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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 11 March 2008 — No. 58**

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

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**QUÉBEC**



The Assembly was called to order at 10.07 o'clock a.m.

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## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **Debates on Reports from Committees**

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Administration, which heard the following: the Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks and the chief executive officer of Recyc-Québec, concerning residual materials (chapter 5, volume II, 2005-2006 report of the Auditor General of Québec); the Deputy Minister of Transport, concerning the Ministry's 2005-2006 annual management report; and the chief executive officer of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, concerning the Conseil's 2005-2006 annual management report. This report contains recommendations.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: the time will be distributed among the parliamentary groups, who will have a time envelope that corresponds to the proportion of seats they respectively have in the Assembly; any time not used by a group will be transferred to the two other groups, in accordance with the proportion of seats they hold; and individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

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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 2.05 o'clock p.m.

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At the request of Mr. President, the Assembly observed a moment of reflection in memory of Mr. Denis Lazure, Member for Chambly from 1976 to 1981, for Bertrand from 1981 to 1984, and for La Prairie from 1989 to 1994, who passed away on 23 February 2008.

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Presenting Papers**

Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, tabled the following:

The report on the implementation of the *Act respecting the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*.

(Sessional Paper No. 795-20080311)

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Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 796-20080311)

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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 10 March;

(Sessional Paper No. 797-20080311)

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A letter, dated 19 February 2008, he had received from Mr. Mario Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition, informing him of the appointment of Mrs. Catherine Morissette, the Member for Charlesbourg, as member of the Subcommittee on Parliamentary Reform;

(Sessional Paper No. 798-20080311)

Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, moved that this appointment to the Subcommittee on Parliamentary Reform be adopted.

The motion was carried.

The report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec on the implementation of section 90.5 of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* concerning the decision taken within the framework of the by-election held on 16 December 2007 in the city of Montréal;

(Sessional Paper No. 799-20080311)

The report on the implementation of the *Act respecting the Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance*;

(Sessional Paper No. 800-20080311)

Legislative Act No. 3, An Act to promote healthy living among young Quebecers, adopted by the members of the Young People's Parliament on 15 February 2008;

(Sessional Paper No. 801-20080311)

The following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 13 December 2007:

Decision 1398 concerning the regulation respecting the reinstatement of Mr. Stéphane Dolbec in the public service (Règlement concernant la réintégration de monsieur Stéphane Dolbec au sein de la fonction publique);

(Sessional Paper No. 802-20080311)

Decision 1400 concerning the regulation respecting Members' allowances (Règlement sur les allocations aux députés);

(Sessional Paper No. 803-20080311)

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Copy of the notice of motion by Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg) which will be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 12 March 2008, under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.  
(Sessional Paper No. 804-20080311)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mrs. Thériault (Anjou), committee chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Institutions, which, on 30 and 31 January 2008, held public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 54, An Act to amend the Police Act and other legislative provisions.  
(Sessional Paper No. 805-20080311)

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

The report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 12, 13, 14, 19 and 20 February 2008, held public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 63, An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms;  
(Sessional Paper No. 806-20080311)

The reports from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 22, 23, 30 and 31 January 2008, heard the following health and social services agencies within the framework of the examination of their annual management reports for 2003-2004 to 2006-2007, under section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*:

- Estrie;  
(Sessional Paper No. 807-20080311)
- Outaouais;  
(Sessional Paper No. 808-20080311)
- Bas-Saint-Laurent;  
(Sessional Paper No. 809-20080311)
- Chaudière-Appalaches;  
(Sessional Paper No. 810-20080311)

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The report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 23 January 2008, heard the Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec Health and Social Services Agency, within the framework of the examination of its annual management reports for 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, under section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*;

(Sessional Paper No. 811-20080311)

The report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 30 January 2008, heard the Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James, within the framework of the examination of its annual management reports for 2000-2001 to 2006-2007, under section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*.

(Sessional Paper No. 812-20080311)

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

A report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which, on 19, 20 and 26 February 2008, held public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the report of the Minister of Labour on the implementation of the *Pay Equity Act*.

(Sessional Paper No. 813-20080311)

### **Presenting Petitions**

Mr. Beaupré (Joliette) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the application of a section of the *Animal Health Protection Act* by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and signed by 21 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 814-20080311)

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

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The abstract of a petition respecting religious teaching in schools, and signed by 80 citizens from the Eastern Townships.

(Sessional Paper No. 815-20080311)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the financing of the family community organizations of Québec, and signed by 13 citizens from the riding of Lac-Saint-Jean.

(Sessional Paper No. 816-20080311)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Benjamin (Berthier) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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

### **Motions Without Notice**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Charest, Premier, Mr. Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Québec City, by recognizing four centuries of French presence on American soil, as well as the contribution of the pioneers and builders who developed the unique personality of this historical and modern city.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.



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The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Charest, Premier, jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly take advantage of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the fleurdelisé as Québec's national flag to express our pride in being Quebecers;

THAT it invite the entire population to proudly display Québec's colours.

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. 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 International Women's Day, which was held last 8 March.

