



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 17 October 2007 — No. 27

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.03 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Taillon (Chauveau) moved:

THAT, beginning on 1 November 2007, the Committee on Public Administration clarify the application of the *Balanced Budget Act* and propose, where appropriate, before 20 December 2007 recommendations that are judged likely to correct the artificially balanced budget.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, announced that he had apportioned the speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this motion as follows: 10 minutes shall be allotted for a reply by its mover; the parliamentary group forming the Government will have 38.4% of the time to be allocated; the Official Opposition will have 32.8% of the time to be allocated; the Second Opposition Group will have 28.8% of the time to be allocated.

A debate arose on the motion by Mr. Taillon (Chauveau).

During her address, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

The agreement reached between the Auditor General of Québec and the Government, concerning a working group on government accounting (See Votes and Proceedings of 24 May 2007, Sessional Paper No. 110, 38th Legislature, 1st Session).

(Sessional Paper No. 344-20071017)

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During his address, at the request of Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, Mr. Cholette (Hull) twice withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

During his address, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Cholette (Hull) tabled the following:

Copy of a press release issued by the Official Opposition parliamentary wing, concerning the zero deficit.

(Sessional Paper No. 345-20071017)

During his reply, at the request of Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, Mr. Taillon (Chauveau) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on this motion; a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Gauthier, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the present sitting day.

At 11.55 o'clock a.m., Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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

Moment of reflection

Mrs. Lemieux (Bourget) informed the Assembly of her resignation as Member for the Electoral Division of Bourget.

Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Charest, Premier, and Mr. President made a few comments.

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ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

29 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société d'habitation du Québec

The motion was carried.

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

24 An Act to amend the Act respecting prescription drug insurance

The motion was carried.

25 An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services for Cree Native persons

The motion was carried.

26 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec and to amend other legislative provisions

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bachand, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

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- 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

The motion was carried.

Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 30 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal, the Act respecting the Société de télédiffusion du Québec and the Act respecting the Société du Grand Théâtre de Québec

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

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

The annual report of the Société québécoise d'assainissement des eaux, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 346-20071017)

Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The 2006-2007 annual reports with regard to the implementation of the complaints examination procedure and the improvement of services of the following health and social services agencies:

- Montréal; (Sessional Paper No. 347-20071017)
- Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine; (Sessional Paper No. 348-20071017)

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- Montérégie.
(Sessional Paper No. 349-20071017)

The annual management reports, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007, of the following health and social services agencies:

- Montréal;
(Sessional Paper No. 350-20071017)
- Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine;
(Sessional Paper No. 351-20071017)
- Montérégie.
(Sessional Paper No. 352-20071017)

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, the 2006-2007 annual management reports of the Montréal, Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Montérégie health and social services agencies be referred to the Committee on Social Affairs for consideration;

The Minister of Health and Social Services shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Fournier, Minister of Revenue, tabled the following:

The 2007-2008 action plan of Revenu Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 353-20071017)

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, on behalf of Mr. Dupuis, Minister of Justice and of Public Security, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Office de la protection du consommateur, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007;
(Sessional Paper No. 354-20071017)

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The agreement on the provision of police services between the Band Council of the Montagnais of Unamen Shipu and the Government of Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 355-20071017)

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Band Council of the Innu of Ekuanitshit and the Government of Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 356-20071017)

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Council of the Innu Nation of Matimekush–Lac-John and the Government of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 357-20071017)

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

The 2007-2008 action plan of the Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 358-20071017)

The annual report of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007;
(Sessional Paper No. 359-20071017)

The annual management report of Recyc-Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007.
(Sessional Paper No. 360-20071017)

Mr. Lessard, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007.
(Sessional Paper No. 361-20071017)

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

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The results for the third year of activities carried out under the 2004-2009 government action plan to fight poverty and social exclusion.

(Sessional Paper No. 362-20071017)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The report from the Québec Chief Electoral Officer on the implementation of section 490 of the *Election Act*, within the framework of the by-election held on 24 September 2007 in the Electoral Division of Charlevoix.

(Sessional Paper No. 363-20071017)

Presenting Reports from Committees

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

A report from the Committee on Culture, which, on 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27 September 2007, as well as on 10 and 11 October 2007, held public hearings within the framework of the general consultation on the document entitled "Planning for 2008-2010 Québec Immigration Levels".

(Sessional Paper No. 364-20071017)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Charest, Premier, tabled the following:

The transcript of a meeting of the Canadian Club in Toronto on 23 September 2002, including a speech delivered by Mr. Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 365-20071017)

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Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, on the motion by Mr. Taillon (Chauveau). This motion reads as follows:

THAT, beginning on 1 November 2007, the Committee on Public Administration clarify the application of the *Balanced Budget Act* and propose, where appropriate, before 20 December 2007 recommendations that are judged likely to correct the artificially balanced budget.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 19 in Appendix)

Yeas: 69 Nays: 41 Abstentions: 0

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Pelletier, Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information, moved a motion concerning the federal spending power; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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 Québec Waste Reduction Week, which is being held from 14 to 21 October 2007, and congratulate citizens' efforts to reduce waste, passing from 466 kg/inhabitant in 2004 to 404 kg/inhabitant in 2006.

