



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 20 February 2007 — No. 74

(Extraordinary Sitting)

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 9.06 o'clock a.m.

Moment of reflection

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled the following:

A letter he had received from Mr. Charest, Premier, dated 15 February 2007, asking that he take the necessary measures for the National Assembly to meet as a matter of urgency beginning at 9.00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, 20 February 2007, according to the calendar and timetable which shall be established by the Assembly, in order to allow the Minister of Finance to deliver the Budget Speech, pursuant to the provisions of the first paragraph of Standing Order 271, and also to allow the Finance critic of the Official Opposition and an independent Member to comment thereupon according to the terms and conditions established by motion.

(Sessional Paper No. 881-20070220)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Hamad (Louis-Hébert), committee chairman, tabled the following:

The interim report from the Committee on Public Finance, which, on 30 and 31 January and on 6 and 7 February 2007, held public hearings within the framework of a general consultation with regard to its order of initiative on investor protection in Québec. The Committee also held deliberative meetings on 11 September 2003, on 24 March and 1 November 2005, on 1 and 2 February and on 15 March 2006, as well as on 30 January and 7 February 2007 with regard to this mandate. The report contains 24 recommendations.

(Sessional Paper No. 882-20070220)

Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), committee chairman, tabled the following:

The reports from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 13, 20, 27 and 28 September, on 18 October as well as on 8, 15 and 22 November 2006, heard the following health and social services agencies within the framework of the examination of their annual management reports or activity reports for 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, under section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*:

- Capitale-Nationale; (Sessional Paper No. 883-20070220)
- Laval; (Sessional Paper No. 884-20070220)
- Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean; (Sessional Paper No. 885-20070220)
- Abitibi-Témiscamingue; (Sessional Paper No. 886-20070220)
- Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine; (Sessional Paper No. 887-20070220)
- Côte-Nord; (Sessional Paper No. 888-20070220)
- Montréal; (Sessional Paper No. 889-20070220)
- Laurentides; (Sessional Paper No. 890-20070220)
- Lanaudière; (Sessional Paper No. 891-20070220)
- Montérégie. (Sessional Paper No. 892-20070220)

Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis), committee chairman, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Education, which, within the framework of its order of initiative on the school success of Native peoples, carried out in March 2006, conducted a mission enabling its members to visit schools in the following communities: the Inuit of Kuujuaq, the Naskapis of Kawawachicamach, the Innus of Matimekossh, the Cree of Chisasibi and the Algonquins of Lac-Simon. The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre, the Centre de la petite enfance

Abinodjic-Miguam and the First Nations Building of the University of Quebec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue were also visited. The Committee members met the Huron community in Wendake and heard several experts on Native issues at the Assembly. The Committee held deliberative meetings on 15 occasions. The report contains 18 recommendations;

(Sessional Paper No. 893-20070220)

A report from the Committee on Education, which, during the months of November 2006, January and February 2007, sat on 11 occasions to hear the head officers of universities, pursuant to the provisions of the *Act respecting educational institutions at the university level*. The Committee also held deliberative meetings on 5 occasions. The report contains 11 recommendations.

(Sessional Paper No. 894-20070220)

Mr. Brodeur (Shefford), committee chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Culture, which, on 13 and 14 February 2007, held public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the *Report on the implementation of the Act respecting the Conseil des aînés 1999-2004*. The Committee held deliberative meetings on 26 August and on 23 November 2004, on 16 March 2005 as well as on 30 March and on 16 November 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 895-20070220)

Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont), committee chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Administration, which heard the following: on 18 October 2006, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, concerning the cadastral reform (chapter 4, volume I, Québec Auditor General's report 2005-2006); on 7 February 2007, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, the chairman and chief executive officer of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, the director general of the Institut de réadaptation en déficience physique de Québec, and the director general of the Institut de réadaptation de Montréal, concerning the technical assistance programmes for disabled persons (chapter 6, volume II, Québec Auditor General's report 2005-2006); and, on 13 February 2007, the Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, concerning the ministry's annual management report 2005-2006. The report contains 16 recommendations.

(Sessional Paper No. 896-20070220)

Presenting Petitions

Mrs. Caron (Terrebonne) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting complete coverage of costs related to medically assisted procreation, and signed by 196 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 897-20070220)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the consultation of deaf persons in the decision-making process concerning them and the administration of interpretation services transferred to the local community service centres, and signed by 915 citizens from the riding of Abitibi-Ouest;

(Sessional Paper No. 898-20070220)

The abstract of a petition respecting the modification of ballots in order that the names of candidates be typed in large print and that their picture and the logo of their political party appear thereon, and signed by 86 citizens from the riding of Abitibi-Ouest;

(Sessional Paper No. 899-20070220)

The abstract of a petition respecting the equitable funding of the Famille community agencies and support to the parents of Québec, and signed by 76 citizens from the riding of Abitibi-Ouest.

