemented by its member States and governments in order to create a platform for sharing expertise and experience in cultural matters within the French-speaking world.



#### APF

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie): Founded in 1967, composed of members from 77 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations on the five continents (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1974).





## PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The recipients are listed under the following three distinctions:

**Grand Cross:**

- His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of La Francophonie

**Commander:**

- Mr. Dany Laferrière, writer
- Mr. Robert Lepage (Knight 1995), multidisciplinary artist

**Officer:**

- Mr. Ivan Bernier (Knight 2005), Université Laval emeritus professor (Law Faculty)

The Ordre de la Pléiade is composed of five distinctions, which are listed below in order of importance:

- Grand Cross
- Grand Officer
- Commander
- Officer
- Knight.

For its part the Americas Regional Assembly of the APF held its 26<sup>th</sup> session in Winnipeg, from 30 August to 3 September 2010. The Québec delegation presented a progress report on the cooperative movement as an economic development tool in the francophone regions of the Americas. Furthermore, the Québec Members were involved in the preparation and adoption of three resolutions on the place of the French language at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, a youth parliament project in the Americas region of the APF, and the safeguarding of the French language in minority communities.

Moreover, the Members of the National Assembly represented the Americas Region of the APF at a parliamentary seminar on democracy and good economic governance held in Cotonou, Benin, on 10 and 11 November 2010. In addition, a Member participated in an OIF mission in Haiti to gather information and contacts during both rounds of the presidential and legislative elections, on 28 November 2010 and on 20 March 2011.

Finally, it is in his capacity as President of the APF that Mr. Yvon Vallières took part in the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit of La Francophonie held in Montreux, Switzerland, from 22 to 24 October 2010. The President thus submitted the APF's opinion and recommendations to the heads of State and government of the Francophonie. A Member of the Québec section also represented the APF at UNESCO's 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was held in Paris from 29 November to 3 December 2010.

---

On 2 February 2011, the President of the National Assembly of Québec and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, Mr. Yvon Vallières, awarded the insignia of the Ordre de la Pléiade to four public figures

from various sectors having distinguished themselves in the French-speaking community: His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of La Francophonie, Dany Laferrière, writer, Robert Lepage, multidisciplinary artist, and Ivan Bernier, Université Laval emeritus professor. The ceremony was held at the Musée de la civilisation in the presence of participants attending the Interparliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (CIDE). The Pléiade, order of the Francophonie and the dialogue of cultures, was created in 1976. It recognizes the accomplishments of public figures who have distinguished themselves

by serving the ideals of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, particularly with regard to cooperation, solidarity and democracy. notamment en matière de coopération, de solidarité et de démocratie.



Left to right: Messrs. Ivan Bernier, Robert Lepage, Abdou Diouf, Yvon Vallières and Dany Laferrière

### The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

On the occasion of the Canadian Regional Conference held in Regina, Saskatchewan, from 11 to 17 July 2010, the Québec Section informed the participants of the work carried out by the National Assembly of Québec during the public hearings on dying with dignity. Other topics of discussion were the power of women within legislative assemblies as well as the latest developments with regard to the status of women in Québec and Canada. Furthermore, the Québec Section presented, on behalf of the Canadian Region, its action plan for the modernization of the CPA's governance, which was well received by the members of the Regional Council.

In addition, the Members of the National Assembly took part in the 56<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 19 September 2010. The meeting of the CPA working group on governance, during which the National Assembly delegate presented the Canadian Region's position, was one of the highlights of the Conference. During the plenary session, the Québec Section also introduced Québec's immigration policies. Furthermore, a woman Member of the National Assembly gave the women an overview of the measures undertaken to eliminate conjugal violence in Québec and Canada.

#### CPA

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Association:** Founded in 1911, composed of 175 parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 53 countries forming the Commonwealth (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1933).



### The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

From 15 to 19 November 2010, a National Assembly delegation travelled to Mar del Plata, Argentina, for the COPA's 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas. **On this occasion, the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, assumed the presidency of the organization for a two-year term.** For 2010-2012, the action plan tabled by the new President of COPA invites parliamentarians to concentrate on four fundamental issues: reducing child mortality, increasing the secondary school graduation rate, reducing the gender wage gap, and protecting water resources.

Various topics were discussed during these meetings, including the rules governing democratic bodies, legislative communication methods as tools to strengthen the democratic process, the political and economic empowerment of women as well as migration in the Americas and the respect of migrants' rights.

#### COPA

**Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:** Created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.



A group of Members of the National Assembly took part in an electoral observation mission carried out in Colombia under the auspices of COPA. A delegation of 24 COPA parliamentarians, deployed in the region of the capital, Bogotá, observed the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the presidential elections of 30 May. COPA parliamentarians indicated their overall satisfaction with the conduct of the election, but nevertheless witnessed a few irregularities, particularly regarding polling booths, which were not set up in such a way that the secrecy of the vote would be ensured.



## PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

### Did you know?

Since 2005, the Québec Secretariat of COPA organized eleven electoral observation missions in nine countries of the Americas.

From 20 to 25 July 2010, a delegation of National Assembly parliamentarians participated in an extraordinary general assembly in Querétaro, Mexico. Marking the bicentennial of independence of several Latin American States, this assembly gave participants the chance to discuss a variety of topics, including the consolidation of democracy, the issues faced by States after two hundred years of independence as well as the participation of women in political decision-making bodies.

Also, during the *Interparliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* (CIDE), Mr. Jacques Chagnon led a delegation of five COPA parliamentarians who attended the proceedings as observers.

Finally, from 8 to 11 March 2011, a parliamentary delegation of the National Assembly participated in the executive committee meetings of COPA and the Network of Women Parliamentarians in Toluca, State of Mexico, to report, in particular, on the activities of the Québec Secretariat and plan the organization's upcoming events.

The National Assembly will host the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COPA and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, which will be held in Québec City from 6 to 9 September 2011.

### American Interparliamentary Organizations (ERC, CSG, NCSL)

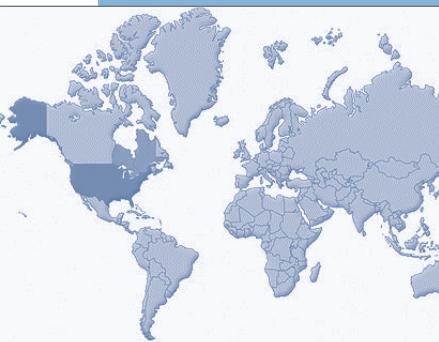
In 2010, the National Assembly was especially active in the United States, particularly in meetings of the Council of State Governments (CSG) and its Eastern Regional Conference (ERC). From 15 to 18 August 2010, delegations of Québec parliamentarians notably took part in the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the ERC, in Portland, Maine, and in the Annual Assembly of the CSG, which was held from 3 to 6 December 2010, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Furthermore, a resolution enjoining the Governments of Canada and of the United States to begin negotiations toward signing a permanent and extended agreement on public procurement was unanimously adopted following a presentation made by a Québec parliamentarian.

The interparliamentary organizations of the United States constitute privileged forums for the National Assembly, where it was able to defend Québec's interests in the fields of energy, the environment, agriculture, health, education, trade, and relations between Québec and the United States. The National Assembly Delegation for Relations with the United States (DANRÉU) was particularly active within the working group on energy supply of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Québec parliamentarians were members of this working group, which released its report entitled *Meeting the Energy Challenges of The Future: A Guide for Policy Makers*. This report addresses, among other issues, the importance of Québec as an electricity supply source for the Northeastern United States. Energy was also a key topic of the Annual Assembly of the NCSL, held from 25 to 28 July 2010,

#### CSG

**Council of State Governments:**  
Organization created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1995).



#### ERC/CSG

**Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments:**  
Organization that constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives from the eleven states and two territories in the Northeastern United States as well as the five Canadian member provinces (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1990).

in Louisville, Kentucky. It should be noted that the National Assembly is the only international associated member that sits on the Executive Committee of the NCSL.

## BILATERAL RELATIONS

In 2010–2011 the National Assembly was involved in a host of interparliamentary activities as part of its bilateral relations with various legislative assemblies. Many of these relationships have been institutionalized by cooperation agreements. Meetings with their counterparts gave Members of the National Assembly an opportunity to inquire about legislative and parliamentary initiatives in other jurisdictions and thereby enrich debates about issues of the day affecting Québec society.

### NCSL

**National Conference of State Legislatures:** American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 2000).

Bilateral relations		
Date	Activity	Theme
7 and 8 September 2010 in Québec City	Visit of a delegation of the Committee on Social Affairs of the French Senate	Family policies and the youth protection system, in Québec and in France.
From 27 September to 2 October 2010 in Québec City	24 <sup>th</sup> Session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee	Secularism, reasonable accommodation as well as reconciliation between the principles of sustainable development and economic prosperity.
4 and 5 October 2010 in Québec City	Visit of a delegation of the Committee on Public Finance of the Bavarian Landtag	Fiscal federalism and the measures taken to address the economic crisis.
From 8 to 13 November 2010 in Québec City	21 <sup>st</sup> Session of the Joint Committee of the National Assembly of Québec/Parliament of the French Community of Belgium	Secularism, reasonable accommodation practices and school drop-outs. The President of the National Assembly took the opportunity provided by this meeting to commemorate, in the company of the President of the Parliament of the French community of Belgium, Mr. Jean-Charles Luperto, the 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Joint Committee.
From 18 to 20 November 2010 in Toronto	17 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association	The integration of new arrivals into the labour market and energy-related issues.

## Did you know?

Fact sheets on the various foreign missions in which the Members of the National Assembly participate are available on the Internet site of the National Assembly at the following address: [assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca).



## PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

---

### RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Relations with European institutions		
Date	Activity	Theme
12 September 2010 in Montréal	Visit of the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Jerzy Buzek	The integration of immigrants and the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the European Union and Canada. This meeting on Québec soil was the first of its kind in over seventeen years.
3 and 4 February 2011 in Québec City	Visit of the President of the Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies of Europe (CALRE), Mr. Nazario Pagano	The members of the National Assembly Delegation for Relations with European Institutions (DANRIE) took part in a working meeting to present the particular characteristics of Québec parliamentarism and to discuss the issues taken up by the regions of the European Union.
From, 21 to 25 March 2011 in Brussels, then in Strasbourg	Visit of a delegation of the Committee on Public Finance of the Bavarian Landtag	The Québec parliamentarians, members of the DANRIE, met with elected officials of the European Parliament and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to discuss cultural heritage, initiatives regarding gender equality, and rural development policies.

---

### Did you know?

Over the past ten years, close to 200 new parliamentarians of Mali, Benin and Niger participated in discussion seminars with Québec Members.

---

### INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For several years now, the National Assembly has been providing technical support to the parliamentary institutions of emerging and consolidating democracies at both the parliamentary and the administrative levels. These cooperation activities bring together parliamentarians and experts as they share knowledge and experiences at seminars and workshops.

In April 2010, the National Assembly held a seminar on information and communication in parliamentary assemblies. Organized in partnership with the Noria Programme of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, this seminar targeted the communications directors of six African parliaments. Furthermore, in June 2010, Members of the National Assembly welcomed a delegation of parliamentarians from the National Assembly of Mali, who came to gather information on the operation of the Committee on Public Administration. Furthermore, in 2011, National Assembly delegates travelled to the National

---

Assemblies of Benin and of Mali on a technical support mission and conducted development workshops on the recording of debates, the production of transcripts and the *Hansard*.

Moreover, from 28 March to 1 April 2011, a group of Members of the Québec National Assembly welcomed a parliamentary delegation of the Committee on Finance and Budget of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, on the occasion of a fact-finding mission on budgetary control and public finance in Québec.

Finally, the Association of Secretaries General of French-speaking Parliaments (ASGPF) held a conference on the parliamentary committees in the French-speaking world on the fringe of its annual general assembly, between 30 September and 2 October 2010, in Paris, France. On this occasion, the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, gave a presentation on the operation of the standing committees of the Québec National Assembly in the presence of the 150 conference participants.

## OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City. Among them in 2010-2011, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

### Official visits from Assembly Presidents:

- The President of the European Parliament, **Mr. Jerzy Buzek**
- The President of the Parliament of the French-speaking Community of Belgium, **Mr. Jean-Charles Luperto**
- The President of the Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies of Europe (CALRE) and President of the Abruzzi Regional Council, **Mr. Nazario Pagano**
- The President of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, **Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré**
- The President of the Assembly of the Union of the Comoros, **Mr. Hamidou Bourhane**
- The President of the Parliament of the District of Jura, **Mr. André Burri**
- The President of the National Assembly of Mauritius, **Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag Gcsk Gosk**
- The President of the National Assembly of Senegal, **Mr. Mamadou Seck**

## The Noria Programme

The Noria Programme was launched in 2002 to meet a need for capacity-building in French-speaking parliaments of the South in the areas of production, management and dissemination of internal information of a legislative nature. This Programme, which is entirely financed by the International Organization of La Francophonie, is implemented in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Indian Ocean.



## PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

---

### Official visits from parliamentarians:

- A delegation from the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE)
- Rapporteurs of the Committee on the Assessment and Monitoring of Public Policies of the National Assembly of the French Republic
- A delegation of parliamentarians from the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali
- A representative of the Council of State Governments on a visit to Québec City within the framework of the Québec - United States Young Leaders Programme of the Ministry of International Relations
- A representative of Massachusetts District Number 10 at the United States Congress, **Mr. William D. Delahunt**
- A senator of the Mexican Federal Congress, **Mr. Eloy Cantú Segovia**
- A delegation of senators of the Committee on Social Affairs from the Senate of the French Republic
- The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee
- A delegation of parliamentarians of the Committee on Public Finance from the Bavarian Landtag
- A delegation of parliamentarians from the State of Queensland (Australia)
- A Member of the Mexican Federal Congress, **Ms. Diva Hadamira Gastelum**
- The Secretary General of the Russian Federation Council, **Mr. Vladimir Svinarev**
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Joint Committee of the National Assembly of Québec/Parliament of the French Community of Belgium
- The former Prime Minister, Senator of La Vienne and personal representative of the President of the French Republic for La Francophonie, **Mr. Jean-Pierre Raffarin**
- A delegation of parliamentarians of the Committee on Finance and the Budget from Burkina Faso

---

**Official visits from representatives of governments  
and intergovernmental organizations:**

- The administrator of the International Organization of La Francophonie, **Mr. Clément Duhaime**
- The Chief of Protocol of the Bavarian Chancellery, **Mr. Axel Bartelt**
- The Minister of State and Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery, **Mr. Siegfried Schneider**
- The Secretary of State for Mobility of the Kingdom of Belgium, **Mr. Étienne Schouppe**
- The Under-Secretary-General of UN Women and former President of the Republic of Chile, **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**
- The Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable **David Johnston**
- The President of the International Association of Québec Studies, **Ms. Yannick Resch**
- The Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie, **Mr. Abdou Diouf**
- The Governor of the State of Vermont, **Mr. Peter Shumlin**
- The science committee of the *Liaison Énergie-Francophonie* review published by the Energy and Environmental Institute of La Francophonie (IEPF)



CITIZENS

## CITIZENS

In addition to providing citizens with the opportunity to follow parliamentary proceedings and on occasion to take part in them, the National Assembly has a vast array of communications tools to bring citizens and their elected representatives closer together.

### EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

To stimulate the interest of people of all ages in the exercise of democracy and contribute to their becoming active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy.



#### ➤ Youth Strategy

The National Assembly's youth strategy aims at helping teachers educate students about democracy and reach young people in their everyday environments. For this purpose, the 2009-2012 action plan of the youth strategy provides for new teaching materials, an Education Zone on the Assembly website and a kit to accompany Member visits to schools. It also provides for new training workshops, the development of a communications plan for National Assembly educational activities and a promotional campaign for youth groups, a President's Tour, changes to how school groups are welcomed to the Assembly as well as the implementation of Parliaments in Elementary Schools.

In 2010-2011, new visual elements and a communications plan encompassing all of the educational activities of the Assembly were developed. Steps to create new teaching materials were taken. For instance, discussion groups took place in November 2010 to determine the needs of teachers and principals with regard to teaching materials on democracy and citizenship education. The production of material will be launched in 2011-2012, following these consultations.

#### Tournament and parliamentary simulations

The Tournament and the parliamentary simulations are role-playing activities designed to educate participants about the operation of the National Assembly, its rules and privileges and the limits of its powers. Apprentice Members spend several days drafting and discussing bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and respect for others, while others put their historical knowledge to the test by answering questions as participants in the tournament.

## 18<sup>TH</sup> YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT

**Date:** 16 to 18 April 2010

**Target group:** Secondary 4 and 5 and college students

**Number of participants:** 194 students and teachers

**Number of schools and colleges represented:** 33

**Number of teams involved:** 44 (24 high school teams and 21 college teams)

**Theme:** The Quiet Revolution



## 14<sup>TH</sup> PUPILS' PARLIAMENT

**Date:** 30 April 2010

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

**Number of participants:** 211 students and teachers

**Number of schools represented:** 79

**Three bills were studied:**

1. An Act obliging elementary schools to provide second year 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle students with a laptop computer in class to help them in the learning process
2. An Act obliging all students attending Québec schools to observe a dress code established by a student council
3. An Act obliging Québec's elementary schools to introduce obligatory reading periods for all students in order to foster the learning of reading

Bills 1 and 3 were passed.



## 19<sup>TH</sup> STUDENT FORUM

**Date:** 9 to 13 January 2011

**Target group:** Collégial

**Number of participants:** 159 (étudiants et professeurs accompagnateurs)

**Number of Cegeps represented:** 25

**Three bills were studied:**

1. Free Tuition Act
2. An Act establishing a more representative voting system
3. An Act respecting the importance of the diversity of body images in the media

Bills 1 and 3 were passed.





### 9<sup>TH</sup> YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

**Date:** 26 to 28 January 2011

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

**Number of participants:** 129 student Members, members of the Presiding Body, clerks, journalists and teachers

**Number of schools represented:** 37

**Three bills were studied:**

1. An Act respecting high-calorie food
  2. An Act to prevent dropping out of school
  3. An Act concerning the standards for obtaining a high school diploma
- Bills 2 and 3 were passed.
- 

### YOUTH PARLIAMENT, STUDENT PARLIAMENT AND THE SENIORS' PARLIAMENT



The National Assembly lends its support to various groups by helping them organize parliamentary simulations and arrange event logistics.

For its part, the 10<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Seniors' Parliament brought together 115 seniors and people who have taken early retirement, including four from Nunavik, from 8 to 10 September 2010. The Youth Parliament held its 61<sup>st</sup> Legislature from 26 to 30 December 2010, and included 108 participants. Finally, 140 student Members, journalists and teachers took part in the Student Parliament, from 2 to 6 January 2011. The latter are aimed at university and college students. These simulations give groups an opportunity to spend a few days learning the basics of the legislative and parliamentary process.

---

## PRESIDENT'S TOUR

From 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the President's Tour took the President of the National Assembly and the three Vice-Presidents, accompanied by Members for the electoral divisions visited, to 48 high schools in 17 regions across Québec. Tour participants met with 10,241 students interested in parliamentary institutions.

Set to the theme "Democracy at the heart of our lives", this activity aims to broaden the knowledge of students with regard to the role of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly and to promote the importance of citizen participation. Finally, it provides young people with an opportunity to exchange views on topics that are of interest to them.

### Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

The Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation of the National Assembly disseminates, particularly among young people, knowledge of parliamentary and democratic institutions. Inspired by Québec intellectual Jean-Charles Bonenfant, who passed away in 1978, the Foundation has kept his memory alive by organizing paid parliamentary internships at the National Assembly each year. Moreover, it organizes Parliaments in High Schools and Parliaments in Elementary Schools, both of which activities reach students in their home school environments. Henceforth present in the high schools and elementary schools of Québec, the Foundation's message reaches more people than ever before.

### Parliamentary internships

Each year, five ten-month internships are offered to students holding a bachelor's degree from a Québec university. Excellent marks, an interest in democratic institutions as well as social and community involvement are the main selection criteria. The paid internships were of \$19,000 in 2009-2010 and of \$20,000 in 2010-2011.

The five candidates selected experience the numerous facets of Québec parliamentary life, becoming more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and of the institutions that report to it, namely the Auditor General, the Public Protector, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Lobbyists Commissioner and the Ethics Commissioner.

Each intern is paired with a Member from the Government and then a Member of an opposition party. The interns also take part in a mission abroad and are required to prepare a dissertation.



Mr. Yvon Vallières,  
Pamphile-Lemay high school



Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin,  
Pierre Brosseau school



Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Saint-Luc school



Mr. François Gendron, Le Boisé school



The interns accompanied by Mr. Jacques Chagnon, at the ceremony held in the Library during which the interns submitted their dissertations. Left to right: Jacques Chagnon, Maxime Fortin, Laurie Comtois, Martine Sirois, Laurence Fouquette-L'Anglais and Pierre Lessard-Blais.

---

### End of 2009-2010 internships

In June 2010, scholarship recipients for 2009-2010, Laurie Comtois, Maxime Fortin, Laurence Fouquette-L'Anglais, Pierre Lessard-Blais and Martine Sirois, completed their internships. Over the ten-month period, the interns increased their knowledge of Québec's democratic institutions, and had the chance to compare them with those of Japan. They were particularly interested in the voting process integrating a proportional representation system as well as in the consensual approach to parliamentary proceedings.

The interns participated in the annual conference of the Société québécoise de science politique at Université Laval, on 20 and 21 May 2010. They presented their dissertations during a workshop on parliamentarism. To achieve this, they benefited from the support and advice of Mr. Louis Massicotte, Professor of Political Science and former holder of the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions.

On 10 June 2010, an official ceremony presided by Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Vice-President of the National Assembly and President of the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation, marked the end of a busy year as the interns submitted their dissertations:

- *Désintérêt des citoyens envers la politique. Analyse comparée des efforts de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec et du Parlement du Royaume-Uni* (Laurie Comtois)
- *Les régions et la carte électorale au Québec* (Maxime Fortin)
- *De la transparence aux États-Unis. Tyrannie ou vertu : la transparence politique est-elle garante d'une meilleure démocratie ?* (Laurence Fouquette-L'Anglais)
- *Portrait des « clean elections » aux États-Unis et réflexion sur leur application au Québec* (Pierre Lessard-Blais)
- *La coopération interparlementaire : la contribution de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec* (Martine Sirois)

The dissertations are available at the Library of the National Assembly and on the Foundation's website at the following address:  
[www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca](http://www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca).

---

### Beginning of 2010-2011 internships

Scholarship recipients for 2010-2011 Évelyne Beaudin, Loïc Blancquaert, Dominic Migneault, Alex Perreault and Guillaume Tremblay-Boily began their internships in September 2010. They were twinned with a Member from the Government, then a Member of the opposition. The fact-finding mission that is part of the internship took place in Israel, from 24 February to 13 March. Language policies, parliamentary reforms, the voting system as well as the integration of immigrants are among the issues that were of particular interest to the interns and which they compared with the situation in Québec.



Left to right: Dominic Migneault, Évelyne Beaudin, Alex Perreault, Guillaume Tremblay-Boily and Loïc Blancquaert.

---

### Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools

Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools are inspired by the National Assembly while mirroring the operation of student councils. They encourage students to take part in decisions affecting student life, thus helping them to feel that they have a role to play in their school communities. Participation takes place in a spirit of cooperation and assistance between the school board, school principal and school staff members.

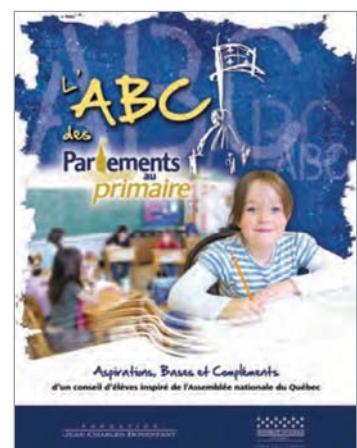
Furthermore, these activities allow young people to learn about and uphold democratic values such as freedom of speech, respect for differences of opinion, the art of compromise, solidarity, justice, tolerance, equality, representation, the right to vote and access to information. By the same token, students acquire knowledge of the National Assembly.

