



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 6 December 2007 — No. 50

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

QUÉBEC

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

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which, on 28, 29 and 30 November as well as on 4 and 5 December 2007, held public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 42, An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Regulation respecting demerit points, and on Bill 55, An Act to again amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions.

(Sessional Paper No. 711-20071206)

Presenting Petitions

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

The abstract of a petition, signed by 315 citizens of Québec, respecting the departure of Remorquage Météor impoundment lot set up under Metropolitan Boulevard, in Montréal's Saint-Michel area, and the revitalization of this sector.

(Sessional Paper No. 712-20071206)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Reid (Orford) 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 pay tribute to the businesses awarded the Grands Prix québécois de la qualité last 15 November.

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, Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, Mr. Deschamps (Saint-Maurice) and Mr. Girard (Gouin) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec underline the 40 years of the Société d'habitation du Québec and its contribution to improving the housing conditions of Quebecers, and congratulate all of the persons who were instrumental in its success.

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. Pelletier, Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information, Mr. Proulx, Official Opposition House Leader, and Mr. Ferland (Ungava) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly honour the historic agreement-in-principle, signed last 5 December between the Government of Québec, the Makivik Corporation and the Government of Canada, which will enable the amalgamation of certain public institutions and the creation of the Nunavik Regional Government;

THAT the National Assembly reiterate its desire to continue efforts to promote, as never before, the socioeconomic development of the Inuit communities and residents of Northern Québec.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Leblanc (Deux-Montagnes), Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, and Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the National Day of Commemoration and Action Against Violence Towards Women, which is being held this 6 December, sad anniversary of Polytechnique;

THAT on this occasion, it commit to fighting violence towards women and to providing the necessary resources to those who have experienced or who have witnessed this violence.

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.

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

THAT within the framework of the consideration of Bill 39, An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions, the Committee on Labour and the Economy hold special consultations and public hearings on 12 and 13 December 2007, and that, for this purpose, it hear the following groups:

- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec
- Conseil de l'industrie forestière du Québec
- Québec Outfitters Federation Inc.
- Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec
- Association des entrepreneurs en travaux sylvicoles
- Fédération des producteurs de bois du Québec
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux
- Regroupement des sociétés d'aménagement forestier du Québec
- Conférence régionale des élus de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Conférence régionale des élus de la Côte-Nord

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally among the parliamentary group forming the Government, the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition and the Second Opposition Group;

The presentation by each group shall last no more than 15 minutes and exchanges with members of the Committee shall last no more than 45 minutes, which time shall be shared among the members as follows: 17 minutes for the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government; 15 minutes for the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; and 13 minutes for the Members of the Second Opposition Group;

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time shall be shared equally among the parliamentary group forming the Government, the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition and the Second Opposition Group;

The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife 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. Fournier, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to conclude its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 41, An Act to foster transparency in the sale of gasoline and diesel fuel;
- the Committee on Institutions, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 46, An Act to amend the Professional Code and the Chartered Accountants Act in respect of public accountancy.

Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Culture shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the follow-up to the hearing with the chairman of the Commission d'accès à l'information for the examination of the annual reports from 2001-2002 to 2006-2007, in pursuance of section 119.1 of the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information* (R.S.Q., c. A-2.1);

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of approving the working paper prepared within the framework of the order of initiative on the management of residual material.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, moved, —That Bill 59, An Act respecting the boundaries of water property in the domain of the State and the protection of wetlands along part of the Rivière Richelieu, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 59 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Whissell, Minister of Labour, moved that Bill 59 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

The motion was carried.

Passage

Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, moved the passage of Bill 56, An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried on division and, accordingly, Bill 56 was passed.

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Passage in Principle

Mr. Whissell, Minister of Labour, moved, —That Bill 58, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards with regard to absences and leave, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 58 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Whissell, Minister of Labour, moved that Bill 58 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

The motion was carried.

At 12.43 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Whissell, Minister of Labour, Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.03 o'clock p.m.

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 49, An Act to amend the Act respecting Services Québec and other legislative provisions.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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Mr. Gautrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Friday, 7 December 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 3.30 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Friday, 7 December 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President