



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 15 March 2016 — No. 151

One forty

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon**

QUÉBEC

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Montmorency on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Imbeault.*
- The Member for Abitibi-Ouest on the following subject: *Congratulations to Jacques Larrivée, inducted into the Midget Tournament of Amos Hall of Fame.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Underline the success of Cassis Monna & filles business of Île d'Orléans.*
- The Member for Chambly on the following subject: *Tribute to Mrs. Monique Couture, a Chambly volunteer.*
- The Member for Mille-Îles on the following subject: *Underline the 11th edition of the Semaine québécoise des popotes roulantes.*
- The Member for Bonaventure on the following subject: *Bravo to young Viggo Belley-Cheseaux, aged 3 years, of Maria who fought a courageous battle against leukemia and won.*
- The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé on the following subject: *Tribute to artist Sergio Gutiérrez.*
- The Member for Mirabel on the following subject: *Tribute to Guy Fortin and Lise Ledoux, volunteers of the year.*
- The Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on the following subject: *Underline the visit of Jean-XXIII school's student concert band.*
- The Member for Robert-Baldwin on the following subject: *Underline the 103rd birthday of Mrs. Jane Ellen Robinson Mack.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PRESENTING (a) Papers
 (b) Reports from committees
 (c) Petitions

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

**COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND
PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEFERRED DIVISIONS

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

(1) Bill 27

An Act respecting the optimization of subsidized educational childcare services

Introduced by the Minister of Families on 26 November 2014

Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on
10 February 2015

(2) Bill 49

An Act to implement the Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec for the Joint Management of Petroleum Resources in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Introduced by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources on **11 June 2015**

(3) Bill 53

An Act to update the Act respecting collective agreement decrees mainly to facilitate its application and enhance the transparency and accountability of parity committees

Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on
26 May 2015

- (4) Bill 56*
Lobbying Transparency Act
Introduced by the Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions on **12 June 2015**

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

- (5) Bill 62
An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for religious accommodation requests in certain bodies
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **10 June 2015**
- (6) Bill 63
An Act respecting inmate identity verification through fingerprinting
Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on **28 October 2015**
- (7) Bill 64
Firearms Registration Act
Introduced by the Mr. Moreau, Acting Minister of Public Security, on **3 December 2015**
- (8) Bill 72
An Act respecting the suspension of school by-elections
Introduced by the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research on **11 November 2015**
- (9) Bill 75
An Act respecting the restructuring of university-sector defined benefit pension plans and amending various legislative provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 11 November 2015
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **23 February 2016**

(10) Bill 79

An Act to give effect to the report of the L'Heureux-Dubé independent committee and to introduce the conditions of employment of the Members of the National Assembly as of the 42nd Legislature

Introduced by the Government House Leader and Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions
on **12 November 2015**

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

(11) Bill 81

An Act to reduce the cost of certain medications covered by the basic prescription drug insurance plan by allowing calls for tender

Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on **24 November 2015**

(12) Bill 83

An Act to amend various municipal-related legislative provisions concerning such matters as political financing

Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy on 1 December 2015

Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on **8 March 2016**

(13) Bill 85

An Act to establish two logistics hubs and an economic development corridor along Autoroute 30 and develop the industrial port zones in the Montréal metropolitan area

Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy on **4 December 2015**

(14) Bill 86

An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body

Introduced by the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research on **4 December 2015**

(15) Bill 88

An Act respecting development of the small-scale alcoholic beverage industry

Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 3 December 2015

Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on **18 February 2016**

Committee Stage

(16) Bill 59

An Act to enact the Act to prevent and combat hate speech and speech inciting violence and to amend various legislative provisions to better protect individuals

Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 10 June 2015

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 24 September 2015

Passed in principle on **19 November 2015**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(17) Bill 70

An Act to allow a better match between training and jobs and to facilitate labour market entry

Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 10 November 2015

Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 18 February 2016

Passed in principle on **10 March 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(18) Bill 74