---

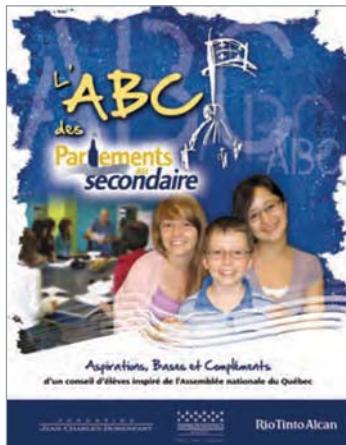
### Did you know?

To enable them to conduct a comparative analysis of parliamentary systems, the interns of the Foundation are invited to visit another Parliament. In the past, they travelled to Ottawa, Toronto, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Scotland, Sweden, Catalonia, Belgium, South Africa, India and Japan. The interns themselves choose and organize their mission.

---



## CITIZENS



The generous contribution of Rio Tinto Alcan helps the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation run this exercise in democratic participation and education. The Fédération des commissions scolaires and the Secrétariat à la jeunesse also contribute financially to setting up Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools.

As at 31 March 2011, Parliaments in High Schools included 222 schools and over 5,500 young people. Having been launched only a year ago, Parliaments in Elementary Schools already have 221 participating schools from all regions of Québec. Close to 3000 student council members are involved in this project to further democratic participation and education.

Inaugurated in spring 2008, the Parliaments in High Schools Awards recompense students for their achievements, especially in drafting their own bills. The Foundation awarded \$500 to each of the three schools that came up with the best bills:

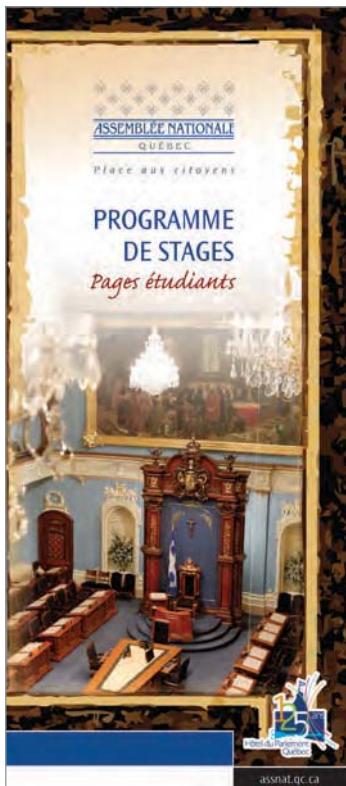
- An Act respecting the abolishment of disposable dishes in our school (Charlesbourg high school, Québec City)
- An Act respecting the permission to eat outside, on school grounds, during the lunch hour (Villa-Maria school, Montréal)
- An Act respecting the development of EVB projects conducted at school (Les Compagnons-de-Cartier school, Québec City)

### Page Programme

The Page Programme internship enables students enrolled in undergraduate studies to gain valuable work experience and to become familiar with Québec's parliamentary institutions.

Fourteen students studying in history, law, political science, public affairs and international relations began their internship at the National Assembly in August 2010, under the supervision of four former pages. The internship comprises 10 to 15 hours a week of paid work at the National Assembly during the sessional periods, between the months of August and June. Students are also required to write a research paper on a facet of parliamentarism of their choice. Students taking part in the Page Programme receive six credits for the bachelor's degree in which they are enrolled.

Since the pages are at the centre of parliamentary activities, they have the privilege of witnessing first hand the political, legislative and parliamentary roles of Members. This practical experience is an invaluable complement to the knowledge they acquire at university.



---

### **Course in parliamentary law and procedure at Université Laval**

For a seventh consecutive year, the National Assembly and Université Laval have formed a partnership to offer a course on parliamentary law and procedure to university students. Tailor-made for law and political science students, this course seeks to instruct them on the rules and principles that characterize the organization and operation of the parliamentary proceedings carried out at the National Assembly.

### **Parliamentary procedure training session**

In 2010-2011, parliamentary personnel once again responded to requests for training on parliamentary procedure for the staff from ministries and public agencies, as well as students taking certain university courses.

Several training sessions were held throughout the year for the benefit of public service managers, within the framework of their training at the École nationale d'administration publique. Furthermore, new employees at the National Assembly also enjoyed a one-day briefing on the operation of the Assembly and its legislative process.

## **A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT OPENS ITS DOORS TO CITIZENS**

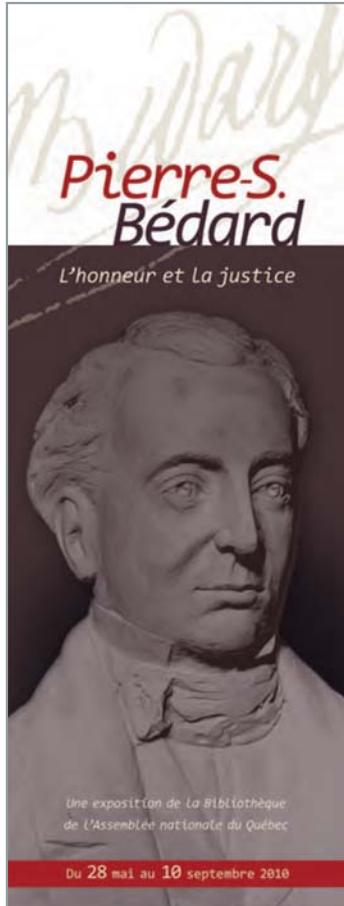
### **Open House Day at the Parliament Building and a tour of the gardens**

On 24 June, Québec's national holiday, nearly 1,400 people accepted the invitation of the President of the National Assembly of Québec to tour the Parliament Building, despite the major masonry work on the façade. Historians and seasoned guides fielded questions on everything from the architecture and ornamentation of the Parliament Building to the roles and responsibilities of Government Members. The Library of the National Assembly was also open to visitors.



The National Assembly welcomed the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie caravan, on 4 June 2010. It was the perfect occasion to announce the names of the winning schools of the Get Up and Move contest.

### Exhibitions



#### **Pierre-S. Bédard: Honour and Justice at the Library of the National Assembly**

A staunch defender of the rights of the “Canadian nation”, the French language, freedom of speech and of the press, Pierre-Stanislas Bédard was a pioneer of Lower-Canada’s parliamentarism at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During an exhibition presented at the Library from 28 May to 10 September 2010, the National Assembly commemorated Pierre-S. Bédard for his important role in the history of Québec. The exhibition enabled visitors to learn more about this historical figure through books, newspapers from the period, prints and a documentary produced within the framework of the television series entitled *Figures de la démocratie*.

At the launching of the exhibition, the President of the National Assembly unveiled a bust in honour of Pierre-S. Bédard. This work of art by Ms. Pascale Archambault is on display in the Parliament Building for visitors to admire it.



Left to right: Mr. Yvon Vallières, President of the National Assembly, Ms. Pascale Archambault, sculptor, Mr. Denis Monière, President of the Société du patrimoine politique du Québec, and Mr. Gilles Gallichan, Librarian and exhibition designer.

---

---

**Women and Politics – From the Fight for the Right to Vote to Today  
at the Library of the National Assembly**

The year 2010 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote and to stand for election in Québec, which right was obtained in 1940. Thus, on 3 June 2010, an exhibition on the theme *Women and politics – From the fight for the right to vote to today* was launched. This ceremony was accompanied by the publication of the special issue of the Library Newsletter devoted to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Québec women's right to vote and of the publication entitled “Femmes et vie politique. De la conquête du droit de vote à nos jours. 1940-2010”.



Left to right: Ms. Pauline Marois, Mr. Yvon Vallières, Ms. Christine St-Pierre and Mr. Gérard Deltell.



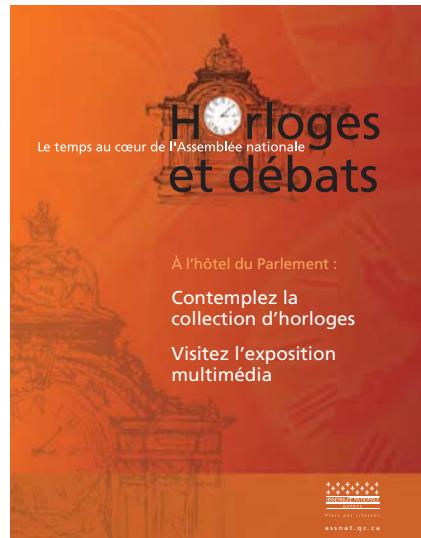


## CITIZENS

### Did you know?

Close to 800 visitors had the opportunity of taking a closer look at the clock in the Parliament Building's central tower, from 9 December 2009 to 8 December 2010. Indeed, the tower was exceptionally open to the public for visits, accompanied by master clockmaker Mr. André Viger, for the duration of the *Clocks and Debates* exhibition.

The National Assembly was a finalist in the 2010 Zénith Awards in the "exhibition stands" category for *Clocks and Debates: Time at the Heart of the National Assembly*. For the past 14 years, the Zénith Awards have underlined the best achievements and recognized excellence in government communications.

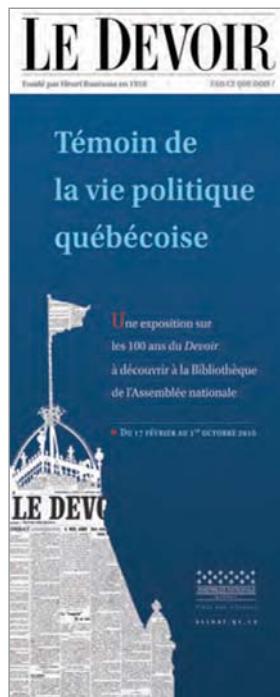


### *Clocks and Debates: Time at the Heart of the National Assembly*

Presented in the main hall and the Presidents' Gallery, the *Clocks and Debates: Time at the Heart of the National Assembly* exhibition showcased the leading role time plays in the way Parliament and its Members go about their work. Visitors were able to put their knowledge to the test in an interactive quiz.

The exhibition also featured a collection of 15 clocks belonging to the National Assembly. Pride of

place was given to Cyrille Duquet, a clockmaker from Québec City who designed many of the timepieces in the Parliament Building and made a significant contribution to clockmaking in Québec.



### *Le Devoir: Witness to Political Life in Québec*

Founded by Henri Bourassa in 1910, the newspaper *Le Devoir* has offered a unique window on political goings-on in Québec and has played a leading role in the province's history.

*Le Devoir* has waged several battles in Québec, and its publishers have always kept the spirit of its founder alive. This unique and all-new exhibition invited visitors to learn about the newspaper's history, its founder, its publishers and journalists, along with a few milestones in Québec's political history as covered by *Le Devoir*. The exhibition was to run until 1 October 2010, but was extended until February 2011.

This activity was part of the celebrations proposed by Les Amis du Devoir to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the daily newspaper.

---

### **Guided tours**

A total of 75,978 persons visited the Parliament Building from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. Moreover, 22,301 persons walked through the door to visit its restaurants, standing committee rooms and La Boutique.

**Tableau Parliament Building Visits by Place of Origin**

Place of Origin	Number of Visitors	%
Québec	46,787	62
Other Canadian provinces	9,122	12
United States	7,190	9
Other countries	12,879	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,978</b>	<b>100</b>

**Tableau Parliament Building Visits by Language**

Language	Number of Visitors	%
English	20,581	27
Spanish	442	1
French	54,826	72
Italian	127	0
Québec Sign Language (QSL)	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,978</b>	<b>100</b>

**Tableau Parliament Building Visits by School Group**

Groups	Number of students	%
Elementary	9,166	38
High school	11,244	47
College	1,512	6
Adult education	1,258	5
University	897	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,077</b>	<b>100</b>

From 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, of the 75,978 visitors, 24,077 were students, which represents 32% of the total number.

In the summer of 2010, some 331 passers-by visited the kiosk outside the Parliament Building to sign up for guided tours of the gardens and grounds. The masonry work carried out on the façade adversely affected the number of requests to visit the grounds, as the gardens were less accessible. Another 6,800 stopped by to ask for information.

### Visits to the Library of the National Assembly

In all, 10,467 people visited the Library of the National Assembly as library users, guests at special events or visitors. Open houses, guided tours, book launches, exhibitions and talks held throughout the year attracted close to 3,400 visitors.