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, Mr. Pelletier, Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information, Mr. Morin (Beauce-Sud) and Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize the courage and commitment of the members of the Armed Forces and the Québec and Canadian humanitarian workers currently deployed in Afghanistan;

THAT it reiterate its support to the families of these women and men who await the return of a loved one;

THAT it express its gratitude to those who returned from a mission, as well as to their families, and mark their participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan;

THAT it salute the bravery and sacrifice of the Québec soldiers who fell in combat: Corporal Étienne Gonthier, Corporal Richard Renaud, Corporal Éric Labbé, Warrant Officer Hani Massouh, and Gunner Jonathan Dion. These soldiers gave their lives to promote liberty, the respect of human rights and democracy.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Picard, Third 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. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière), Mr. Côté (Dubuc), Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) and Mr. MacMillan (Papineau) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly express its deepest condolences to the family, colleagues and friends of Mr. Mathieu Émond, fire fighter with the Service de sécurité incendie de la Ville de Varennes, and of Mr. André Manseau, fire fighter with the Service de sécurité incendie de la municipalité de Val-des-Monts, both of whom died tragically last 4 and 9 March in carrying out their duties.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Picard, Third 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. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) and Mr. Côté (Dubuc) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly express the gratitude of the parliamentarians to the numerous police officers, ambulance attendants, fire fighters, first responders, civil protection representatives and more particularly the volunteers, as well as all other persons who provided assistance, for their work during the storm that struck Québec last Saturday, 8 March. The population appreciated the precious help provided by these front-line workers to ensure its safety.

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:

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THAT the National Assembly congratulate all of the artists and artisans of the Québec motion picture industry who were nominated or who received an award at the Jutra awards ceremony, last 9 March.

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. Benoit (Montmorency), Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, and Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parc technologique du Québec, which is a leading economic player in the implementation and development of a thriving business community set apart by its knowledge, innovation and openness on the world.

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. Taillon (Chauveau), Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, and Mr. Legault (Rousseau) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Fraud Prevention Month and that it remind investors to always be prudent when entrusting their savings.

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. De Martin (Huntingdon), Mr. Lessard, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark International Potato Year;

THAT it recognize the important role of this vegetable in agriculture generally.

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. Bouchard (Vachon) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark International Year of Planet Earth;

THAT it reaffirm the importance of acting in a perspective of sustainable development, in order to preserve the quality and well-being of its inhabitants.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

### **Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

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

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 50, An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions in the field of mental health and human relations.
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Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

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

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- the Committee on Education shall hold a deliberative meeting followed by a public meeting within the framework of its mandate concerning the follow-up given to the recommendations contained in its report on the school success of aboriginals.

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

Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 12 March 2008, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg).

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly demand that the Government of Québec respond to the decline in the use of French in Montréal, as stated in the report of the Office québécois de la langue française on the linguistic situation in Québec, and that it set aside the recent increase in the immigration level and re-establish the former threshold.

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## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **Debates on Reports from Committees**

The Assembly continued the debate on the consideration of the report from the Committee on Public Administration, which heard the following: the Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks and the chief executive officer of Recyc-Québec, concerning residual materials (chapter 5, volume II, 2005-2006 report of the Auditor General of Québec); the Deputy Minister of Transport, concerning the Ministry's 2005-2006 annual management report; and the chief executive officer of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, concerning the Conseil's 2005-2006 annual management report. This report contains recommendations.

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Culture, which heard the chairman of the Commission d'accès à l'information concerning the examination of the 2001-2002 to 2006-2007 annual reports. The report contains recommendations.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: the time will be distributed among the parliamentary groups, who will have a time envelope that corresponds to the proportion of seats they respectively have in the Assembly; any time not used by a group will be transferred to the two other groups, in accordance with the proportion of seats they hold; and individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

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At 5.05 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Gautrin, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 5.30 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 5.22 o'clock p.m.

### **Debates Upon Adjournment**

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. Roux (Arthabaska) to Mr. Béchard, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, about the Chantiers Chibougamau company;

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- the second, on a question by Mr. Ferland (Ungava) to Mr. Béchard, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, about Chantiers Chibougamau;
- the third, on a question by Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg) to Mrs. James, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, about the immigration issue.

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At 6.02 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 12 March 2008, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

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### **ROYAL ASSENT**

On Friday, 21 December 2007, at 2.10 o'clock p.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, and of Mrs. Mignolet, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Pierre Duchesne, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bills:

- 16 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société du Centre des congrès de Québec and the Act respecting the Société du Palais des congrès de Montréal
- 32 Act to promote the maintenance and renewal of public infrastructures (*modified title*)
- 39 An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions
- 42 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Regulation respecting demerit points
- 44 An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act and the Act respecting the Ministère des Finances
- 46 An Act to amend the Professional Code and the Chartered Accountants Act in respect of public accountancy



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- 52      An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning pension plans in the public sector
- 198     An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant
- 204     An Act respecting Ville de Lévis
- 206     An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Jérôme
- 207     An Act to amend the Act respecting Boucherville Golf Club
- 208     An Act to amend the Act respecting L'Union des municipalités de la province de Québec (Union of Municipalities of the Province of Québec)
- 209     An Act respecting Marie Francine Sonia Sophie Bisson
- 210     An Act to establish the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie
- 211     An Act to amend the Act respecting Ville de Varennes
- 212     An Act respecting Ville de Matane

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On Tuesday, 12 February 2008, at 2.17 o'clock p.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, of Mr. Turp (Mercier), the Delegate of the Second Opposition Group, and of Mrs. Giguère, Director of the Secretariat of Committees and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Pierre Duchesne, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bill:

- 197     An Act to proclaim the International Day of Peace

**MICHEL BISSONNET**

*President*