An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 26 March 2015

Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 12 November 2015

Passed in principle on **19 November 2015**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(19) Bill 76

An Act to modify the organization and governance of shared transportation in the Montréal metropolitan region

Introduced by the Minister of Transport on 12 November 2015

Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment (consultations) tabled on 27 November 2015

Passed in principle on **1 December 2015**, and

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment

(20) Bill 77

Québec Immigration Act

Introduced by the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness on 2 December 2015

Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on 17 February 2016

Passed in principle on **18 February 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

(21) Bill 87

An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings within public bodies

Introduced by the Minister responsible for Government Administration and Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 2 December 2015

Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 17 February 2016

Passed in principle on **18 February 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(22) Bill 89

An Act to ensure better consistency between the French and English texts of the Civil Code

Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 16 February 2016

Passed in principle on **23 February 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

Report Stage

Passage

(23) Bill 82

An Act to proclaim Memorial Day for Crimes Against Humanity Committed in Cambodia Between 1975 and 1979

Introduced by the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness on 27 November 2015

Passed in principle on 4 December 2015

Report from the Committee of the Whole adopted on **4 December 2015**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

(24) Bill 190

An Act to amend the Civil Code in order to protect the rights of seniors as lessees

Introduced by the Member for Gouin on 27 May 2014

Resuming the debate adjourned on **5 June 2014**

(25) Bill 192

An Act to amend the Anti-Corruption Act as concerns the protection of whistleblowers

Introduced by the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière on **23 September 2014**

(26) Bill 193

An Act to regulate ferrous and non-ferrous metal transactions and recycling

Introduced by the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière on **21 October 2014**

(27) Bill 194

An Act to promote the inclusion of social housing or affordable housing in new construction projects

Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **2 October 2014**

(28) Bill 195

An Act to amend the Municipal Powers Act to allow regional county municipalities to carry out certain work without delay

Introduced by the Member for Nicolet-Bécancour on **25 September 2014**

- (29) Bill 196
An Act to amend the Public Protector Act
Introduced by the Member for Deux-Montagnes on **1 October 2014**
- (30) Bill 197
An Act to reduce medication procurement costs in Québec
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **17 February 2015**
- (31) Bill 390
An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to assert the primacy of Québec's jurisdiction in this area
Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **3 December 2014**
- (32) Bill 392
An Act respecting zero-GHG-emission motor vehicles
Introduced by the Member for Vachon on **15 April 2015**
- (33) Bill 394
An act to amend the Police Act as concerns issuing statements of offence
Introduced by the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière on **12 February 2015**
- (34) Bill 395
Religious Fundamentalism Observer Act
Introduced by the Member for Taschereau on **11 February 2015**
- (35) Bill 396
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Granby on **19 February 2015**
- (36) Bill 397
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Rousseau on **26 February 2015**
- (37) Bill 398
An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly
Introduced by the Member for Verchères on **18 March 2015**

(38) Bill 399

An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws

Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **18 March 2015**

(39) Bill 490

An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly as regards the transition allowance

Introduced by the Member for Deux-Montagnes on **18 March 2015**

(40) Bill 491

An Act to put an end to accessory costs by amending various legislative provisions

Introduced by the Member for Taillon on **21 October 2015**

(41) Bill 494

Taxpayer Protection Act

Introduced by the Member for Granby on **28 May 2015**

(42) Bill 495

An Act to amend the Act respecting lotteries, publicity contests and amusement machines

Introduced by the Member for Granby on **3 December 2015**

(43) Bill 496

Whistleblower Protection Act

Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **22 October 2015**

(44) Bill 497

Inmate Pay-for-Stay Act

Introduced by the Member for Beauce-Nord on **4 November 2015**

(45) Bill 498

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société des alcools du Québec and the Act respecting liquor permits to create a farmer-distiller's permit

Introduced by the Member for Granby on **26 November 2015**

(46) Bill 590

An Act to amend the Auditor General Act

Introduced by the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean on **9 March 2016**

