



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 31 March 2009 — No. 13

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Yvon Vallières**

QUÉBEC

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Simard (Richelieu), Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Girard (Gouin).

At 12.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.07 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

203 An Act respecting the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec
 and the Fabrique de la paroisse de Saint-Dominique de Québec

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 129-20090331)

Mr. Bernier (Montmorency) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 203, An Act respecting the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec and the Fabrique de la paroisse de Saint-Dominique de Québec.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 203 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Culture and that the Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

This motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, tabled the following:

A notice from the Commission des biens culturels du Québec, concerning the classification of Windsor Station;

(Sessional Paper No. 130-20090331)

A notice from the Commission des biens culturels du Québec, concerning the classification of Habitat 67.

(Sessional Paper No. 131-20090331)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The 2009-2010 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2008-2009 financial statement of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 132-20090331)

The 2009-2010 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2008-2009 financial statement of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 133-20090331)

The 2009-2013 strategic plans of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec and of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec, accompanied by their Joint Declaration of Services to Citizens;

(Sessional Paper No. 134-20090331)

The following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 26 March 2009:

Decision 1449 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial and administrative management and other regulatory provisions (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative et autres dispositions réglementaires);

(Sessional Paper No. 135-20090331)

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Decision 1450 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial and administrative management (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative).

(Sessional Paper No. 136-20090331)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Mr. Kotto (Bourget), Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark World Theatre Day, which is held each year on 27 March, and pay tribute to those who, in Québec and throughout the world, make this form of artistic expression come alive.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Mr. Kotto (Bourget), Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate all of the finalists, as well as the winners of the Jutra awards, who were rewarded at the gala event held on Sunday, 29 March.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Ratthé (Blainville), Mr. Bachand, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, and Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Québec Retail Trade Week and salute the holding of the 9th Annual Retail Trade Convention which takes place in Montréal on 30 and 31 March 2009.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, Mrs. Champagne (Champlain), Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT this Assembly mark the holding, from 28 March to 4 April 2009, of Québec Adult Learners Week and salute the efforts made by thousands of adults throughout Québec who have undertaken training;

THAT this Assembly thank all of the stakeholders and partners of adult education and professional development who, for years, have combined their efforts to constantly improve the quality and scope of services provided to the population;

THAT this Assembly also mark the work carried out by the Institut de coopération pour l'éducation des adultes, coordinator of the event.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

WHEREAS Québec was the first province to harmonize with the Federal goods and services tax (GST) in the early 1990s;

WHEREAS since then, three Atlantic provinces have harmonized with the GST in 1997 and have received compensation for this from the Federal Government totalling close to 1 billion dollars;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario announced that it would harmonize its sales tax with the GST beginning on 1 July 2010;

WHEREAS the Federal Government will grant a 4.3 billion dollar compensation to Ontario for this harmonization, an amount that is justified in the Canada-Ontario memorandum of understanding particularly owing to the desire to stimulate economic growth and job creation, and the Federal Government will administer this new provincial tax free of charge on behalf of Ontario;

WHEREAS the Ontario sales tax will be very similar to the Québec sales tax (QST) since certain goods, such as books, will not be subject to the provincial tax and that input tax refunds in Ontario may be identical to those agreed to by Québec for an 8-year period;

WHEREAS Ontario is the fourth province to receive compensation from the Federal Government as part of the harmonization of the provincial and federal sales taxes, while Québec has not received any compensation to this day even though it was the first province to harmonize its sales tax;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Assembly ask the Federal Government to treat Québec justly and equitably, by granting compensation that is comparable to that offered to Ontario for the harmonization of its sales tax with the GST, which would represent an amount of 2.6 billion dollars for Québec.

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The question was put on this motion; a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **5** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Curzi (Borduas), Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly pay homage to the persons and organizations having won renown at the recent Mérites et Francopub 2009 evening last 25 March within the framework of the 13th Francofête under the theme "Imagine tomorrow in French".

