



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Friday, 25 May 2007 — No. 10

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.05 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

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 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 117-20070525)

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Mr. President tabled the following decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 23 May 2007:

Decision 1364 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial and administrative management (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative);

(Sessional Paper No. 118-20070525)

Decision 1365 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of the staff of Members holding parliamentary functions at the National Assembly and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel des cabinets de l'Assemblée nationale et sur le paiement des services professionnels).

(Sessional Paper No. 119-20070525)

Presenting Petitions

Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition requesting that the responsibility for the application of the division entitled "Safety and Welfare of Animals" of the *Animal Health Protection Act* be given to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and signed by 24 citizens from the riding of La Pinière and the Greater Montréal region.

(Sessional Paper No. 120-20070525)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Cholette (Hull), on behalf of Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Mr. Lévesque (Lévis) and Mr. Simard (Richelieu) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the finalists and award winners of the fifth edition of the Prix Reconnaissance of the Forum des jeunes de la fonction publique québécoise.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

25 May 2007

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Damphousse (Maskinongé), Mr. Bachand, Minister of Tourism, and Mr. Trottier (Roberval) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate Mr. Louis Lessard for having won the Personnalité touristique de la Mauricie and Personnalité touristique de l'année awards.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Curzi (Borduas), Mr. Pelletier, Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, and Mr. Proulx, Official Opposition House Leader, jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec demand that the Federal Government immediately repatriate Québec's share, of the 60 million in grants over a two-year period, for the funding of festivals in order that these grants be added to the Québec Government's existing programmes.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. President gave the following notice:

- the Standing Committees shall meet for the purpose of electing their chairmen and vice-chairmen.

25 May 2007

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President rendered his directive in answer to the questions submitted by the Leader of the Second Opposition Group, regarding the possibility of introducing amendments during the debate on the Budget Speech.

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

Firstly, the Standing Orders do not allow the introduction of amendments to the motion by the Minister of Finance for the Assembly to approve the budgetary policy of the Government nor to the budget. Standing Order 274 rather provides for the possibility for Members to introduce want of confidence motions during the debate on the budget speech. The Standing Orders do not provide for the possibility for the Government to itself amend its budget during this debate either.

Secondly, the introduction of the consequent appropriation bill falls under the Government's initiative and the President may not interfere in the process leading to its introduction.

Thirdly, the fact that the documents accompanying the budget speech could not be tabled while it was delivered, for want of the Assembly's consent, would in no way affect the process provided for in the Standing Orders. The advisability of tabling these documents is not determined by parliamentary procedure, but is of the minister's initiative.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, moved, –That Bill 6, An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs, do now pass in principle.

25 May 2007

A debate arose thereon.

At 12.58 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.02 o'clock p.m.

Passage in Principle

The debate continued on the motion by Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, for the passage in principle of Bill 6, An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs.

During his speech, at the request of Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, Mr. Cholette (Hull) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

The debate continued.

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

25 May 2007

The proceedings resumed at 8.03 o'clock p.m.

Passage in Principle

The debate continued on the motion by Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, for the passage in principle of Bill 6, An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs.

At 11.57 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 29 May 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President