That it further encourage them to pursue their efforts.

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By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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 Committees:

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of the general consultation on Bill 9, An Act respecting the safety of persons on certain premises and amending the Act respecting safety in sports;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to hold its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on the Government Sustainable Development Strategy.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Morin (Beauce-Sud), Mr. Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, and Mr. Girard (Gouin) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty, that it recall that poverty is not found solely in underdeveloped countries, and that it recognize that Québec must continue to work towards attenuating the effects of this phenomenon on its own territory.

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. Bachand, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, Mrs. Lapointe (Groulx) and Mr. Legault (Rousseau) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Week 2007 and congratulate all entrepreneurs and business executives for their contribution to the economic development of Québec.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 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 World Mental Health Week, which was held last 10 October.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

During her speech , by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) tabled the following:

Copy of a letter, published on 24 May 2006 in *Le Devoir* newspaper, addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and signed by mental health workers, concerning the mental health action plan.

(Sessional Paper No. 366-20071017)

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Desrochers (Mirabel), Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, and Mrs. Malavoy (Taillon) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark the release of the joint statement on suicide prevention by the Fédération des cégeps and that it commend this initiative;

THAT it recall that suicide among young people is a major issue since suicide represents the main cause of death among this population.

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 Planning and the Public Domain, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 18, The Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act.
-

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

- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting to examine the financial commitments of the ministries and agencies.
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Fournier, Minister of Revenue, moved, —That Bill 2, An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 23 March 2006 and to certain other budget statements, do now pass in principle.

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After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 2 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Bill 2 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance.

The motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 54, the Assembly took Motions Without Notice.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Taschereau be appointed to the Committee on Public Administration in place of the Member for Verchères and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean be appointed to the Committee on Institutions in place of the Member for Jonquière and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

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Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Dubuc be appointed to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain in place of the Member for Beauharnois and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Bertrand be appointed to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain in place of the Member for Taillon and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Vachon be appointed to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment in place of the Member for Rimouski and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Beauharnois be appointed to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment in place of the Member for Bertrand and that this modification take effect immediately.

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The motion was carried.

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Jonquière be appointed to the Committee on Labour and the Economy in place of the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Taillon be appointed to the Committee on Education in place of the Member for Vachon and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bédard, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 129, the Member for Verchères be appointed to the Committee on Social Affairs and that this modification take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

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Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Fournier, Minister of Revenue, moved, –That Bill 17, An Act to amend the Public Curator Act and the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 17 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Bill 17 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 18 October 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 5.06 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 18 October 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Taillon (Chauveau) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, concerning the examination, by the Committee on Public Finance, of the application of the *Balanced Budget Act*:

(Division No. 19)

YEAS - 69

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Arseneau | Desrochers | Lapointe | Proulx |
| Auger | Diamond | [Crémazie] | Richard |
| Beaupré | Dionne-Marsolais | Laporte | Riedl |
| Bédard | Domingue | Leblanc | Roux |
| Benjamin | Dorion | L'Écuyer | Roy |
| Benoit | Doyer | [Saint-Hyacinthe] | [Montmagny-L'Islet] |
| Bergeron | Dufour | Légaré | Roy |
| Bérubé | Dumont | Legault | [Lotbinière] |
| Bonnardel | Ferland | Lelièvre | Roy Verville |
| Bouchard | Francoeur | Lemay | Schneeberger |
| Caire | Gaudreault | Lévesque | Simard |
| Camirand | Gendron | Malavoy | Taillon |
| Charbonneau | Gingras | Maltais | Therrien |
| Cloutier | Girard | Marois | Trottier |
| Côté | Gosselin | Merlini | Turp |
| Damphousse | Grandmont | Méthé | |
| De Martin | Grondin | Morasse | |
| Deschamps | Harel | Morin | |
| Deslières | Lapointe | Morissette | |
| | [Groulx] | Pagé | |

NAYS - 41

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Arcand | Copeman | L'Écuyer | Paradis |
| Auclair | Couillard | [Pontiac] | Pelletier |
| Bachand | Courchesne | Lessard | [Chapleau] |
| Beauchamp | Dubourg | MacMillan | Reid |
| Béchar | Fournier | Marcoux | Sklavounos |
| Bergman | Gautrin | Marsan | St-Pierre |
| Blais | Gonthier | Ménard | Thériault |
| Boulet | Hamad | Normandeau | Vallée |
| Charest | James | Ouellette | Vallières |
| Charlebois | Jérôme-Forget | Ouimet | Whissell |
| Cholette | Kelley | Paquet | |