(Sessional Paper No. 900-20070220)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. St-André (L'Assomption) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting complete coverage of costs related to medically assisted procreation, and signed by 274 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 901-20070220)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the protection of the Piedmont, Prévost and Saint-Hippolyte escarpments, and signed by 10,879 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 902-20070220)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mrs. Lemieux, Official Opposition House Leader, tabled the following:

Copy of a note, dated 6 July 1995, addressed to Mrs. Lucienne Robillard, then chair of the Treasury Board of Canada, from Mr. Howard R. Balloch, concerning ministerial advertising and associated activities of the Government of Canada;

(Sessional Paper No. 903-20070220)

Copy of a note, dated 19 July 1995, addressed to Mr. Jean Chrétien, then Prime Minister of Canada, from Mrs. Jocelyne Bourgon, concerning the national unity communications expenses;

(Sessional Paper No. 904-20070220)

Copy of an invoice from Productions Harvey Gagnon Vidéo Film, dated 24 October 1995, for the attention of Mr. Stéphane Bertrand, then director general of the Québec Liberal Party, regarding the shooting of a vox pop sold to the Comité des Québécoises et des Québécois pour le NON.

(Sessional Paper No. 905-20070220)

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, twice withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT immediately this motion is carried, the limited debate on the causes for which the Assembly has been summoned shall be held;

Upon the expiry of the limited debate, the Assembly shall conclude Routine Proceedings forthwith and enter upon Orders of the Day;

Once Orders of the Day have been called, subject to the following paragraph, leave shall be granted to certain Members to address the Assembly for a maximum of 5 minutes each;

At 4.00 o'clock p.m., leave shall be granted to the Minister of Finance to deliver the Budget Speech;

Immediately thereafter, the Finance critic of the Official Opposition shall be permitted to comment thereon for no longer than 20 minutes;

Subsequently, an independent Member shall be permitted to make comments for no longer than 10 minutes;

Upon the conclusion of these comments, the extraordinary sittings shall be concluded;

At any time during the extraordinary sittings, the President may suspend the proceedings at the request of a Minister or of a Deputy Government House Leader;

THAT, notwithstanding the times appointed for suspensions and the adjournment, the Assembly may continue its proceedings;

The Assembly may sit every day, beginning at 9.00 o'clock a.m., until it decides to adjourn its proceedings and it shall commence its sittings with Routine Proceedings;

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The provisions of the Standing Orders that are inconsistent with the present motion shall not apply.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. President informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time with respect to the limited debate on the cause for which the Assembly has been summoned to extraordinary sittings: ten minutes shall be allotted to the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group may be added to that of the other group, while any time not used by the independent Members will be redistributed equally amongst the two parliamentary groups, it having been agreed that this apportionment may not be carried out before the time allotted to both parliamentary groups has entirely expired; and individual addresses shall not be limited.

And debate arising;

During his address, at the request of Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

And debate continuing;

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

The written excerpt of an interview he granted to Mr. René Homier-Roy of Radio-Canada, on 20 February 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 906-20070220)

And debate continuing;

The limited debate on the cause for which the Assembly has been summoned to extraordinary sittings expired.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Charest, Premier, took the floor on the occasion of the retirement from politics of certain Members.

Mrs. Vermette (Marie-Victorin), Mr. Cusano (Viau), Mrs. Charest (Rimouski), Mr. Létourneau (Ungava), Mr. Bordeleau (Acadie), Mr. Morin (Nicolet-Yamaska), Mrs. Robert (Deux-Montagnes), Mrs. Delisle (Jean-Talon), Mr. Tremblay (Lac-Saint-Jean) and Mr. Valois (Joliette) spoke on the occasion of their departure.

Mr. President also made a few comments.

At 2.29 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, Mr. President suspended the proceedings until 4.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 4.07 o'clock p.m.

Business Having Precedence

Budget Speech

Mr. Audet, Minister of Finance, delivered the Budget Speech.

During his address, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Audet laid the following documents upon the Table:

The 2007-2008 Budget Speech, accompanied by the Budget at a Glance;
(Sessional Paper No. 907-20070220)

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The Budget Plan for 2007-2008;
(Sessional Paper No. 908-20070220)

Additional information on the 2007-2008 budgetary measures;
(Sessional Paper No. 909-20070220)

A document entitled "Action Strategy for the Elderly – Improving Their Living Environment and Encouraging Their Participation";
(Sessional Paper No. 910-20070220)

A document entitled "Strategy for the Development of Every Region – Greater Resources and Stronger Economy";
(Sessional Paper No. 911-20070220)

A document entitled "A More Prosperous Québec";
(Sessional Paper No. 912-20070220)

A document entitled "Promoting Phased Retirement".
(Sessional Paper No. 913-20070220)

At the end of his address, Mr. Audet, Minister of Finance, moved, –That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

Mr. Legault (Rousseau), on behalf of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) then made a few comments.

At 5.55 o'clock p.m., Mr. President adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 13 March 2007, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President