



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 18 March 2009 — No. 8

**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

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly resumed the debate 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) and Mr. Simard (Richelieu).

At the end of his speech, Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for its inability to resolve its multiple disputes with the Federal Government, such as the funding of postsecondary education, the reaching of agreements within the framework of the Building Canada Fund, the jurisdictional conflict regarding oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the funding of measures for persons who are not eligible for employment insurance and the financial compensation for the ice storm crisis.

At 11.58 o'clock a.m., Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First 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

Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

27 An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and
provide for increased water resource protection

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 27 was introduced in the Assembly.

Mrs. James, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

16 An Act to promote action by the Administration with respect to
cultural diversity

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 16 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Bachand, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 81-20090318)

The annual report of the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2008;

(Sessional Paper No. 82-20090318)

The annual report of the Société Innovatech du Grand Montréal, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 83-20090318)

The annual report of the Société Innovatech du Grand Montréal, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2008;

(Sessional Paper No. 84-20090318)

The annual report of the Société Innovatech Régions ressources, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 85-20090318)

The annual report of the Société Innovatech Régions ressources, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2008;

(Sessional Paper No. 86-20090318)

The annual report of the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 87-20090318)

Mr. Dutil, Minister of Revenue, tabled the following:

The activity report of the Ministère du Revenu stemming from the comparison, pairing or cross-matching of information files contained in the utilization plan, as at 31 March 2008, including an opinion from the Commission d'accès à l'information concerning this report.

(Sessional Paper No. 88-20090318)

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Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting support to community organizations, and signed by 1025 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 89-20090318)

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. Hivon (Joliette), 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 extend its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Father Fernand Lindsay;

THAT it pay tribute to this distinguished figure from Joliette and Lanaudière, who devoted fifty years of his life to instilling the love of music, first in the students of the Joliette Seminary then in those at the Joliette Cegep, in the thousands of children who benefitted from the Lanaudière Music Camp as well as in music lovers who each summer attend the concerts at the Festival international de Lanaudière; a great teacher, a fascinating, accessible and generous character, he leaves behind an impressive legacy that is the pride of the Lanaudois and, on a greater scale, of all Quebecers.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Arcand, Minister responsible for La Francophonie, Mrs. Beaudoin (Rosemont), Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the Journée internationale de la Francophonie, celebrated on 20 March;

THAT it reaffirm its attachment to the institutions of La Francophonie;

THAT it express its pride for all that Québec has accomplished within La Francophonie since its creation, particularly during the 12th Summit held in Québec City in 2008;

THAT it take the opportunity to mark the outstanding contribution of Mr. Jean-Pierre Ferland to La Francophonie.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin), Mr. Bolduc, Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Caire (La Peltre) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Epilepsy Month and underline the work carried out by the Association québécoise de l'épilepsie whose aim is to change attitudes and increase awareness regarding epilepsy within Québec's population, in which there are approximately 45,000 epileptic persons.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. James, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, Mr. Bouchard (Vachon), Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which will be held next 21 March.

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. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier), Mr. Bouchard (Vachon), Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) and jointly moved:

THAT as Friday, 20 March, nears, the National Assembly mark the presence and contribution of several tens of thousands of Quebecers native of Iran, Kurdistan, Afghanistan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as of our fellow Bahai and Zoroastrian Parsis countrymen who celebrate Naw Ruz, the New Day which falls on the spring equinox.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 25, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act, the Committee on Labour and the Economy hold special consultations and public hearings on 25, 26 and 31 March 2009 and that, for this purpose, it hear the following groups:

- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux
- Centrale des syndicats du Québec
- Centrale des syndicats démocratiques
- Syndicat canadien de la fonction publique
- Conseil du statut de la femme
- Conseil québécois du commerce de détail

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- Conseil d'intervention pour l'accès des femmes au travail
- Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business
- Conseil du patronat du Québec
- Mouvement des caisses Desjardins
- Fédération des femmes du Québec

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

The presentation by each group shall not last more than 10 minutes and the exchange with the members of the Committee shall not last more than 50 minutes, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

The Minister of Labour shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Culture shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings;
- the Committee on Education shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

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At the end of her speech, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mrs. Lapointe (Crémazie) tabled the following:

An excerpt, dated 9 March 2009, of comments made by Mr. Pierre Duguay, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada, within the framework of the proceedings of a parliamentary committee in Ottawa, concerning asset-backed commercial papers.

(Sessional Paper No. 90-20090318)

The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the want of confidence motions.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Curzi (Borduas) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for its lack of a true desire to reduce the drop-out rate and its failure to meet the commitment made during the opening speech of 2003.

The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session 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) and Mr. Curzi (Borduas).

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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 its chaotic management of the listeriosis crisis and for the lack of concrete assistance measures for artisan producers to remedy this situation in the opening address of the Premier.

The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session 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) and Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville).

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 19 March 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

YVON VALLIÈRES

President