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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Wednesday, 11 March 2009 — No. 5**

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

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**QUÉBEC**



The Assembly was called to order at 10.06 o'clock a.m.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### Business Having Precedence

#### *Opening Speech Debate of the Session*

Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, commenced the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Charest, Premier, at the sitting of Tuesday, 10 March 2009.

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Premier for his inability to exercise the leadership that Quebecers expect with regard to the historic losses of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec and for his refusal to allow the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the Caisse, to appear in committee.

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At 11.05 o'clock a.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 11.15 o'clock a.m.

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Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. President announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to the Opening Speech Debate: 60 minutes shall be allotted for a reply by the Government delegate; 1 hour and 33 minutes shall be allotted to the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique; 20 minutes shall be set aside for the Member for Mercier; both parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be added to that of the other group; any time not used by the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique shall be added to that of the Member for Mercier, while any time not used by the Member for Mercier shall be added to that of the independent Members affiliated with the Action démocratique; any time not used by the independent Members as a whole shall be redistributed equally among the parliamentary groups; and individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited.

The debate continued on the Opening Speech and on the want of confidence motion by Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition.

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

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for its lack of vision and absence of strategy enabling Quebecers to emerge stronger from the economic crisis that is currently prevailing.

The debate continued on the Opening Speech on the want of confidence motions moved by Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière).

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

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THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for its stubborn pursuit of public-private partnership projects that are ineffective and more costly to taxpayers, more particularly the CHUM, the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, the OSM concert hall and the Turcot interchange projects.

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At 12.01 o'clock p.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.09 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

Mr. President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 6 March 2009, he had received from Mr. Mario Dumont, Member for Rivière-du-Loup, informing him of his resignation as Member for this electoral division and as Leader of the Action démocratique du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 36-20090311)

A letter, dated 6 March 2009, he had received from Messrs. Janvier Grondin, Member for Beauce-Nord, Gérard Deltell, Member for Chauveau, Marc Picard, Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, Éric Caire, Member for La Peltre, and François Bonnardel, Member for Shefford, informing him of the appointment of Mrs. Sylvie Roy, Member for Lotbinière, as interim Leader of the Action démocratique du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 37-20090311)

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**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**Introduction of Bills**

Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 8        An Act to amend the Securities Act and other legislative provisions

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 8 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Mr. Bolduc, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 14       An Act to extend the terms of office of the board members of public health and social services institutions

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 14 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Mrs. Weil, Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 3        An Act to provide for the implementation of the Entente entre le Québec et la France en matière de reconnaissance mutuelle des qualifications professionnelles and similar agreements

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 3 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Mrs. Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

6        An Act to establish a seniors caregiver support fund

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 6 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Mr. Tomassi, Minister of Families, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

7        An Act to establish an early childhood development fund

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 7 was introduced in the Assembly.

### **Presenting Papers**

Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, 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 2008, French and English versions.

(Sessional Paper No. 38-20090311)

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

The agreement on the provision of police services in the Odanak and Wôlinak communities for the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2010, between the Odanak Band Council, the Abenaki Band Council of Wôlinak, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and the Government of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 39-20090311)

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Mr. Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Comité Entraide, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 40-20090311)

The financial statements of the Comité Entraide, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 41-20090311)

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Mrs. James, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, tabled the following:

Québec's immigration plan for 2009.

(Sessional Paper No. 42-20090311)

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Mr. Tomassi, Minister of Families, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 43-20090311)

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Mr. President tabled the following:

A message from Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, in honour of Commonwealth Day on Monday, 9 March 2009;

(Sessional Paper No. 44-20090311)

A letter, dated 29 January 2009, he had received from Mr. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, in answer to the unanimous motion of the Assembly that was sent to the House of Commons on 15 January 2009, concerning the Federal Government's actions with regard to the economic crisis;

(Sessional Paper No. 45-20090311)



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A letter, dated 6 February 2009, he had received from Mr. Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada, in answer to the unanimous motion of the Assembly that was sent to the Senate on 15 January 2009, concerning the Federal Government's actions with regard to the economic crisis;

(Sessional Paper No. 46-20090311)

A letter, dated 10 February 2009, he had received from Mr. André C. Côté, Lobbyists Commissioner, informing him of his decision to retire and thus resign from his office of Lobbyists Commissioner on 6 July 2009;

(Sessional Paper No. 47-20090311)

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 10 March 2009.

(Sessional Paper No. 48-20090311)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mr. Simard (Richelieu), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Administration, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 49-20090311)

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Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Institutions, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 50-20090311)

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Mr. Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Finance, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 51-20090311)

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Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 52-20090311)

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Mr. Ouimet (Marquette), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 53-20090311)

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Mr. Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 54-20090311)

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Mrs. Malavoy (Taillon), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 55-20090311)

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Mr. Marsan (Robert-Baldwin), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Education, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 56-20090311)

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Mr. Bernier (Montmorency), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Culture, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 57-20090311)

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Mr. Legault (Rousseau), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which met on 15 January 2009 to elect its chairman and vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 58-20090311)

### **Presenting Petitions**

The abstracts of two petitions respecting financial support to community projects in non profit community-owned housing were tabled:

— the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 40 citizens of Québec, by Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean);

(Sessional Paper No. 59-20090311)

— the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 16 citizens of Saint-Bruno, by Mr. St-Arnaud (Chambly).

(Sessional Paper No. 60-20090311)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Ouimet (Marquette) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting financial support to community projects in non profit community-owned housing, and signed by 45 residents of H.F. Malo house.

(Sessional Paper No. 61-20090311)

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### **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. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Dr. Camille Laurin, father of the Charter of the French Language, one of the most important pieces of legislation in Québec's history.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mr. Caire (La Peltre) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly express its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Thérèse Lavoie-Roux and pay her a final tribute by recognizing her outstanding contribution to the social development of Québec; she was the first woman to hold the office of Minister of Health and Social Services; Mrs. Lavoie-Roux will have been a pioneer for an entire generation of women committed to the public interest.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. 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. Kotto (Bourget), Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, and Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly express its condolences to the family and friends of great Québec writer André Langevin;

THAT it pay tribute to the man and his outstanding contribution to Québec literature and culture.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. 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. Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides), Mrs. Richard (Marguerite-D'Youville), Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Community Loan Day, this 11 March 2009, recognizing the contribution of original Québec microcredit as a solution to the crisis, as a development tool for persons and communities, as a means of socially responsible and ethical investment, and as an economic development tool, while the Réseau québécois du crédit communautaire and its 22 members have granted over 5.5 million dollars in loans that enabled the establishment and maintaining of 2330 jobs with a business survival rate of 73% after 5 years.

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. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec mark International Women's Day, which was held last 8 March;

THAT it reaffirm the importance of equality among men and women and the progress that has been achieved in this regard.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Boulet, Minister of Transport, Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) and Mr. Grondin (Beauce-Nord) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Contrôle routier Québec and the contribution made by this agency associated with the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec; Contrôle routier Québec plays a critical role in highway safety, ensuring the protection of our road network and providing greater equity among carriers of passengers and goods.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Following the decision by Mr. Mario Dumont to resign as Member for Rivière-du-Loup and as Leader of the Action démocratique du Québec, Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière), Mr. Caire (La Peltre), Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Charest, Premier, made a few comments.

Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, also made a few comments.

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**Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Business Having Precedence**

*Opening Speech Debate of the Session*

The Assembly continued 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) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier).

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At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 12 March 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

**YVON VALLIÈRES**

*President*