(47) Bill 591

An Act to affirm Québec's participation in the appointment process for Québec Supreme Court of Canada judges

Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **25 February 2016**

(48) Bill 592

An Act respecting the selection of Québec senators

Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **9 March 2016**

(49) Bill 593

An Act to put an end to illegal taxi services

Introduced by the Member for Vachon on **18 February 2016**

(50) Bill 594

An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities

Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **25 February 2016**

(51) Bill 595

An Act to protect access to institutions where elective abortions are performed

Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **24 February 2016**

Committee Stage

(52) Bill 492

An Act to amend the Civil Code to protect seniors' rights as lessees

Introduced by the Member for Gouin on 21 May 2015

Passed in principle on 4 June 2015

Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on **23 September 2015**

Report Stage

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

(53) Bill 204

An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Hyacinthe on **13 November 2014**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(54) Bill 209

An Act respecting Ville de Mascouche
Introduced by the Member for Masson on **14 May 2015**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(55) Bill 211

An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté Les Moulins
Introduced by the Member for Terrebonne on **29 October 2015**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(56) Bill 212

An Act respecting Ville de Saguenay
Introduced by the Member for Dubuc on **28 October 2015**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(57) Bill 214

An Act respecting Ville de Drummondville
Introduced by the Member for Drummond–Bois-Francis on
12 November 2015, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(58) Bill 215

An Act respecting Municipalité de Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel
Introduced by the Member for Richelieu on **12 November 2015**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

(59)16 February 2016

Motion by the Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie:

THAT, in accordance with section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly approve the agreement on social security between the Government of Québec and the Government of the Republic of Korea, signed in Québec City on 24 November 2015.

In compliance with section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, this motion cannot be debated before 26 February 2016.

V. Estimates of Expenditure

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills not yet given Royal Assent)

Part 4

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

*The detailed calendar of the proceedings of each committee
is available on the Internet site of the Assembly*

[COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY](#)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Hearing on the administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique.
- Hearing on the administrative management of the Régie du logement.
- Hearing on the administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation.
- Hearing on the Auditor General's 2014-2015 annual management report and financial commitments.
- Hearing of the Régie de l'assurance maladie on chapter 3 of the Auditor General's fall 2015 report entitled "Physician Compensation: Administration and Control".
- Hearing on the Auditor General's special audit report entitled "Information Technology Contracts".
- Hearing on the administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère de la Famille and as a follow-up to chapter 5 of the Auditor General's fall 2011 report entitled "Educational Childcare Services: Quality, Performance and Reporting".
- Hearing to follow up on Chapter 4 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's Spring 2014 report, concerning Green Fund management and financial assistance.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- Green Paper on social acceptability entitled "Orientations du ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles en matière d'acceptabilité sociale" (Order of reference given on 8 March 2016).

Order of initiative

- Analysis of the farmland grabbing phenomenon.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 204**, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel (Order of reference given on 13 November 2014).
- **Bill 209**, An Act respecting Ville de Mascouche (Order of reference given on 14 May 2015).
- **Bill 211**, An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté Les Moulins (Order of reference given on 29 October 2015).
- **Bill 212**, An Act respecting Ville de Saguenay (Order of reference given on 28 October 2015).
- **Bill 214**, An Act respecting Ville de Drummondville (Order of reference given on 12 November 2015).
- **Bill 215**, An Act respecting Municipalité de Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel (Order of reference given on 12 November 2015).
- **Bill 492**, An Act to amend the Civil Code to protect seniors' rights as lessees (Order of reference given on 4 June 2015).

Statutory order

- Examination of the reports on the implementation of the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act.

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société d'habitation du Québec.

Interpellation:

- By the Member for Gaspé to the Minister responsible for Small and Medium Enterprises, Regulatory Streamlining and Regional Economic Development on the following subject: *The Government's lack of vision with respect to regional development.* (notice given on 10 March 2016).

