



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 10 May 2007 — No. 3

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 9.32 o'clock a.m.

Pursuant to the agreement reached between the parliamentary groups, Mr. President heard comments from Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, Mr. Proulx, Official Opposition House Leader, and Mrs. Lemieux, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, concerning the conduct of Oral Questions and Answers, the distribution of debates upon adjournment and the organization of the debate on the Opening Speech. Mr. President took the matter under advisement.

At 9.58 o'clock a.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings for a few moments.

The proceedings resumed at 10.08 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

Mr. Dumont, Leader of the Official Opposition, commenced the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Charest, Premier, at the sitting of Wednesday, 9 May 2007.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings continued beyond 12.00 o'clock p.m.

At 12.07 o'clock p.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

10 May 2007

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

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

190 An Act to repeal the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities

The question was put on this motion; a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 1 in Appendix)

Yeas: **118** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

200 An Act respecting The Knowlton Golf Club inc.

10 May 2007

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 17-20070510)

Mr. Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 200, An Act respecting The Knowlton Golf Club inc.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 200 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Institutions and that the Minister of Justice be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

This motion was carried.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

205 An Act respecting Municipalité de Caplan

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 18-20070510)

Mr. Auclair (Vimont) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 205, An Act respecting Municipalité de Caplan.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 205 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain and that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

This motion was carried.

10 May 2007

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

201 An Act respecting La Compagnie du cimetière Saint-Charles

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 19-20070510)

Mr. Légaré (Vanier) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 201, An Act respecting La Compagnie du cimetière Saint-Charles.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 201 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Institutions and that the Minister of Justice be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

This motion was carried.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

204 An Act respecting Ville de Lévis

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 20-20070510)

Mr. Lévesque (Lévis) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 204, An Act respecting Ville de Lévis.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 204 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain and that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

10 May 2007

This motion was carried.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

206 An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Jérôme

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 21-20070510)

Mr. Camirand (Prévost) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 206, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Jérôme.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 206 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain and that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

This motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

The report, dated 7 May 2007, on the special warrant, pursuant to section 92 of the *Financial Administration Act*;

(Sessional Paper No. 22-20070510)

The annual report of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec and accompanying information, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 23-20070510)

10 May 2007

Mr. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, tabled the following:

The agreement to amend the agreement on the provision of police services between the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake and the Government of Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 24-20070510)

The agreement on the provision of police services between the Government of Akwesasne and the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Government of Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 25-20070510)

The agreement to amend the agreement on the provision of police services between the Huron-Wendat Nation Council, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 26-20070510)

The agreement to amend the agreement on the provision of police services between the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 27-20070510)

Mr. Béchard, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, tabled the following:

The annual report of Hydro-Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2006.
(Sessional Paper No. 28-20070510)

Mr. President tabled the following:

A message from Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, in honour of Commonwealth Day;
(Sessional Paper No. 29-20070510)

The 2007-2008 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2006-2007 financial statement of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 30-20070510)

The 2007-2008 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2006-2007 financial statement of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 31-20070510)

10 May 2007

The report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec on the implementation of section 490 of the *Election Act* within the framework of the general election held on 26 March 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 32-20070510)

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*, within the framework of the municipal referendum held in the City of Granby on 1 April 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 33-20070510)

He then tabled the following decisions from the Office of the National Assembly:

Decision 1356 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the administrative organization plan of the National Assembly (*Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur le plan d'organisation administrative de l'Assemblée nationale*), dated 14 December 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 34-20070510)

Decision 1357 concerning the regulation respecting the appointment of the assistant director of educational programmes (*Règlement concernant la nomination du directeur adjoint des programmes pédagogiques*), dated 14 December 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 35-20070510)

Decision 1360 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial and administrative management (*Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative*), dated 14 December 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 36-20070510)

Decision 1362 concerning the regulation authorizing the Auditor General to set aside certain provisions of the directive concerning the payment by the Government of contributions to associations (*Règlement autorisant le vérificateur général à déroger à certaines dispositions de la Directive concernant le paiement par le gouvernement de cotisations à des associations*), dated 15 March 2007;

(Sessional Paper No. 37-20070510)

Decision 1363 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting official ceremonies and activities (*Règlement sur les cérémonies officielles et les activités à caractère officiel*), dated 15 March 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 38-20070510)

10 May 2007

Lastly, Mr. President tabled the following:

The list of papers required by law to be tabled in the Assembly.
(Sessional Paper No. 39-20070510)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the continuation of the AccèsLogis programme, and signed by 260 citizens of Montréal.
(Sessional Paper No. 40-20070510)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the Québec highway rest area marketing project, and signed by 10 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 41-20070510)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the project to set up a race track and gambling establishment in Sainte-Dorothée or in a region nearby, and signed by 9501 citizens of Sainte-Dorothée and the surrounding regions.
(Sessional Paper No. 42-20070510)

10 May 2007

Mr. President rendered the following directive concerning the framework established for the Oral Questions and Answers of the 38th Legislature.