### Parliament Building restaurants

#### Summer and Carnival brunches

In the magnificent Beaux-Arts dining room of Le Parlementaire restaurant, which is part of Québec's architectural heritage, staff welcomed 962 visitors to traditional theme brunches tied in to major events in the Capitale-Nationale. Québec's national holiday, the Québec City Summer Festival, the New France Festival and the Québec Winter Carnival saw the restaurant serve up gourmet brunches featuring Québec products creatively presented by the chefs.

## A FORUM FOR EXCHANGES



Plurielle et fière de l'être : la Francophonie parlementaire Symposium.

### Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions

The Chair's activities in 2010-2011 included organizing an international symposium entitled "Plurielle et fière de l'être : la Francophonie parlementaire", on 25 and 26 February 2011. Some fifteen experts from Europe, Africa, Asia and North America came to the National Assembly for this activity, which put in perspective the diversity of institutions and parliamentary practices of French-speaking countries. Close to one hundred parliamentary practitioners and students attended the symposium.

In November 2010, the Chair also published issue nos. 2 and 3 of the *Cahiers de recherche électorale et parlementaire*. Issue no. 2, entitled *Le processus d'adoption des crédits budgétaires dans quelques Parlements de tradition britannique*, stems from a research project directed by a professor, Mr. Réjean Pelletier, at the request of the Auditor General of Québec. Issue no. 3, entitled *Le travail des députés en circonscription. État de la recherche*, sets out the results of the research project conducted by Mr. Éric Montigny, researcher with the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions of Université Laval.



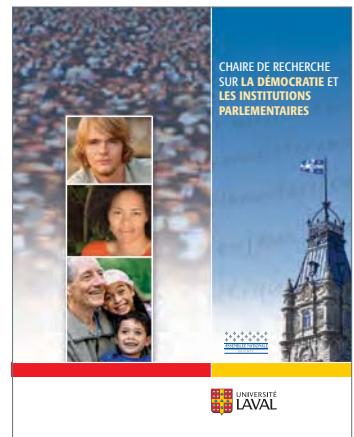
Left to right: Messrs. François Blais, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Université Laval, François Gélineau, Chairholder, Michel Bonsaint, Secretary General of the National Assembly, and Ms. Eugénie Brouillet, Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Law at Université Laval, on the occasion of the Symposium on La Francophonie parlementaire.

The chair seeks to promote democratic and parliamentary institutions, create a university centre of excellence and educate graduate students about the multiple facets of parliamentarianism. Its activities include support to research, further education opportunities and a knowledge dissemination component.

Launched on 20 November 2007, the Chair brings together Université Laval (the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Political Science and the Faculty of Law), the National Assembly of Québec, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Lobbyists Commissioner, the Public Protector, the Ethics Commissioner and the National Assembly of the French Republic.

In light of the Chair's accomplishments during its first three years of existence, the National Assembly and Université Laval have renewed their memorandum of agreement, thus ensuring the funding of the Chair's activities for the next five years, from 2011 to 2016.

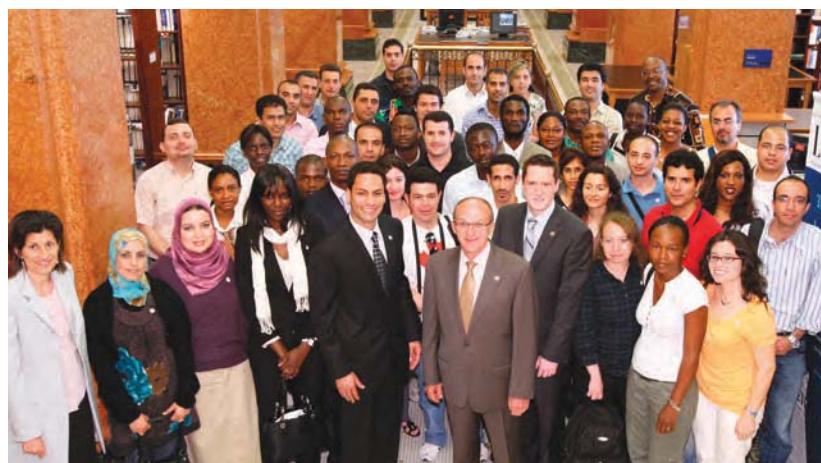
Since January 2011, the Chair has been under the leadership of Mr. François Gélineau, Professor at the Department of Political Science of Université Laval.



### National Assembly Open House for New Quebecers

The open house is an opportunity for participants from selected regions of Québec to learn more about their Parliament and how it runs, and the work that Members do. Participants are invited to attend a briefing and discussion with the President of the National Assembly and Members from their region, during which they learn more about the history of Québec and its parliamentary system. Furthermore, they take a guided tour of the Parliament Building and attend Oral Questions and Answers. Finally, they are invited to enjoy stunning views of Parliament Hill and Québec City from the Observatoire de la Capitale.

In 2010-2011 new Quebecers from the Montérégie and Mauricie regions, as well as from the northern and western parts of the city of Montréal accepted the invitation extended by the President of the National Assembly. The open house programme for new Quebecers is initiated in partnership with the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles and the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec.



### 8<sup>th</sup> Political Book Day in Québec

Québec's 8<sup>th</sup> Political Book Day was held on 6 April 2010. This activity, organized by the Library of the National Assembly, seeks to raise the profile of political books in the eyes of parliamentarians and the general public. The various prizes awarded on this occasion aim to reward authors who are interested in Québec politics.

The programme included a visit of the exhibition *Le Devoir : témoin de la vie politique québécoise*, a talk by Ms. Lise Bissonnette, entitled *Médias et politique, en première ligne* as well as a round table on the media and politics. Lise Bissonnette, Emmanuelle Saucier, Luc Bégin, Marc-François Bernier and Jean-Claude Leclerc hosted the round table discussion.

---

The following authors received awards during a ceremony:

- Éric Bédard, Prix de la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale, for his work *Les Réformistes : une génération canadienne-française au milieu du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle*.
- Olivier Turbide, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant and Prix du Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/Ministère des Affaires étrangères de France, for a doctoral thesis entitled *La performance médiatique des chefs politiques lors de la campagne électorale de 2003 au Québec : description et évaluation des images construites en situation de débat télévisé, d'entrevue d'affaires publiques et de talk show*.
- Maude Laplante-Dubé, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, for a master's thesis entitled *Les interventions du gouvernement québécois dans le domaine de l'édition (1978-2004)*.



Recipients of the Prix de la présidence de l'Assemblée nationale. Left to right: Réjean Pelletier (jury chairman), Louis Massicotte, Éric Bédard, Fatima Houda-Pepin (First Vice-President of the National Assembly), Mira Falardeau and Robert Aird.

---

### The welcoming of athletes



On 1 December 2010, the President of the National Assembly welcomed the Capitales de Québec baseball team, champion of the Can-Am League in 2010.

Québec medallists, athletes and trainers of the Olympic and Paralympic Games attended a reception in their honour at the Legislative Council Chamber, on 15 April 2010.

On 23 March 2011, cross-country skiing gold medallist at the 2011 Oslo World Championship, Mr. Alex Harvey, was welcomed by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières. In addition to giving him a standing ovation when he was presented during Routine Proceedings, parliamentarians paid tribute to this athlete from Saint-Ferréol-les-Neiges during a ceremony held at the Parliament Building.



## COMMUNICATIONS

### 2009-2012 Public Communications Plan

Spawned by the 2009–2012 Strategic Plan for the Administration of the National Assembly, the Public Communications Plan puts forward a series of new approaches for bringing the National Assembly closer to citizens, including developing a youth strategy, adding to National Assembly Channel programming, optimizing the Assembly website and organizing original theme activities open to the general public.

### The Vigie project, finalist of the 2010 OCTAS contest

The Voûte informationnelle de gestion de l'information électronique (Vigie) project of the National Assembly was among the 58 finalists of the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the OCTAS contest, in 2010. According to the Réseau Action TI, organizer of the OCTAS, the implementation of this information technology solution presented a considerable challenge, not only because it surpassed the magnitude of

---

the projects usually carried out by technology, communications and piloting personnel, but also because it was to be carried out at the same time as the institution's web site was being revamped. Each year, this prestigious competition recognizes the best achievements in the field of information technologies (IT) in Québec. With the help of Vigie, the institution's information is henceforth automated, integrated, centralized and made available on-line on the Internet site, while encouraging active participation in democracy, access to the on-line consultation of documents, and the use of reliable and secure interactive services. It took more than two years to carry out this project.

### The National Assembly Channel

The National Assembly Channel broadcasts live and pre-recorded news and programming about National Assembly activities on television and on-line. With parliamentary and educational activities, visits from dignitaries, exhibition vignettes, interviews, documentaries and more, the public now has access to richer, more diversified programming than ever.

Coverage Service	Number of activities	Duration
Televised coverage	1,110	1,900 hr. 57 min.
Mobile recording	56	295 hr. 05 min.
Audio recording	149	356 hr. 59 min.
Digital recording, <i>Journal des débats</i> (Hansard)	1,187	2,154 hr. 43 min.

National Assembly Channel	Number of activities	Duration
Parliamentary activities	1,560	2,833 hr. 34 min.
In-house production	Institutional promotion	725 hr. 43 min.
	<i>Mémoires de députés</i> and <i>Figures de la démocratie</i>	1,023 hr. 34 min.
	Members' holiday greetings (Québec's national holiday and Christmas holidays)	153 hr. 59 min.
Total external broadcasting	4,736 hr. 51 min.	
Continuous electronic hosting	4,023 hr. 09 min.	
Total broadcasting for the National Assembly Channel	8,760 hr. 00 min.	

---

### Did you know?

In 1977, a National Assembly committee examined the implementation procedures with regard to the broadcasting of parliamentary debates. The television broadcasting of the Assembly proceedings on the National Assembly Channel was launched on 3 October 1978.

---



## CITIZENS

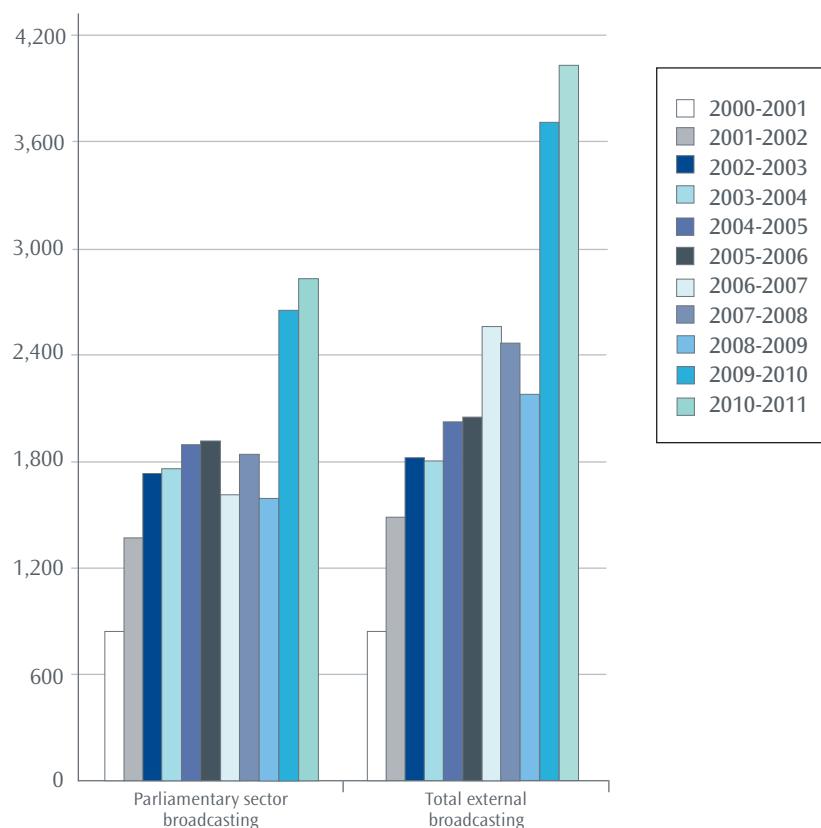
### Did you know?

The Debates Broadcasting Directorate supports the various institutional activities of the National Assembly by producing promotional vignettes to be aired on the Assembly Channel and webcast on the Internet site.

