



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 22 March 2005 — No. 130

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Michel Bissonnet**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.02 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Motions

The Assembly held the debate on the motion arising out of the tabling by Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, on 9 March 2005, of the International Agreement on Social Security between the Government of Québec and the Government of the Hellenic Republic.

This motion reads as follows:

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly approve the International Agreement on Social Security between the Government of Québec and the Government of the Hellenic Republic.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the debate on this motion: 10 minutes shall be set aside for the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups will share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group will be added to that of the other group, while any time not used by the independent Members may be redistributed equally among the two parliamentary groups, and individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried. Accordingly, this commitment was approved.

At 11.22 o'clock a.m., at the request of Mr. Mulcair, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

22 March 2005

The proceedings resumed at 2.05 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, tabled the following:

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Montagnais Council of Lac-Saint-Jean, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1660-20050322)

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Algonquins of Barrier Lake, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1661-20050322)

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Atikamekw Council of Manawan, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1662-20050322)

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1663-20050322)

Mr. Audet, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

Volumes I and II of the public accounts of the Government of Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004 (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 1664-20050322)

22 March 2005

Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The 2003-2004 report on the complaints examination procedure of the Montréal Local Health and Social Services Network Development Agency.

(Sessional Paper No. 1665-20050322)

The activity report on the fight against West Nile Virus, 2004 season.

(Sessional Paper No. 1666-20050322)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The annual report of the Auditor General of Québec on the examination of the consolidated financial statements of the Government of Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1667-20050322)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the modernization of low-cost housing facilities, and signed by 107 citizens from the riding of Rivière-du-Loup.

(Sessional Paper No. 1668-20050322)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Grondin (Beauce-Nord) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the modernization of low-cost housing facilities, and signed by 83 citizens from the riding of Beauce-Nord.

(Sessional Paper No. 1669-20050322)

22 March 2005

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Valois (Joliette) tabled the following:

Copy of a document, dated 11 March 2005, listing the names and photographs of employees of the Premier's office, the Government House Leader's office and the Chief Government Whip's office .

(Sessional Paper No. 1670-20050322)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Bédard (Chicoutimi) tabled the following:

Copy of a document from the Ministère des Ressources naturelles, dated 16 July 1999, entitled "Impacts économiques découlant d'un arrêt de l'exploitation forestière sur le territoire de la Convention de la Baie James et du Nord québécois".

(Sessional Paper No. 1671-20050322)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly immediately took Notices of Proceedings in Committees.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 145, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 83, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions;

22 March 2005

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations with reference to the document entitled "The Energy Sector in Québec – Context, Issues and Questions".

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 40th anniversary of the signing, on 27 February 1965, of the cooperation agreement between Québec and France on an exchange and cooperation programme in the education sector, which established the Commission permanente de coopération franco-québécoise, and that the Members of the National Assembly thus express their attachment to the friendship and cooperation between Québec and France.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

At the end of his address, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Turp (Mercier) tabled the following:

Copy of the cooperation agreement between Québec and France on an exchange and cooperation programme in the education sector, signed 27 February 1965.
(Sessional Paper No. 1672-20050322)

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Dufour (René-Lévesque) and Mr. Lessard, Minister of Labour, jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly express its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Marie-Josée Lemieux, first woman president of the Québec United Food and Commercial Workers Local 503.

22 March 2005

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, the Assembly then observed a minute of silence.

Mrs. Thériault, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was held yesterday, 21 March 2005.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Gabias (Trois-Rivières) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark World Poetry Day.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Tremblay (Lac-Saint-Jean) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark World Day for Water on 22 March and that, on this occasion, it reaffirm its commitment towards the principles of protection and conservation, and that it acknowledge water as an invaluable resource that is part of our collective heritage.

22 March 2005

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Culture shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the issues concerning cultural diversity;
- the Committee on Public Administration shall hear the Deputy Minister of Employment, Social Solidarity and Families, concerning Chapter 5, Volume II, of the Auditor General's report, entitled "Quality of performance information"; the Committee will subsequently hold a deliberative meeting to further discuss this hearing;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment will meet within the framework of the examination of the orientation, activities and management of the Agence métropolitaine de transports and of the examination of its 2002 and 2003 annual reports and financial statements; the Committee will hold a deliberative meeting to prepare this hearing.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 23 March 2005, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mrs. Doyer (Matapédia). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec require the tabling, before 31 March 2005, of all Government measures required to give effect to the Coulombe report in its entirety, which report advocates concurrence in the implementation of its principal recommendations, particularly the establishment of a strategy to minimize the impacts on employment and on local communities.

22 March 2005

ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 4.15 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Mulcair, Deputy Government House Leader, Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6.00 o'clock p.m.

Debates Upon Adjournment

At 6.02 o'clock p.m., the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mrs. Marois (Taillon) to Mr. Fournier, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, about the impact of cutbacks in financial assistance to students on the millennium scholarship agreement;
- the second, on a question by Mr. Bédard (Chicoutimi) to Mr. Marcoux, Minister of Justice, about the mandate he gave to his attorney during the Gomery inquiry hearings.

At 6.26 o'clock p.m., Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 23 March 2005, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

22 March 2005

ROYAL ASSENT

On Tuesday, 22 March 2005, at 11.20 o'clock a.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mrs. Giguère, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Paul-Arthur Gendreau, Administrator of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bills:

- 71 An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions applicable to forest management activities

- 91 An Act to authorize certain appropriations necessary for the administration of the Government from 1 April 2005

MICHEL BISSONNET

President