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

The questions will be distributed according to a criterion of proportionality among the parliamentary groups in opposition by taking into consideration the preponderant role of the Official Opposition.

The Official Opposition will be granted the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 8th and 10th main questions. The Second Opposition Group will be granted the 3rd, 4th, 7th and 9th main questions. Both opposition groups will alternate beginning at the 11th main question.

As regards the Government Members, they will be granted one main question per three sittings. This question may be alternately addressed in 7th place, instead of a question addressed by the Second Opposition Group, or in 8th place instead of question addressed by the Official Opposition.

With regard to supplementary questions, the Official Opposition will be granted two supplementary questions following its first main question. The subsequent main questions, up to the 10th question inclusively, will be followed by a sole supplementary question. Furthermore, the author of a supplementary question must belong to the same group as the author of the main question and a supplementary question may not be transformed into a main question.

The time allotted for questions and answers will be strictly monitored. The first main question of each parliamentary group in opposition will last 1 minute and 30 seconds. The other main questions will last 1 minute. As regards supplementary questions, they will last no longer than 30 seconds. The main answers to the first question of each group will last 1 minute and 45 seconds. The other main answers will last 1 minute and 15 seconds. Concerning the answers to the supplementary questions, they will last no longer than 45 seconds.

When taking into consideration the implementation of the proposed theoretical framework, the Chair will make the proper adjustments, if required, so as to meet the objectives of the present directive.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

10 May 2007

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

Copy of a press release issued on 10 May 2007 by the Montréal Heart Institute, concerning a clarification in relation to surgery waiting time.

(Sessional Paper No. 43-20070510)

Motions Without Notice

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

THAT the National Assembly congratulate Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy on his election as President of the French Republic.

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, Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Caire (La Peltrie) and Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Mental Health Week, which is being held this year from 7 to 13 May.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Mr. Caire (La Peltrie) and Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin) jointly moved:

10 May 2007

THAT the National Assembly mark International Nursing Assistant Day, celebrated on 5 May.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, Mr. Dorion (Nicolet-Yamaska) and Mrs. Lapointe (Crémazie) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Dignity of Welfare Recipients Week by recognizing the courage of these women and men and their will to actively participate in the democratic and socioeconomic life of Québec.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the award winners of the 22nd edition of the Grands Prix du tourisme québécois, as well as the recipient of the Prix du ministre du Tourisme, Mr. Gilbert Rozon.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, Mr. Légaré (Vanier) and Mr. Deslières (Beauharnois) jointly moved:

10 May 2007

THAT the National Assembly mark the outstanding performance of Québec diver Alexandre Despatie, who won three gold medals at the 2007 Canada Cup - FINA Diving Grand Prix and who made a remarkable contribution to Québec's outreach.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Benjamin (Berthier), Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, and Mr. Deslières (Beauharnois) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Gilles Villeneuve.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg) and Mr. Curzi (Borduas) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 24 April 1915.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President informed the Assembly that on Friday, 18 May 2007, Mr. Desrochers (Mirabel) would question Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, during an interpellation on "the cost overrun of the UQAM construction projects".

10 May 2007

Following the previous announcement, the President rendered the following directive:

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

There are no provisions in the Standing Orders that allow the Chair to refuse the tabling of a notice of an interpellation despite the committees not being formed. The Committee on the National Assembly must soon hold a meeting to establish the composition of the committees, and the Chair cannot presume what the outcome of its proceedings will be and assume that the committees will not yet be formed on the date scheduled for the holding of the interpellation.

Mr. President then rendered the following directive concerning the distribution of debates upon adjournment among the parliamentary groups.

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

Within the context of the new composition of the Assembly following the general election held on 26 March 2007, it is advisable to establish the manner in which the debates upon adjournment will be distributed among the parliamentary groups.