The Debates Broadcasting Directorate thus underlined, among other events, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote and to stand for election, Québec's national holiday, the 2010 Entraide Campaign, the National Assembly's Medal of Honour award ceremonies, and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parliament Building.

Furthermore, the Debates Broadcasting Directorate produced promotional vignettes for the parliamentary internship programme of the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation and the educational activities of the National Assembly.

### National Assembly Broadcasting Statistics (in Hours)



### *Figures de la démocratie* television series

*Figures de la démocratie* is a new television documentary series broadcast in 30-minute episodes presenting the exceptional people who have shaped the history and evolution of Québec democracy.

Based on interviews, testimonies, archived material and reconstituted debates, these programmes provide a wealth of information, anecdotes and revelations.

In 2010-2011, the Assembly Channel broadcast the three first programmes of this series. They featured Maurice Duplessis, on 12 April 2010, Pierre-Stanislas Bédard, on 31 May 2010, and Idola Saint-Jean, on 6 December 2010.

### *Mémoires de députés*

Thanks to the participation of former parliamentarians, Ms. Lucienne Robillard and Messrs. Louis O'Neill, Herbert Marx, Jacques-Yvan Morin, Jean-Paul Champagne, Claude Morin, Marc-Yvan Côté, Roger Houde, Marc-André Bédard, Yvon Picotte and Robert Dean, 40 original episodes of *Mémoires de députés* were shown on the National Assembly Channel and the Assembly website in 2010–2011.



DVD box sets of the 113 *Mémoires de députés* episodes broadcast on the Assembly Channel from 5 November 2006 to 13 June 2010 are available at the Boutique.



---

## A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT DOES ITS PART FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Follow-up to the National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan

On 9 June 2010, the President tabled in the National Assembly the first follow-up document relating to the Sustainable Development Action Plan. Relevant activities carried out include the organization of Fitness Evaluation Days, the first eco-responsible hospitality activity as well as meetings with the persons in charge of the Boutique and the restaurants to discuss responsible procurement practices. Furthermore, to encourage citizen participation in parliamentary proceedings, the parliamentary reform introduced the possibility to submit electronic petitions and to forward briefs by electronic mail. In addition, to raise the awareness of parliamentarians and employees regarding sustainable development issues, approximately 60 headlines were published on the in-house Portal.

The National Assembly entered into an agreement with the Chaire de recherche et d'intervention en écoconseil at the Université du Québec in Chicoutimi to hire an eco-counsellor to provide support until the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year, for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Action Plan.

A sustainable development steering committee was also created and holds meetings every four to six weeks. Its mandate includes ensuring the follow-up of the measures taken. In addition, the Portal's green page contains the various documents relating to the action plan and will integrate all of the headlines published in connection with sustainable development.

To reach Level 3 of Recyc-Québec's *Ici on recycle* programme, a few additional efforts are required on behalf of the parliamentarians, their associates and the administrative staff in order to increase the recovery rate to 80%. Among these efforts, composting should help reduce waste and contribute to increasing efficiency from 64% to 80% to attain Level 3.

Lastly, as part of continued efforts to reduce waste, the National Assembly also looks forward to riding offices achieving Level 2 of the *Ici on recycle* programme.

The National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan is available online in the "Sustainable Development" section of the National Assembly website at [assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca).

---

## Did you know?

### Défi climat

The National Assembly of Québec, along with over 1000 other organizations, participates in Défi Climat. It invites parliamentarians and political and administrative personnel to join in the collective effort to fight climate change.

---



Social  
Écologique  
Économique  
Éthique



HERITAGE



## HERITAGE

### DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

#### Publication of the volumes of the National Assembly's reconstituted debates

Before the *Journal des débats* (Hansard) began publishing in 1964, no compilations of the parliamentary debates existed in Québec. To redress this situation, the National Assembly decided, in 1974, to reconstitute the debates prior to 1963.

In addition to the texts of the debates that took place in the Legislative Assembly, these documents provide a historical introduction, that includes the milestones and main themes of the session, an analysis of the newspapers and sources used to reconstitute the debates, as well as a bibliography.

During the past year, the Library of the National Assembly finished reconstituting the debates of several sessions of the Legislative Assembly:

- 1922 (15<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 3<sup>rd</sup> session)
- 1928 (17<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> session)
- 1929 (17<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> session)
- 1933 (18<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> session)
- 1935 (18<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 4<sup>th</sup> session)
- 1936 (19<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> session)
- 1936 (20<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> session)
- 1942 (21<sup>st</sup> Legislature, 3<sup>rd</sup> session)
- 1951-1952 (23<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, 4<sup>th</sup> session)
- 1954-1955 (24<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 3<sup>rd</sup> session)
- 1955-1956 (24<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 4<sup>th</sup> session)
- 1957-1958 (25<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> session)
- 1958-1959 (25<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 3<sup>rd</sup> session)
- 1960 (26<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> session)

#### Library and virtual library collections

As at 31 March 2011, over 2.1 million documents were available for consultation in the library:

Print	
monographs	497,856
magazines and periodicals	281,429
newspapers	719,771
Microdocuments	
microfilms	37,417
microfiches	571,375
Electronic documents (on-line, CD-ROMs)	9,664
Audio recordings	185
Videocassettes	875
Posters, cards and photographs	949
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,119,521</b>

---

## In figures

In 2010-2011, reference staff at the library answered 9988 queries. Of these, 4,255 came from parliamentarians, their associates, the staff of the National Assembly, and the officers appointed by the National Assembly. Librarians produced bibliographies on everything from euthanasia to young people and politics. They also published lists of new additions to the library and continued to supply data to the bibliography on parliamentarism in Québec. The bibliography is available on-line and is the most comprehensive source of information to date on parliamentary work in Québec.

## ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

### 11<sup>th</sup> restoration phase of Parliament Building offices

The 11<sup>th</sup> phase of this project has seen the restoration of 21 of the 310 offices occupied by parliamentarians and their staff. To date 92% of the global work has been completed.

Plasterwork and panelling have been restored, and new floors and lights have been installed in keeping with the building's heritage character. This work has improved the state of conservation of the offices of Members and their staff and has made them more adequately adapted to their needs. It is the first time that some of these offices have been renovated since the Parliament was built 125 years ago.

### Restoration of the Parliament Building façade

The east façade of the Parliament Building forming the outside wall of the Legislative Council Chamber and the corner tower underwent major masonry work during the summer and autumn of 2010.

Initially, focus was placed on restoring the stone setting and stone carvings as well as installing eaves troughs and replacing the visitors' entrance, but it was soon discovered that the structural elements also required repair, as the brick load-bearing wall had highly deteriorated.

All of this work, including the dismantling, temporary shoring, shimming, cleaning, reconstruction of certain wall sections, rejoining and replacement of stone and carvings, was however completed before the cold season. The visitors' entrance door was reopened in January 2011.

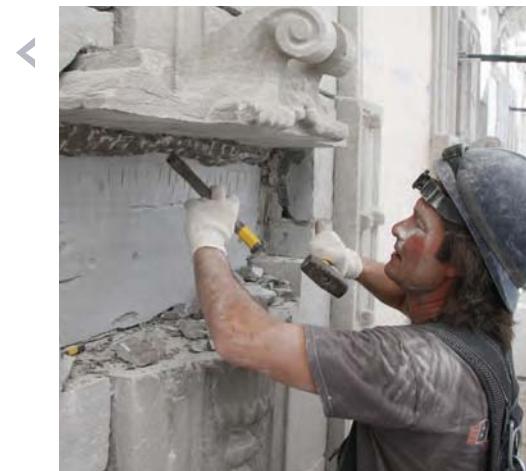
This project, which was coordinated by the Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate, was carried out in collaboration with external architectural and engineering firms.

---

## Did you know?

The Library's computerized catalogue allows users to find documents available on the premises and, for certain titles, provides direct access to electronic resources. This catalogue, which is available on the National Assembly Internet site, now contains 313,209 descriptive records and 48,714 electronic documents.

---





## HERITAGE

### Did you know?

The National Assembly has a total of 1,347 computers (227 of which are laptops), and 554 printers on Parliament Hill and in Members' riding offices.

In addition, the Centre de conservation du Québec provided advisory services as regards stone carvings and supervised the work of some fifteen sculptors and stone cutters who joined the team of forty workers sent to the site by the contractor. The nine bronze monuments placed on the newly restored portion of the façade were cleaned and brightened up by the Centre de conservation du Québec.

This work was indeed a major undertaking, but it was carried out in a relatively discrete manner. The tarpaulin used to control dust around the scaffolding displayed the full-size image of the portion of the Parliament Building before the renovations. This installation was set up in keeping with the heritage portrait that visitors come to photograph on Parliament Hill.



On 25 May 2010, outdoor information terminals were installed in front of the Parliament Building and alongside Grande Allée. A plan presenting the National Assembly buildings and the main activities that are accessible to the public are displayed on both sides of the terminals.



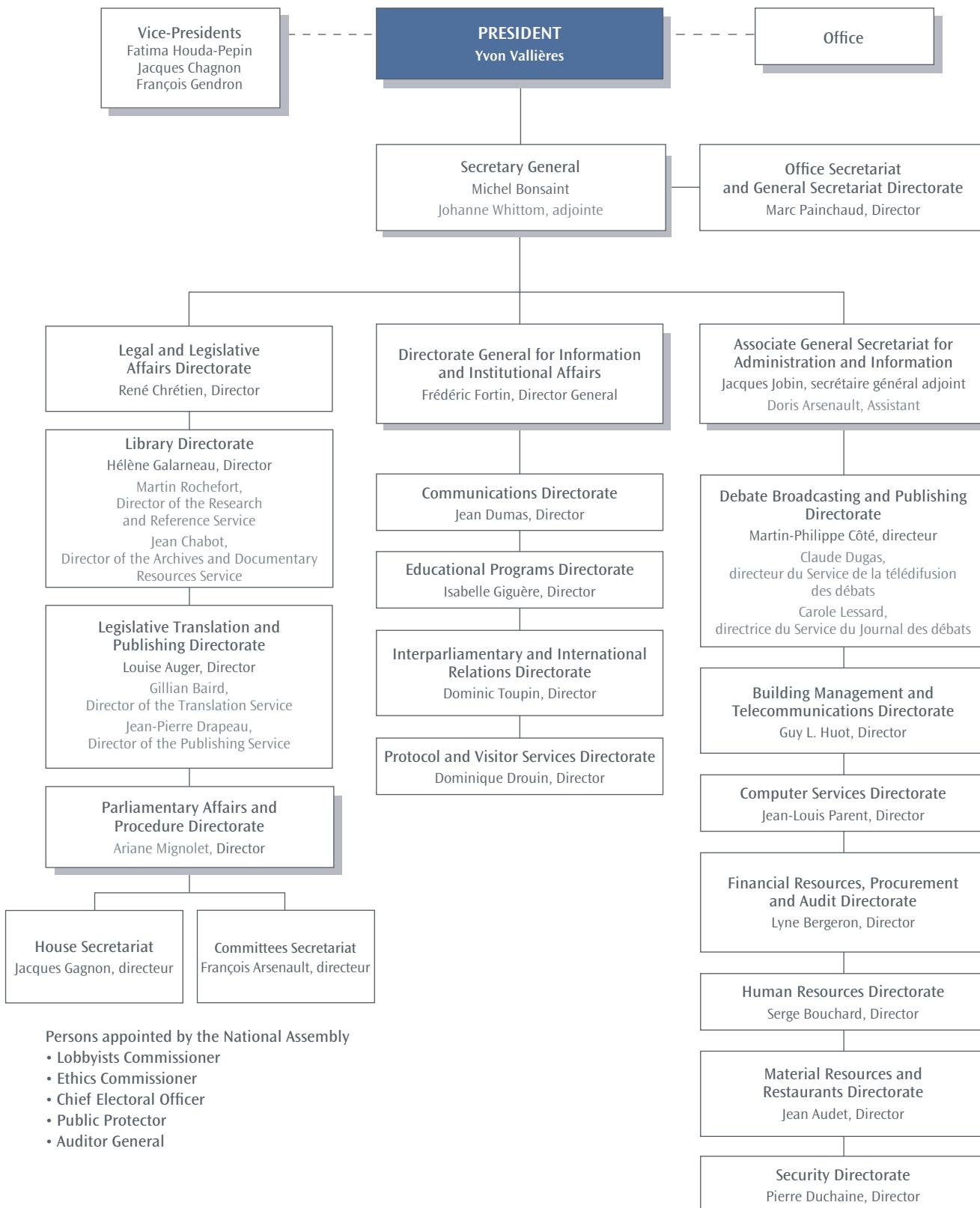
On 25 November 2010, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, unveiled a bronze casting offered by the Innu community of Natashquan.

# ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION



## ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AS AT 31 MARCH 2011



### Persons appointed by the National Assembly

- Lobbyists Commissioner
  - Ethics Commissioner
  - Chief Electoral Officer
  - Public Protector
  - Auditor General

---

## OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly is administered within the framework of the statutes, regulations and rules to which it is subject. To preserve its administrative autonomy, the *Act respecting the National Assembly* established the Office of the National Assembly, which acts as its administrative board and passes any regulation it deems necessary for operation of the Assembly. It must, among other duties, approve the Assembly's budgetary estimates and regulate matters of immediate concern to Members, such as their allowances and working conditions.

### Office of the National Assembly

**Chairman of the Office:** Mr. Yvon Vallières

**Members:**

**Québec Liberal Party**

Mr. Stéphane Billette  
Mr. Germain Chevarie  
Mr. Jean D'Amour  
Mr. Yvon Marcoux  
Mr. Michel Matte

**Parti québécois**

Mr. Alexandre Cloutier  
Mr. Nicolas Girard

**Action démocratique du Québec**

Mr. Janvier Grondin

**Substitute Members:**

**Québec Liberal Party**

Mr. Vincent Auclair  
Mr. Daniel Bernard  
Ms. Lucie Charlebois  
Ms. Johanne Gonthier  
Mr. Pierre Reid

**Parti québécois**

Mr. Marjolain Dufour  
Ms. Véronique Hivon

**Action démocratique du Québec**

Ms. Sylvie Roy

---

## A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On 10 June 2010, on a motion by the Premier, the National Assembly unanimously appointed Mr. Michel Bonsaint to the office of Secretary General of the National Assembly beginning on 21 September 2010. Mr. Bonsaint replaces Mr. François Côté, who had held this office since 2001, after having held various positions within the institution beginning in 1984. During the debate on the motion, speakers did not hesitate to underline each in turn the quality of his work, to express their trust in him and to offer him their collaboration.

Holder of a bachelor's degree in law and a master's degree in public law from Université Laval, Mr. Michel Bonsaint has had a varied and successful career at the National Assembly. Hired in 1989 as a legal advisor at the legislation branch, in 1992 he was appointed parliamentary law and procedure advisor, which duty he fulfilled until 1998. He was director of the parliamentary procedure research branch from June 1998 to May 2006, and then director general of parliamen-

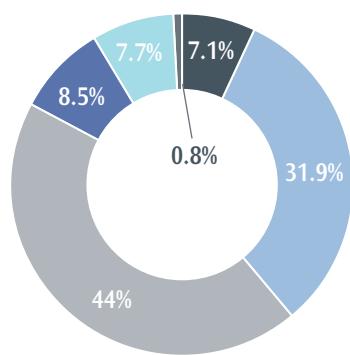




## ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

On 1 October 2010, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, Secretary General, was elected secretary-treasurer of the Association des secrétaires généraux des parlements francophones (ASGPF) at the general assembly in Paris. Mr. François Côté completed his two-year term as president of this association.

### Administrative Staff by Employment Category



- Executives
- Professionals
- Public servants
- Workers
- Peace officers
- Others

Women 52%  
Men 48%

tary affairs from September 2003 to April 2005. He became a member of the management committee and contributed to defining the policy directions and objectives of the National Assembly as regards its mission. While on this committee, he also handled various administrative issues and liaised with the executives of the National Assembly. He also held the office of interim director of the Secretariat of Committees from September 2003 to June 2004. In April 2005, Mr. Bonsaint became Associate Secretary General for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure, an office that he held until his appointment as Secretary General.

Throughout his career, he has been involved in various interparliamentary associations. He has been a member of the Association of Parliamentary Counsel in Canada since 1992, of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada since 1996 and of the Association des secrétaires généraux des parlements francophones since 2004. In 2008, he was president of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada and, since 1 October 2010, he has been secretary-treasurer of the Association des secrétaires généraux des parlementaires francophones. He has also been a member of the Québec Bar since 1989 and a member of the Association québécoise de droit constitutionnel since 2006.

Furthermore, he has been invited to speak at several activities and has made presentations on a variety of topics, including cyberdemocracy, the independence of the legislative power and parliamentary privileges. Moreover, he has been a lecturer at the faculty of law of Université Laval since 2005 and, within this context, developed the first course that is exclusively concerned with parliamentary law and procedure in a Québec university. Finally, he coordinated the drafting and co-authored the reference work entitled *La procédure parlementaire du Québec*, the first of its kind in Québec.

### PERSONNEL

#### Staff

To carry out its mission, the National Assembly has an administrative staff of 605 people, comprising 532 regular and 73 casual positions.

Its political staff of executive assistants, political aides and advisors and support staff totals 576 people, divided between Parliament Hill and Members' riding offices.

Administrative Staff by Age Group	
35 and under	19.2%
36 - 40	9.6%
41 - 45	13.7%
46 - 50	16.4%
51 - 55	19.6%
56 and over	21.5%

---

### A quarter century of commitment

On 10 December 2010, a ceremony was held in the company of the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, and several other guests to celebrate the dedication of staff who have worked for the Québec National Assembly or as public servants for 25 years. Mmes. Louise Williams, Carol-Ann McCaughry, Nicole Davignon, Pierrette Stevens, Suzanne Latulippe-Boily and Lyne Bergeron, as well as Messrs. Robert Rasmussen, Robert Jolicoeur, Pierre Rainville, Martin Rochefort, Simon Blouin, Jacques Gagnon, Jean Dumas, François Chalifour, Guy Huot, Jean Larivière, Paul Fortin and Richard Perron were all honoured at the event.

### Implementation of the second phase of SAGIR

On 11 January 2010 technology upgrades and improvements to work processes were undertaken with a view to implementing, on 18 November 2010, version 1.2 of SGR2, which is the second major phase of the Stratégie d'affaires en gestion intégrée des ressources (SAGIR). This phase aims to integrate human resources management to the SAGIR system.

Let us recall that the National Assembly has undertaken to modernize its IT infrastructure to manage financial, material and human resources, an ambitious undertaking across the public service that seeks to replace out-dated systems with the SAGIR business solution, a seven-step process that will take several years.

### New IP telephony system

The National Assembly has integrated a new IP telephony system to replace the Centrex system provided by Bell Canada. This new system belongs to the Assembly and serves all of the personnel working on Parliament Hill.

This system uses the Internet Protocol and provides users with modern equipment as well as new services such as voice recognition. The computer network was accordingly upgraded to improve security.

---

**The Computer Directorate Service Centre answered 11,329 calls from the political and administrative sectors. The training team provided instruction to 127 persons with regard to the technological tools at their disposal.**

---

### Open house for new employees

On 4 March 2011, the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, the Associate Secretary General for Administration and Information, Mr. Jacques Jobin, and the Director General for Information and Institutional Affairs, Mr. Frédéric Fortin, in collaboration with the Human Resources Directorate, presented various resources of the National Assembly to some 40 new employees.



## ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

### Professional development

#### Training programme for jurists at the National Assembly

Since 2009, all members of the Québec Bar Association must undergo at least 30 hours of training per two-year period. The Bar has officially recognized the National Assembly as a training activity provider. Training sessions are given to Members and their staff, the staff of ministers' offices, the staff of officers appointed by the Assembly and the administrative staff of the Assembly who are members of the Bar. These sessions last approximately 3 hours and generally take place on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon when the Assembly is not sitting.

Fourteen sittings were held between 2009 and 2011 for a total of 44 hours of training given to an average of thirty people each time. The most recent session was given on 15 March 2011 by the Secretary General. Parliamentary privileges and constitutional law were the topics of discussion. In the coming years, the Assembly aims to offer 40 hours of training per two-year period to the members of the Québec Bar.

### Health

#### *The National Assembly has its personnel's health at heart!*

##### Nutrition Month

To help staff maintain healthy diets and lead active lifestyles, the National Assembly organized various activities for Nutrition Month.



##### Occupational Health and Safety Month

September 2010 was designated Occupational Health and Safety Month and aims to promote health and safety in the workplace through a series of awareness-raising activities. It was also an occasion for occupational health and safety managers, the Joint Committee for Occupational Health and Safety (CPSST), members of the Association paritaire pour la santé et sécurité du travail – Administration provinciale (APSSAP) and National Assembly employees to share ideas.



## Blood drive

On 1 June 2010 and 16 March 2011, employees gave the gift of life by generously donating blood at both Héma-Québec Blood Drives.



## Influenza vaccination campaign

In all, 111 employees were given a flu shot during the influenza vaccination campaign, on 28 October 2010.



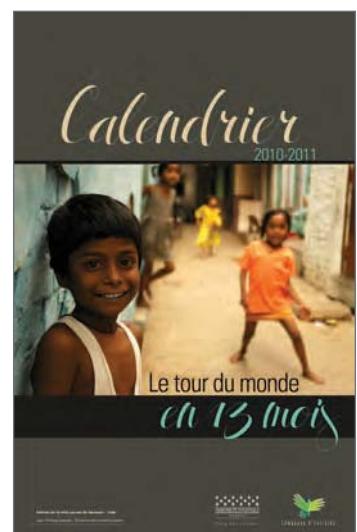
## Fund-raising campaigns

### Entraide campaign

The honorary campaign president, Mr. Yvon Vallières, and the Entraide Committee for 2010-2011 were keen to get involved in the collective fund-raising effort by proposing a wide range of activities to raise funds for the three philanthropic groups forming Entraide.

A calendar composed of photographs taken by the administrative and political personnel was a new item sold during this year's campaign. The winner of the photography contest had his winning photograph grace the cover page of the calendar.

The generosity of the personnel of the National Assembly deserves to be underlined, since donations reached an unprecedented amount of \$50,634.44, thus exceeding the target that had been set at \$45,000. It is an even more worthy outcome considering that, at the provincial level, the national Entraide campaign experienced a slight decline. As the spokesman for the national campaign, story teller Fred Pellerin, so aptly puts it: «When you give, you receive...».





## ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EXPENDITURES (2010-2011)

	Expenditure* (\$Thousands)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees**	Casual employees**
<b>GENERAL SECRETARIAT</b>			
Office of the Secretary General	1,664.3	14	0
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	448.4	5	0
Library Directorate	5,198.8	74	2
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	501.6	17	0
	<b>7,813.1</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS</b>			
Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure	636.8	8	0
House Secretariat Directorate	685.7	10	3
Committees Secretariat Directorate	1,071.3	19	1
Comité on Dying With Dignity	443.9	0	0
	<b>2,837.7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>INFORMATION AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Direktorat General for Information and Institutional Affairs	244.6	4	0
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	1,985.5	34	5
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	1,895.1	23	0
Communications Directorate	1,182.3	19	1
Educational Programs Directorate	606.7	8	0
	<b>5,914.2</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS AND SECURITY</b>			
Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information	441.3	4	0
Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate	4,958.4	56	30
Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate	10,739.7	34	0
Computer Services Directorate	4,420.9	45	0
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,305.0	26	0
Human Resources Directorate	10,029.3	25	2
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	3,642.8	34	16
Security Directorate	4,143.9	73	13
	<b>39,651.3</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS</b>			
	<b>58,806.0</b>		
<b>FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION</b>			
	<b>4,521.1</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>119,543.4</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>73</b>

\* Expenditures include fixed assets, salaries, operations, advances and transfers.

