



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 1 April 2008 — No. 64

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.01 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 20 March 2008, 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) and Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine).

At the end of his speech, Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly condemn the Liberal Government for not ensuring the financing required by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to cover system costs.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin);

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

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The proceedings resumed at 2.04 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. President tabled the following:

The 2008-2009 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2007-2008 financial statement of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 864-20080401)

The 2008-2009 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2007-2008 financial statement of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 865-20080401)

Decision 1416 from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 20 March 2008, concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting Members' allowances (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les allocations aux députés);

(Sessional Paper No. 866-20080401)

The calendar for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure, which will be carried out from Thursday, 10 April 2008 until Friday, 25 April 2008 inclusively, as agreed to during a meeting with the House leaders.

(Sessional Paper No. 867-20080401)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, on behalf of Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Mr. Charest, Premier, and Mr. Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition, jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly extend its deepest condolences to the family, colleagues and friends of the captain of the Acadien II, Mr. Bruno Bourque, and of his two crewmen, Mr. Marc-André Deraspe and Mr. Gilles Leblanc, who perished at sea off the coast of Nova Scotia, as well as to the family, colleagues and friends of Mr. Carl Auclair, who was lost at sea in this tragedy that took place last weekend.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

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. Fournier, Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

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- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 60, An Act to amend the Police Act.

Motions Without Notice

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

THAT the National Assembly mark the 10th anniversary of the Commission des lésions professionnelles;

THAT it reaffirm the essential role of this court of last resort, which provides workers and employers with the possibility of setting forth their rights regarding occupational health and safety;

THAT it express its gratitude to all of the personnel and partners of the Commission.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau), Mr. Couillard, Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region, and Mr. Benoit (Montmorency) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the organizers and welcome the participants of the 2008 CARHA Hockey World Cup, which is taking place from 30 March to 6 April, and which will be hosting, in Québec City during this year of celebration, over 170 teams of adult recreational hockey players hailing from 12 countries.

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. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Mrs. Leblanc (Deux-Montagnes) and Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec mark the 8th edition of Invisible Work Day, this AFEAS initiative which recognizes the unpaid work performed mostly by women to help children and loved ones who are losing their autonomy.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Trottier (Roberval), Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, and Mr. Légaré (Vanier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the Village sur glace team of Roberval that is representing Québec at the Hockeyville 2008 competition, which aims to select the most spirited hockey community;

THAT it invite the entire population of Québec to support the community of Roberval with their votes.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Légaré (Vanier), Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, and Mr. Bérubé (Matane) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark the presence of 11 Québec teams at the 18th edition of the Aïcha des gazelles, which was held in Morocco last 17 to 29 March, and that the National Assembly congratulate the Québec Gazelles who set off into the Moroccan desert by automobile, without a GPS, courageously braving the mysteries of the desert.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mr. Simard (Richelieu) moved a motion concerning the pension plan of certain retirees; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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

THAT the National Assembly mark Daffodil Days, which will be held this year from 3 to 6 April, thus launching Cancer Awareness Month.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Pagé (Labelle), Mr. Reid (Orford) and Mr. Roy (Montmagny-L'Islet) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 70th anniversary of the creation of Mont Orford National Park;

THAT it reiterate the importance of preserving Québec's national parks by maintaining their publicness.

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By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech.

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

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment shall hold a deliberative meeting to establish the Committee's observations, recommendations and conclusions on residual material management in Québec;
- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting to prepare, with the Auditor General, the hearing with the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, the Director General of the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sainte-Justine, the Associate Secretary General of the Conseil exécutif and the Executive Director of the management committee for projects to modernize the university hospital centres of Montréal, concerning the watch over major capital assets projects of the Government; the Committee will then hold a public meeting to hear these administrators.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 2 April 2008, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest). This motion reads as follows:

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THAT the National Assembly demand the immediate tabling of all salary agreements made between the Premier of Québec and the Québec Liberal Party in the past ten years.

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. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin).

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.

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 62, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie des installations olympiques.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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At 5.10 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 5.30 o'clock p.m.

Debates Upon Adjournment

At 5.30 o'clock p.m., by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 309, the Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Riedl (Iberville) to Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, about the firing of Bruno Fortier;
- the second, on a question by Mr. Curzi (Borduas) to Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, about the distribution of author movies in Québec movie theaters;
- the third, on a question by Mr. Camirand (Prévost) to Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, about ambulance coverage in Saint-Jérôme.

At 6.04 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 2 April 2008, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President