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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Thursday, 20 March 2008 — No. 63**

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

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**QUÉBEC**



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

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Business Having Precedence**

*Debate on the Budget Speech*

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 19 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).

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At 11.57 o'clock a.m., Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.06 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**Presenting Papers**

Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, tabled the following:

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The annual report of the Comité sur les affaires religieuses, for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 855-20080320)

The annual management report of the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial, for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 856-20080320)

The Strategic Plan 2007-2011 of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation;

(Sessional Paper No. 857-20080320)

The five-year university investment plan for the period of 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2012.

(Sessional Paper No. 858-20080320)

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Mr. President tabled the following:

The resolutions book from the session of the Parlement francophone des jeunes which took place in Libreville, Gabon, from 3 to 6 July 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 859-20080320)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which met on 18 March 2008 for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 62, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie des installations olympiques. The report contains certain amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 860-20080320)

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

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 19 March 2008, heard the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale.

(Sessional Paper No. 861-20080320)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Camirand (Prévost) tabled the following:

A copy of a press release, issued on 19 March 2008, by the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux des Laurentides, concerning the emergency rooms of Saint-Eustache and Saint-Jérôme hospitals.

(Sessional Paper No. 862-20080320)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mrs. Lapointe (Crémazie) tabled the following:

Documents concerning the payment of child support in Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 863-20080320)

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 general consultation with reference to the evaluation report of the *Act to reform the Code of Civil Procedure* and the report on strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP).

### **Motions Without Notice**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, Mr. Riedl (Iberville) and Mr. Curzi (Borduas) 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 in the holding of the Sommet de la Francophonie in Québec City in 2008.

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. Roy (Lotbinière), Mr. Gauthrin (Verdun) and Mr. Cousineau (Bertrand) jointly moved:

THAT on the occasion of the Journée internationale de la Francophonie, the National Assembly mark the adoption, by unanimous vote, of the resolutions book produced by the young Members participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Parlement francophone des jeunes held in Libreville, Gabon from 3 to 6 July 2007.

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, Mr. Benjamin (Berthier) and Mr. Curzi (Borduas) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark World Theatre Day,  
to take place on 27 March 2008.

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. James, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg) and Mr. Lemay (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Action Week  
Against Racism, held from 20 to 30 March. Over the years,  
AWAR has become one of the most significant activities to  
educate the Québec public about intercultural relations.

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. Benjamin (Berthier), Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, and Mr. Curzi (Borduas) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the Journée  
mondiale du conte;

THAT on this occasion, it stress the important place  
occupied by folk tales in the history and collective imagination  
of Quebecers;

THAT it underscore the work of all storytellers who,  
with every tale they weave, allow us to enter the world of  
imagination.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Caire (La Peltrie), Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, and Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Down Syndrome Day;

THAT it encourage research and development in the areas of medicine, teaching and social support for persons with Down Syndrome.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. L'Écuyer (Saint-Hyacinthe) and Mr. Côté (Dubuc) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the Semaine québécoise des travailleuses sociales et des travailleurs sociaux, to take place from 23 to 29 March 2008, in order to recognize the essential contribution of social workers as health, social services and human relations professionals.

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. Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors, Mrs. Grandmont (Masson) and Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Meals on Wheels Week, taking place from 16 to 22 March, in order to pay tribute to the 16,000 senior volunteers who are on the job every day to prepare and deliver one million meals a year, thereby contributing to the enhancement of the day-to-day living conditions of seniors.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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

THAT the National Assembly mark the feat, unequalled by a Canadian biathlete in 20 years, accomplished by Marc-André Bédard who captured gold at the Biathlon European Cup on 12 March in Sansicario, Italy. The Québec City biathlete won the honours in the 10km sprint final, joining the two other Canadian winners of the European Cup, Myriam Bédard and Sandra Keith. The National Assembly congratulates Marc-André Bédard for his victory and wishes him the best of luck in upcoming national and international competition, particularly the Canadian Championships to be held later this month in British Columbia.

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. Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion), Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg) and Mr. Lemay (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly the National Assembly mark Greek Independence Day, celebrated on 25 March;

THAT it recognize the exceptional contribution of the Greek diaspora of Québec to the building of a just and prosperous French-speaking society in the Americas.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Diamond (Marguerite-D'Youville), Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, and Mr. Trottier (Roberval) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark World Water Day;

THAT on this occasion, it awake to the importance of this precious resource and to Québec's good fortune of being so amply endowed with it.

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 Committees:

- the Committee on Institutions, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 60, An Act to amend the Police Act;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 61, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec and the Act respecting the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage.

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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 make observations, recommendations and conclusions on the management of residual material 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 shall hold a public meeting to hear those administrators.

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### **Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly**

Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the interpellation scheduled for Friday, 21 March 2008, between Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) and Mr. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, on "The state of public security in Québec", will be held on Friday, 4 April 2008.

Then, Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the interpellation scheduled for Friday, 28 March 2008, between Mr. Simard (Richelieu) and Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, on "The 2007-2008 report of the Auditor General of Québec", will be deferred until a later date.

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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) and Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine).

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, adjourned the debate.

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**Debates Upon Adjournment**

The Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Roy (Montmagny-L'Islet) to Mr. Bachand, Minister of Tourism, about the development of cruises on the Lower North Shore;
- the second, on a question by Mr. Camirand (Prévost) to Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the Saint-Jérôme hospital.

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Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Tuesday, 1 April 2008, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 6.28 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 1 April 2008, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

**MICHEL BISSONNET**

*President*