\*\* Authorized FTEs (full-time equivalents)

# APPENDICES

## APPENDICES

---

**CPA:** Committee on Public Administration

**CAFENR:** Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

**CPP:** Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

**CNA:** Committee on the National Assembly

**CCE:** Committee on Culture and Education

**CLE:** Committee on Labour and the Economy

**CPF:** Committee on Public Finance

**CI:** Committee on Institutions

**CW:** Committee of the Whole

**CCR:** Committee on Citizen Relations

**CHSS:** Committee on Health and Social Services

**CTE:** Committee on Transportation and the Environment

### BILLS PASSED

*39<sup>th</sup> Legislature – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sessions (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011)*

#### Government bills (passed)

- |     |        |   |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1   |        | Appropriation Act No. 1, 2011-2012 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Session)  |
| 48  | CI     | Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly  |
| 58  | CPP    | An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other legislative provisions   |
| 64  | CPF    | An Act giving effect to the Economic Statement delivered on 14 January 2009, to the Budget Speech delivered on 19 March 2009 and to certain other budget statements |
| 67  | CHSS   | An Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux  |
| 71  | CTE    | An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions ( <i>modified title</i> )  |
| 83  | CI     | An Act to provide a framework for mandatory state financing of certain legal services   |
| 84  | CAFENR | An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie as regards the reliability of electric power transmission   |
| 86  | CCE    | An Act to defer the November 2011 general school election   |
| 87  | CPF    | An Act respecting the legal publicity of enterprises  |
| 90  | CTE    | An Act concerning Parc national du Mont-Orford  |
| 96  | CPF    | An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions  |
| 97  | CLE    | An Act to proclaim Memorial Day for Persons Killed or Injured on the Job  |
| 98  |        | Appropriation Act No. 2, 2010-2011  |
| 100 | CPF    | An Act to implement certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 30 March 2010, reduce the debt and return to a balanced budget in 2013-2014                          |
| 101 | CPF    | An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Management Personnel and other legislation establishing pension plans in the public sector                   |
| 102 | CPP    | An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs   |
| 105 | CCR    | An Act respecting the adoption of Haitian children who arrived in Québec between 24 January and 16 February in the aftermath of the 12 January 2010 earthquake      |
| 106 | CHSS   | An Act to extend the terms of office of the board members of public health and social services institutions   |
| 107 | CPF    | An Act respecting the Agence du revenu du Québec  |

- 
- 109 CPP Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act
- 111 CLE An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards in order to facilitate reciprocal enforcement of decisions ordering the payment of a sum of money
- 112 CPF An Act authorizing the making of collective agreements with a term of more than three years in the public and parapublic sectors
- 113 CI An Act to put a stop to election contributions in the name of another
- 114 CI An Act to increase the powers of oversight of the Chief Electoral Officer
- 115 CW An Act following upon the court decisions on the language of instruction
- 116 CW An Act concerning the acquisition of cars for the Montréal subway
- 117 CPF An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 30 March 2010 and to certain other budget statements
- 118 CI An Act respecting the financing of political parties
- 121 CTE An Act to improve relations between the people living along off-highway vehicle club trails and the users of those trails and to improve user safety
- 122 CLE An Act to amend the Building Act mainly to modernize safety standards
- 123 CPF An Act respecting the amalgamation of the Société générale de financement du Québec and Investissement Québec
- 124 CPF An Act to amend various pension plans in the public sector
- 125 CHSS An Act to facilitate organ and tissue donation
- 126 CCR An Act to tighten the regulation of educational childcare
- 128 CPF An Act to enact the Money-Services Businesses Act and to amend various legislative provisions (*modified title*)
- 129 CLE An Act to amend various provisions respecting supplemental pension plans, particularly concerning payment options in the event of an employer's insolvency
- 131 CPP An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie du logement and various Acts concerning municipal affairs
- 132 CI An Act to suspend the electoral division delimitation process
- 135 CW An Act respecting the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises

## APPENDICES

---

### Government bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

---

- |     |        |  |
|-----|--------|--|
| 16  | CCR    | An Act to promote action by the Administration with respect to cultural diversity (order not carried over)   |
| 44  | CCE    | An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance   |
| 79  | CAFENR | An Act to amend the Mining Act (order not carried over)  |
| 88  | CTE    | An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act as regards residual materials management and to amend the Regulation respecting compensation for municipal services provided to recover and reclaim residual materials   |
| 93  | CI     | An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to political party financing rules and to amend other legislative provisions (order not carried over)   |
| 94  | CI     | An Act to establish guidelines governing accommodation requests within the Administration and certain institutions   |
| 104 | CPF    | An Act to abolish certain councils and the government air service fund (order not carried over)  |
| 119 | CI     | An Act respecting the election process   |
| 120 | CI     | An Act respecting political party leadership campaigns   |
| 130 | CPF    | An Act to abolish the Ministère des Services gouvernementaux and the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage and to implement the Government's 2010-2014 Action Plan to Reduce and Control Expenditures by abolishing or restructuring certain bodies and certain funds |

### Government bills at the stage of passage in principle

---

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 92  | An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to electoral representation (order not carried over)            |
| 103 | An Act to amend the Charter of the French language and other legislative provisions (order not carried over) |

### Government bills at the stage of introduction

---

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 2  | An Act respecting the construction of a section of Highway 73 from Beauceville to Saint-Georges (2 <sup>nd</sup> Session)  |  |
| 3  | An Act to promote safe school transportation and to better regulate bulk trucking brokerage (2 <sup>nd</sup> Session)  |  |
| 4  | An Act to allow municipalities to grant a tax credit to certain owners of residential immovables affected by a significantly higher than average increase in value (2 <sup>nd</sup> Session) |  |
| 38 | CCE  | An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level and the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance |

- 
- 54 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Agence de l'efficacité énergétique and the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie (order not carried over)
- 82 CCE Cultural Heritage Act
- 89 CTE An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to reinforce compliance
- 110 An Act to amend the occupational health and safety plan to grant greater protection to certain domestics (order not carried over)
- 127 CHSS An Act to improve the management of the health and social services network
- 133 CPF An Act respecting the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises

#### **Private Members' public bills (passed)**

---

- 390 CW An Act to proclaim Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day

#### **Private Members' public bills at the stage of introduction**

---

- 190 An Act to provide a framework for appointments to certain senior positions
- 191 An Act to amend the Auditor General Act
- 192 An Act to amend the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities in order to bring the excluded lands back within the boundaries of the park
- 193 An Act to amend the Transport Act
- 194 An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act
- 196 Québec Public Sector Employees Disclosure Protection Act
- 197 An Act to amend the Auditor General Act in order to allow comprehensive auditing of Hydro-Québec (2<sup>nd</sup> Session)
- 198 An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws
- 391 An Act to assert the fundamental values of the Québec nation
- 393 An Act to amend the Public Administration Act to require government departments and bodies to publish monthly reports of their expenditures
- 394 An Act respecting the Agence québécoise du cancer
- 395 An Act to govern the accessibility and universality of health services in Québec
- 396 An Act to put a temporary stop to shale gas exploration and development activities
- 397 An Act to impose a moratorium on shale gas exploration and development projects

## APPENDICES

---

- 398 An Act to end the precedence of mining rights over other land uses and to again amend the Act respecting land use planning and development
- 399 An Act to modernize the provisions relating to strikebreakers and to again amend the Labour Code
- 490 An Act respecting the greater use of wood in construction
- 491 An Act to prohibit asbestos and uranium exploration and mining in Québec
- 492 An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly
- 493 Recall Act

### Private bills (passed)

---

- 216 CPP An Act respecting Ville de Rimouski (passed unanimously)
- 219 CAFENR An Act to amend the Act respecting Pipeline Saint-Laurent (passed on division)
- 220 CPP An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté du Rocher-Percé (passed unanimously)
- 221 CPF An Act concerning the transfer of all of the property or the enterprise of Promutuel Capital Trust Company Inc. (passed unanimously)
- 222 CPF An Act respecting Club Lac Brûlé Inc. (passed unanimously)
- 223 CCE An Act respecting the Presbyterian College of Montreal (passed unanimously)
- 224 CPP An Act respecting Ville de Rouyn-Noranda (passed unanimously)
- 225 CPP An Act respecting the regional county municipalities of Avignon, Bonaventure, La Côte-de-Gaspé, La Haute-Gaspésie and Rocher-Percé and Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (*modified title*) (passed unanimously)
- 226 CPP An Act to amend the Charter of the City of Laval (passed unanimously)
- 227 CFP An Act respecting Exceldor Coopérative Avicole (passed unanimously)
- 228 CLE An Act concerning Coopérative de Transport Maritime et Aérien, association coopérative (passed unanimously)
- 230 CPP An Act respecting Ville de Sept-Îles and Ville de Fermont (passed unanimously)
- 231 CHSS An Act respecting Dixville Home Inc. (passed unanimously)
- 232 CPP An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté des Appalaches (passed unanimously)

### Private bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

---

- 229 CPP An Act respecting Ville de Salaberry-de-Valleyfield

---

## **ORDERS CARRIED OUT BY THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Committee on the National Assembly**

---

- Examination of the preliminary report of the Commission de la représentation électorale
- Establishment of the standing committees and adoption of the list of temporary chairmen

### **Committee on Public Administration**

---

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

- The Regional Economic Intervention Fund, “regional investment funds” component (Auditor General’s 2009-2010 Special Report)
- Support for judicial activities in courthouses (Auditor General’s 2009-2010 Report, Volume II, Chapter 2)
- The Watch over the projects to modernize Montréal’s University Health Centres (Auditor General’s Report, April and November 2009 and June 2010)
- The selection of qualified immigrant workers (Auditor General’s 2010-2011 Report, Volume I)
- The administrative expenses of school boards (Auditor General’s 2010-2011 Report, Volume I, Chapter 2)

Other order:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

### **Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources**

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills and 1 private bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 84, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l’énergie as regards the reliability of electric power transmission
- General consultation within the framework of the examination of Bill 79, An Act to amend the Mining Act

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Interpellations:

- Shale gas exploration and development in Québec
- Hydro-Québec
- The crises caused by the Liberal Government in Québec’s agricultural sector
- Bill 490, An Act respecting the greater use of wood in construction
- The Québec Government’s royalty policies regarding natural resources

Other order:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

## APPENDICES

---

Order of initiative:

- Security of petroleum product supplies

Examination of petitions:

- Protection of the Oka region from any mining development projects
- Treatment of animals

### Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills and 7 private bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 102, An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 109, Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 131, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie du logement and various Acts concerning municipal affairs

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Interpellation:

- The economic and social situation of the Gaspésie region

Government agency oversight and accountability:

- Régie du logement

Other order:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

### Committee on Culture and Education

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills and 1 private bill

Consultations:

- General consultation within the framework of the examination of Bill 82, Cultural Heritage Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 86, An Act to defer the November 2011 general school election
- General consultation within the framework of the examination of Bill 103, An Act to amend the Charter of the French language and other legislative provisions

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Other orders:

- Hearing with the head officers of educational institutions at the university level pursuant to the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level (R.S.Q., c. E-14.1)
- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

Order of initiative:

- Dropping out of school in Québec

---

Examination of petitions:

- Sex education course

### **Committee on Labour and the Economy**

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills and 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Other order:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

Order of initiative:

- Modernization of the Labour Code's anti-scab provisions

### **Committee on Public Finance**

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 10 public bills and 3 private bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 87, An Act respecting the legal publicity of enterprises
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 107, An Act respecting the Agence du revenu du Québec
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 123, An Act respecting the amalgamation of the Société générale de financement du Québec and Investissement Québec
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 128, An Act to enact the Money-Services Businesses Act and to amend various legislative provisions (*modified title*)
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 130, An Act to abolish the Ministère des Services gouvernementaux and the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage and to implement the Government's 2010-2014 Action Plan to Reduce and Control Expenditures by abolishing or restructuring certain bodies and certain funds
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 133, An Act respecting the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Interpellation:

- The situation of Québec's public finances

Other orders:

- Continuation of the debate on the 2010-2011 Budget Speech
- Hearing with the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec on its 2009 annual report
- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Continuation of the debate on the 2011-2012 Budget Speech

## APPENDICES

---

### Committee on Institutions

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 9 public bills

Consultations:

- General consultation within the framework of the examination of Bill 94, An Act to establish guidelines governing accommodation requests within the Administration and certain institutions
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 119, An Act respecting the election process

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Interpellations:

- Political pluralism in our electoral system
- 20 years after the failure of the Meech Lake Accord: Québec federalists facing a constitutional impasse
- Canadian intergovernmental relations
- Defence of Québec's interests in Ottawa

Other orders:

- Hearing with the Public Protector
- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Election of the Committee vice-chair

Order of initiative:

- Hearing with Mr. Pierre Marc Johnson on the policy directions submitted by the Québec Government to the Federal Government regarding the draft free trade agreement between Canada and the European Union, as well as on the current state of negotiations and the issues arising from this draft agreement.

