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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 19 June 2007 — No. 23**

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

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**QUÉBEC**



The Assembly was called to order at 10.04 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

### **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

#### **Presenting Papers**

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

The annual management report of the Société d'habitation du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 252-20070619)

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

The annual management report of the Régie des rentes du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 253-20070619)

The 2007-2008 Action Plan of the Régie des rentes du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 254-20070619)

The annual management report of the Comité Centraide Secteurs public et parapublic, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2005;

(Sessional Paper No. 255-20070619)

The financial statements of the Comité Centraide Secteurs public et parapublic, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2005;

(Sessional Paper No. 256-20070619)

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The annual report of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board, for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 257-20070619)

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Mrs. James, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 258-20070619)

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Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Place des Arts, for the fiscal year ended 31 August 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 259-20070619)

The annual report of the Grand Théâtre de Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 August 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 260-20070619)

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Mr. President tabled the following:

The report from the Québec Chief Electoral Officer on the official results of the general election held on 26 March 2007, pursuant to section 381 of the *Election Act* (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3).

(Sessional Paper No. 261-20070619)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 286, Mr. President informed the Assembly that no sitting of the Committee of the Whole would be set aside for the consideration of the estimates of the National Assembly.

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Consequently, Mr. President tabled the reports from the Standing Committees that considered the estimates of expenditure of the ministries for the 2007-2008 fiscal year:

The report from the Committee on Institutions;  
(Sessional Paper No. 262-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Public Finance;  
(Sessional Paper No. 263-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Social Affairs;  
(Sessional Paper No. 264-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy;  
(Sessional Paper No. 265-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;  
(Sessional Paper No. 266-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain;  
(Sessional Paper No. 267-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Education;  
(Sessional Paper No. 268-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Culture;  
(Sessional Paper No. 269-20070619)

The report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.  
(Sessional Paper No. 270-20070619)

### **Presenting Petitions**

Mrs. Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the extension of the AccèsLogis programme, and signed by 10 members of La Fontaine housing cooperative, in Lac-Mégantic.  
(Sessional Paper No. 271-20070619)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the extension of the AccèsLogis programme, and signed by 36 citizens from the riding of Joliette.

(Sessional Paper No. 272-20070619)

He then tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the extension of the AccèsLogis programme, and signed by 27 citizens from the riding of Joliette.

(Sessional Paper No. 273-20070619)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 63 and 64, Mr. Légaré (Vanier) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting a request for a commission of inquiry on the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail, and signed by 2172 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 274-20070619)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Lapointe (Crémazie) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the release of Clermont Bégin, and signed by 2120 citizens of the Ahuntsic district, in Montréal, and the neighbouring communities.

(Sessional Paper No. 275-20070619)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. L'Écuyer (Saint-Hyacinthe) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the maintaining of the Centre d'hébergement Andrée-Perreault in Saint-Hyacinthe, and signed by 483 citizens of Saint-Hyacinthe and the region.

(Sessional Paper No. 276-20070619)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the extension of the AccèsLogis programme, and signed by 21 citizens from the riding of Berthier.

(Sessional Paper No. 277-20070619)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the reduction of the speed limit on the Chemin des Patriotes in Richelieu, and signed by 119 citizens of Richelieu.

(Sessional Paper No. 278-20070619)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

### **Motions Without Notice**

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

THAT the National Assembly mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of the report entitled "Our Common Future" known as the Brundtland Report, named after Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which published this report on sustainable development in 1987.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT today, Tuesday, 19 June 2007, immediately when entering upon the Orders of the Day, the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008, according to the following terms and conditions:

THAT, for a period of two hours and thirty minutes, an exchange shall take place between the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and Minister of Families and the Members sitting in opposition;

THAT subsequently, for a period of three hours, an exchange shall take place between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Members sitting in opposition;

THAT following this exchange, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall report progress to the Assembly;

THAT, at the beginning of the Orders of the Day at the sitting of Wednesday, 20 June 2007, the Assembly shall hold a limited debate on the reports from the committees that considered the estimates of expenditure and put the question to the amendments, if any, then to the reports from the committees, whether amended or not, and to the consequent appropriation bill, and that the Assembly continue to sit, if necessary, beyond 1.00 o'clock p.m., notwithstanding the suspension provided for in Standing Order 21;

THAT, at 3.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to continue and conclude the examination of the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008, according to the following terms and conditions:

THAT, for a period of two hours and thirty minutes, an exchange shall take place between the Minister of Finance, Minister of Government Services, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, and the Members sitting in opposition;

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THAT immediately thereafter, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall put the question to the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008;

THAT the Committee of the Whole then report to the Assembly and the question for concurrence in the said report and for passage of the consequent appropriation bill shall be put to the Assembly without debate, pursuant to Standing Order 291;

THAT, at any time, the President of the Assembly or the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may suspend the proceedings;

THAT, within the framework of the exchanges during the examination of the supplementary estimates, the opening statements shall be set according to the following terms and conditions:

THAT, during the exchange with the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and Minister of Families, as well as during the exchange with the Minister of Finance, Minister of Government Services, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, the opening statements shall be apportioned as follows: 15 minutes to each parliamentary group and 5 minutes to the Minister for her reply;

THAT, during the exchange with the Minister of Health and Social Services, the opening statements shall be apportioned as follows: 20 minutes to each parliamentary group and 5 minutes to the Minister for his reply;

THAT the provisions contained in this motion may apply, notwithstanding an inconsistency with any of the Standing Orders;

THAT this motion become an order of the Assembly.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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### Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 6, An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs.

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Mr. President gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Education shall hold a deliberative meeting to inform its members on the activities and operation of the committee and to organize its proceedings;
- the Committee on Culture shall hold a deliberative meeting to inform its members on the activities and operation of the committee and to organize its proceedings;
- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting to meet with the Public Protector and to examine the financial commitments of the ministries and agencies.

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### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### Estimates of Expenditure

##### *Supplementary Estimates*

Pursuant to the order adopted previously, the Assembly resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008.

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*Consideration in Committee of the Whole*

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, gave the following directive concerning the allocation of speaking time among the parliamentary groups for the consideration of the supplementary estimates:

**DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR**

Pursuant to the motion by the Government House Leader establishing the framework for the consideration of the supplementary estimates, the debates in Committee of the Whole will be conducted by way of exchanges among the Members sitting in opposition and the concerned Ministers. Each exchange may give rise to opening statements, which will be subtracted from the time to be allocated.

The Chair must retain an objective criterion for the allocation of speaking time among the parliamentary groups. According to the terms of the motion, insofar as the exchanges take place between Ministers and the Members sitting in opposition, both opposition groups will share the speaking time on the basis of their respective part within the opposition, namely 53 % for the Official Opposition and 47 % for the Second Opposition Group.

The addresses by each parliamentary group will be conducted in blocks of no more than 20 minutes, including the Minister's questions and answers, in accordance with committee practice. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole will ensure that the time used for a Minister's answers is balanced in relation to the questions he is asked, so as to foster exchanges among the Members and the Minister.

The order of the blocks will be determined based on the rule of alternation among both opposition groups, inasmuch as a group will still have time at its disposal. Since this constitutes the exercise of parliamentary control, the first block will be allocated to the Official Opposition. The second block will be allocated to the Second Opposition Group.

Any time used for points of order will be deducted from the total time set aside for the debate.

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The Committee of the Whole entered upon the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008.

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With the permission of Mr. Picard, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, tabled the following:

The appendices to the report from the Comité national de pilotage de la stratégie d'intervention *Agir autrement* of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport;

(Sessional Paper No. 279-20070619)

Tables presenting the proportion of French and English high schools, for 2004-2005, in the *Agir autrement* intervention strategy (SIAA), per school board, per regional directorate and in the Services to the English-Speaking Community.

(Sessional Paper No. 280-20070619)

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At 1.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 3.07 o'clock p.m.

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*Consideration in Committee of the Whole*

Pursuant to the order adopted previously, the Committee of the Whole continued its consideration of the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008.

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At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 8.05 o'clock p.m.

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*Consideration in Committee of the Whole*

The Committee of the Whole continued its consideration of the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008.

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The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reported progress to Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, on the Supplementary Estimates No. 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2008.

**Government Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 237, Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved, —That Bill 4, An Act to repeal the Act respecting the provision of health services by medical specialists, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 4 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Bill 4 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was carried.

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*Committee of the Whole*

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 4, An Act to repeal the Act respecting the provision of health services by medical specialists.

The motion was carried.

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Bill 4 was considered in Committee of the Whole and thereupon reported.

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The report was concurred in.

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Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Wednesday, 20 June 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 9.41 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 20 June 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

**MICHEL BISSONNET**

*President*