This apportionment will take place over a three-sitting period from Tuesday to Thursday. Hence, at two sittings out of three, the Official Opposition will be granted two debates per sitting and the Second Opposition Group will be granted one. At the third sitting, the Second Opposition Group will be granted two debates and the Official Opposition will have one. Out of nine debates, five will therefore be granted to the Official Opposition and four to the Second Opposition Group.

A Government Member may also request a debate once every nine sittings. So as not to penalize any particular group, this debate would alternately replace a debate from the Official Opposition and one from the Second Opposition Group.

As regards the order of the debates during a sitting, subject to a debate being granted to a Government Member, the Official Opposition will be granted the first debate and the Second Opposition Group will be granted the second debate. Lastly, the third debate will be granted to the opposition group that would normally be granted two debates during this sitting.

10 May 2007

Mr. President tabled:

The grid indicating the distribution and rank of the debates upon adjournment.
(Sessional Paper No. 44-20070510)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. President rendered the following ruling on the distribution of speaking time within the framework of the debate on the Opening Speech:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The Opening Speech of the Session and the ensuing debate last no longer than 25 hours. With one hour set aside for the reply and the time allotted to the leaders, that is, two hours for the Premier, two hours for the Leader of the Official Opposition and one hour for the Leader of the Second Opposition Group, a remainder of 19 hours must be redistributed among the three parliamentary groups. This apportionment will be exercised according to a criterion of proportionality among these three groups.

Thus, the parliamentary group forming the Government will dispose of 7 h 18 (38.4 % of the time to be apportioned), the Official Opposition will dispose of 6 h 14 (32.8 %) and the Second Opposition Group will dispose of 5 h 28 (28.8 %).

To these speaking times we must add those allotted to the leaders, which gives the parliamentary group forming the Government a total speaking time of 9 h 18, in addition to the one-hour reply. The Official Opposition will have a total of 8 h 14 and the Second Opposition Group will have 6 h 28.

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly continued the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Charest, Premier, at the sitting of Wednesday, 9 May 2007.

10 May 2007

Debates Upon Adjournment

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question by Mr. Caire (La Peltrie) addressed to Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the heart surgery waiting lists.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

A table indicating the evolution of waiting time with regard to tertiary cardiology.

(Sessional Paper No. 45-20070510)

At 6.14 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 15 May 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President

10 May 2007

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion by Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) to introduce Bill 190, An Act to repeal the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities:

(Division No. 1)

YEAS - 118

Arcand	Dampousse	Lapointe	Pelletier
Arseneau	De Martin	<i>[Crémazie]</i>	<i>[Rimouski]</i>
Auclair	Deschamps	Lapointe	Pelletier
Auger	Deslières	<i>[Groulx]</i>	<i>[Chapleau]</i>
Bachand	Desrochers	Laporte	Proulx
Beauchamp	Diamond	Leblanc	Reid
Beaupré	Dionne-Marsolais	L'Écuyer	Richard
Béchar	Domingue	<i>[Pontiac]</i>	Riedl
Bédard	Dorion	L'Écuyer	Roux
Benjamin	Doyer	<i>[Saint-Hyacinthe]</i>	Roy
Benoit	Drainville	Légaré	<i>[Montmagny-L'Islet]</i>
Bergeron	Dubourg	Legault	Roy
Bergman	Dufour	Lelièvre	<i>[Lotbinière]</i>
Bérubé	Dumont	Lemay	Roy Verville
Bertrand	Dupuis	Lemieux	Schneeberger
Blais	Ferland	Lessard	Simard
Bonnardel	Fournier	Lévesque	Sklavounos
Bouchard	Francoeur	MacMillan	St-Pierre
Boulet	Gagnon-Tremblay	Malavoy	Taillon
Caire	Gaudreault	Maltais	Thériault
Camirand	Gautrin	Marsan	Therrien
Charbonneau	Gendron	Ménard	Tomassi
Charest	Gingras	Merlini	Turp
Charlebois	Girard	Méthé	Vallée
Cholette	Gonthier	Morasse	Vallières
Clermont	Gosselin	Morin	Wawanoloath
Cloutier	Grandmont	Morissette	Whissell
Copeman	Grondin	Normandeau	
Côté	Hamad	Ouellette	
Couillard	Harel	Ouimet	
Courchesne	James	Pagé	
Cousineau	Jérôme-Forget	Paquet	
Curzi	Kelley	Paradis	