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, Mr. St-Arnaud (Chambly) and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec demand the maintaining of the firearms registry, including hunting weapons, and denounce Private Bill C-301 introduced by the Federal Member for Yorkton-Melville, Garry Breitkreuz, which dilutes the application and scope thereof.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to conclude its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 25, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, to conclude its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 6, An Act to establish a seniors caregiver support fund;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 7, An Act to establish an early childhood development fund;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech.

Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting to organize its proceedings and to examine the financial commitments of the ministries and public bodies;
- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting to prepare the hearing with the Auditor General of Québec.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 288, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the interpellation scheduled to be held on Friday, 3 April 2009, would be held on Monday, 6 April 2009.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Simard (Richelieu), Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Girard (Gouin).

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for having let the agricultural community down by systematically refusing to increase the budget of La Financière agricole du Québec, which has been of 300 million dollars for the past 7 years, and which will cause the organization to face a deficit of more than 1.2 billion dollars in 2009.

The debate continued on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Simard (Richelieu), Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Girard (Gouin) and Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville).

Thirteen hours and thirty minutes having elapsed since Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, began the Budget Speech, the debate thereon was suspended in the Assembly to be resumed by the Committee on Public Finance, in compliance with the provisions of Standing Order 275.

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Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 12 March 2009, on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Charest, Premier, at the sitting of Tuesday, 10 March 2009, and on the want of confidence motions by Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Ferland (Ungava), Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin), Mr. Simard (Richelieu), Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean), Mr. Curzi (Borduas), Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville) and Mr. Bergeron (Verchères).

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Simard (Richelieu) to Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, about public-private partnerships;
- the second, on a question by Mr. Girard (Gouin) to Mr. Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, about the void in the Québec Parental Insurance Plan.

At 6.27 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 1 April 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

YVON VALLIÈRES

President

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved jointly by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier), concerning the harmonization of the Québec sales tax with the GST:

(Division No. 5)

YEAS - 117

Arcand	Charlebois	Kelley	Pigeon
Auclair	Chevarie	Khadir	Poirier
Aussant	Cloutier	Kotto	Ratthé
Bachand	Corbeil	Lapointe	Rebello
<i>[Arthabaska]</i>	Courchesne	Leclair	Reid
Bachand	Cousineau	L'Écuyer	Richard
<i>[Outremont]</i>	Curzi	Legault	<i>[Duplessis]</i>
Beauchamp	Deltell	Léger	Richard
Beaudoin	Diamond	Lehouillier	<i>[Marguerite-D'Youville]</i>
<i>[Mirabel]</i>	Doyer	Lemay	Robert
Beaudoin	Drainville	Lessard	Rotiroti
<i>[Rosemont]</i>	Drolet	MacMillan	Roy
Béchar	Dubourg	Malavoy	Simard
Bédard	Dufour	Maltais	<i>[Richelieu]</i>
Bergeron	Dupuis	Marcoux	Simard
Bergman	Dutil	Marois	<i>[Dubuc]</i>
Bernard	Ferland	Marsan	Sklavounos
Bernier	Gagnon-Tremblay	Matte	St-Amand
Bérubé	Gaudreault	McKay	St-Arnaud
Blais	<i>[Hull]</i>	Ménard	St-Pierre
Bolduc	Gaudreault	Moreau	Thériault
Bonnardel	<i>[Jonquière]</i>	Morin	Tomassi
Bouchard	Gautrin	Normandeau	Traversy
Boucher	Gauvreau	Ouellette	Tremblay
Bouillé	Girard	Ouimet	Trottier
Boulet	Gonthier	Pagé	Vallée
Caire	Grondin	Paquet	Vien
Carrière	Hamad	Paradis	Villeneuve
Chagnon	Hivon	Pelletier	Weil
Champagne	Houda-Pepin	<i>[Saint-Hyacinthe]</i>	Whissell
Charbonneau	Huot	Pelletier	
Charest	James	<i>[Rimouski]</i>	
Charette	Jérôme-Forget	Picard	