### Committee on Citizen Relations

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 126, An Act to tighten the regulation of educational childcare

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Interpellation:

- Liberal laxity regarding the selection and integration of immigrants

Other orders:

- Special consultations on the document entitled “Turning Equality in Law Into Equality in Fact – Toward a second government action plan for gender equality”
- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

---

## **Committee on Health and Social Services**

---

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

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 125, An Act to facilitate organ and tissue donation
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 127, An Act to improve the management of the health and social services network

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Interpellation:

- The Québec Electronic Health Record

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

## **Committee on Transportation and the Environment**

---

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 88, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act as regards residual materials management and to amend the Regulation respecting compensation for municipal services provided to recover and reclaim residual materials
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 89, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to reinforce compliance
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 90, An Act concerning Parc national du Mont-Orford
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Bill 121, An Act to improve relations between the people living along off-highway vehicle club trails and the users of those trails and to improve user safety

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2010-2011

Interpellation:

- The granting of contracts at the Ministère des Transports du Québec

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

Order of initiative:

- The situation of lakes in Québec as regards cyanobacteria

Examination of petitions:

- Project for a railway network to serve various regions of Québec, the TransQuébec Express

## APPENDICES

---

### ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO MEMBERS IN 2010 – 2011

---

#### Wage bill of Members

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	\$12,025,840
--	--------------

---

#### Other allowances

Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for political activities	\$2,995,927
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	\$3,658,712
Travel from electoral division to the Parliament Building	\$1,192,303
Lodging in or around Québec City	\$1,542,966
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture and office equipment during the first term of office	\$33,777
Electoral division office operation expenses	\$5,039,173

---

#### Other expenses

	Members' staff	Office of Members holding parliamentary functions	Total
Wage bill	\$13,283,717	\$6,648,276	\$19,931,993
Travel expenses	\$393,387	\$459,329	\$852,716
Research services of political parties			\$2,321,119

---

---

## MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCHES

The **Secretary General** is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and Members in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, administers day-to-day affairs and carries out all other duties assigned to him or her by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

The **Office Secretariat Directorate** organizes and follows up on the work of the Office and provides Members with information on their working conditions and the services available to them. It also assists the Secretary General in the day-to-day running of this office and coordinates and carries out mandates and projects for the Assembly.

The **Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate** advises the National Assembly on legal matters and provides all professional services relating to the drafting of private Members' public bills and private bills.

The **Library Directorate** is responsible for the preservation of parliamentary documents and the management and retrieval of archives. It maintains a collection meeting the needs of current and future users. It offers various reference, press documentation and research services to parliamentarians and the administrative branches of the National Assembly.

The **Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** provides all professional and technical services for the translation, revision, publishing and printing of legislative bills and answers the translation needs of other administrative branches.

The **Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure Directorate** coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his or her advisory role with respect to Assembly and committee proceedings. It provides professional expertise in the field of parliamentary case law and carries out studies in doctrine.

The **House Secretariat Directorate** prepares, provides for the orderly conduct of and follows up on Assembly sittings. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

The **Committees Secretariat Directorate** provides all professional and administrative services required by standing committees for the organization and conduct of their activities.

## APPENDICES

---

The **Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information** plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the administrative and information sector directorates, in addition to providing all the related professional and technical services. It assists and advises the Secretary General in his or her role as manager of administrative affairs and with respect to digital information security.

The **Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate** coordinates the television broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and certain special events, along with the audio recording of proceedings and the production of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard), including all the related production activities (transcription, proofreading, editing and layout).

The **Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate** advises Assembly authorities and procures goods and provides services required for telecommunications and the management and furnishing of buildings.

The **Computer Services Directorate** directs and advises staff and authorities and provides office and IT services (software, applications, equipment, training). It also manages all IT equipment, as well as the local area and wide area networks.

The **Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate** advises and provides services relating to financial management, budget preparation and accounting operations. It also dispenses procurement services.

The **Human Resources Directorate** is responsible for all activities and all support and advisory services relating to human resource management for the administrative branches and the Members.

The **Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate** provides support services to the parliamentarians and the administrative branches, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing and photocopying, office supply procurement and the distribution of parliamentary documents. It is also responsible for food services and the management of the restaurants.

The **Security Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on all security and safety measures and is responsible for the safety of persons and property as well as for the security of buildings and offices of the National Assembly.

---

The **Directorate General for Information and Institutional Affairs** plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the communications, educational programs, international relations and protocol and visitor service directorates. It assists the Secretary General in his responsibilities for the outreach initiatives of the National Assembly.

The **Communications Directorate** promotes outreach by informing the public of the democratic role of the National Assembly. It is responsible for the institution's communications and public relations. It provides graphic design, publishing, drafting, copyediting and Web communication services, as well as a media information service.

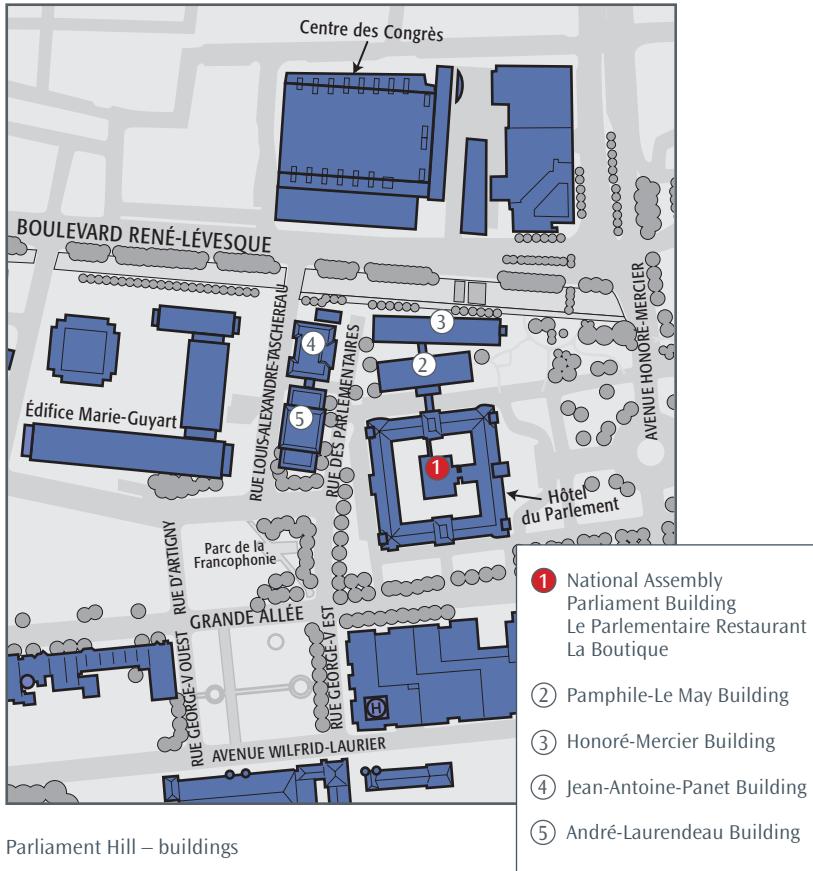
The **Educational Programmes Directorate** develops, organizes and creates educational programmes and materials for target clienteles, as well as providing professional and technical support for parliamentary simulations.

The **Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the National Assembly in this area.

The **Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate** coordinates official receptions and ceremonies at the National Assembly and is responsible for visitor and information services as well as guided tours.

## APPENDICES

### SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
Parliament Building  
Québec City Québec G1A 1A3

**General Information**  
Telephone: 418 643-7239  
Toll-free number: 1-866-337-8837  
Fax: 418 646-4271  
accueil@assnat.qc.ca  
assnat.qc.ca

**GUIDED TOURS**  
Regular hours  
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
  
Summer hours  
24 June to Labour Day:  
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday, 24 June, 1 July and  
Labour Day, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
  
Reservations required for groups of over 10.

**OUTDOOR GUIDED TOURS**  
24 June to Labour Day:  
Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Information**  
Telephone: 418-643-7239  
Fax: 418-646-4271  
accueil@assnat.qc.ca

**LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT**  
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Reservations**  
Telephone : 418-643-6640  
Fax: 418-643-6378  
resto@assnat.qc.ca

**LA BOUTIQUE**  
Regular hours  
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Except holidays

**Summer hours**  
24 June to Labour Day:  
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

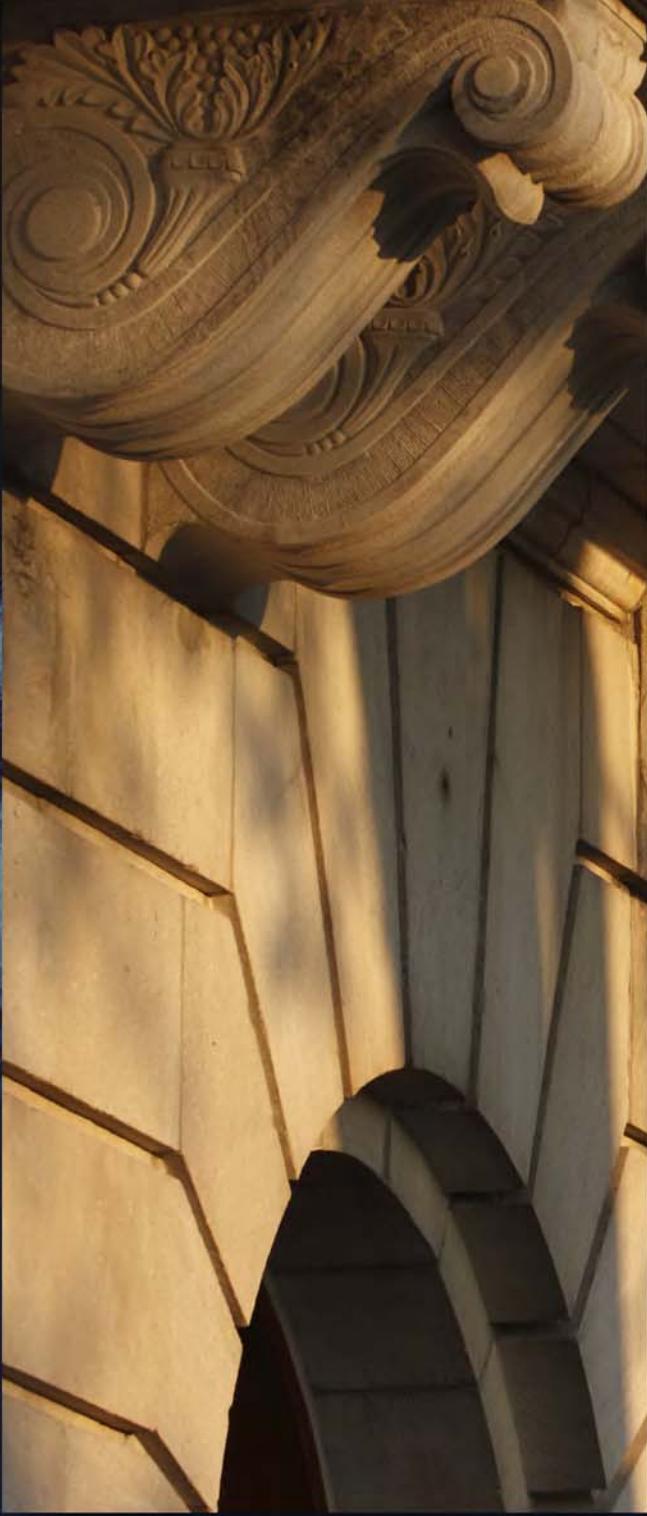
**Information**  
Telephone: 418-643-8785  
Fax: 418-528-6022  
laboutique@assnat.qc.ca

\* Subject to change without notice



June 2011





**National Assembly of Québec**

Parliament Building  
Québec (Québec) G1A 1A3

[assnat.qc.ca](http://assnat.qc.ca)  
[accueil@assnat.qc.ca](mailto:accueil@assnat.qc.ca)  
1-866-337-8837