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 86**, An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body (Order of reference given on 11 February 2016).

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 70**, An Act to allow a better match between training and jobs and to facilitate labour market entry (Order of reference given on 10 March 2016).

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 74**, An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 26 March 2015 (Order of reference given on 19 November 2015).
- **Bill 87**, An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings within public bodies (Order of reference given on 18 February 2016).

Order of initiative

- The tax havens phenomenon.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 59**, An Act to enact the Act to prevent and combat hate speech and speech inciting violence and to amend various legislative provisions to better protect individuals (Order of reference given on 19 November 2015).
- **Bill 89**, An Act to ensure better consistency between the French and English texts of the Civil Code (Order of reference given on 23 February 2016).

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 64**, Firearms Registration Act (Order of reference given on 10 March 2016).

Statutory order

- Examination of the report on the implementation of the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly.

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the reintegration support central fund's advisory committee.
- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the 18 reintegration support funds of Québec's correctional facilities.

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 77**, Québec Immigration Act (Order of reference given on 18 February 2016).

Order of initiative

- Aboriginal women's living conditions as affected by sexual assault and domestic violence.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 81**, An Act to reduce the cost of certain medications covered by the basic prescription drug insurance plan by allowing calls for tender (Order of reference given on 9 February 2016).

Statutory order

- Examination of the 2013-2014 annual reports of the following health and social services agencies: Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Capitale-Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches, Côte-Nord, Estrie, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Lanaudière, Laurentides, Laval, Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec, Montérégie, Montréal, Outaouais, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, and of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (deferred on 7 October 2014).
- Examination of the 2013-2014 annual management report of the Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James (deferred on 9 October 2014).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean health and social services agencies and of the Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James.

Order of initiative

- The living conditions of adults staying in residential and long-term care centres.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 76**, An Act to modify the organization and governance of shared transportation in the Montréal metropolitan region (Order of reference given on 1 December 2015).

Special Consultations:

- Backgrounder on passenger transportation by automobile for remuneration (Order of reference given on 16 February 2016).

Statutory order

- Examination of the report from the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec on automobile advertising guidelines.
- Examination of the 2013 evaluation report – Photo radar devices and red light camera systems.

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Hearing the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec on its administrative management, activities and policy directions.

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday

- (156) Mr. Paradis (Lévis) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

On 23 February 2016, during Oral Question Period, the Minister of Health and Social Services stated that a circular on the parking fees of health network institutions is currently being reviewed and that the health network has been informally asked to adapt things to the situation of patients.

For the sake of transparency and in order to allow for proper follow up on this matter, can the Minister answer the following questions without delay:

- a) What directives have already been informally issued to the health network?
- b) What are the new principles behind the next review of parking fees?

- (157) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the increase in Québec's debt-to-GDP ratio.

Unfortunately, weak economic growth in recent years has not allowed Québec to reduce its debt as a share of GDP. The debt service has become an important budget item and puts increasing pressure on Québec's public finances.

Does the Minister of Finance acknowledge that the increase in the debt-to-GDP ratio in recent years is for the most part the result of Québec's weak economic growth? Does the Minister acknowledge that the ratio of gross debt to GDP, as presented on page E.4 of the economic update of November 2015, is above that which had been forecast in the 2015-2016 budget? If so, what specific action does he plan to take to reduce Québec's debt-to-GDP ratio?

(158) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the Government's downward revision of the forecast for economic growth.

The Government's economic growth forecast fell from 2% in its 2015-2016 budget to 1.5% in its economic update of 26 November 2015. During this time, major Canadian banks' growth forecasts were significantly lower. The National Bank forecast growth of 0.9% and Mouvement Desjardins forecast growth of 1.1%.

Can the Minister of Finance explain why his economic growth forecast was approximately twice as high as the forecasts of major Canadian banks? Can he also put a precise figure on the shortfall arising from his downward revision of the projected economic growth targets in the 2015-2016 budget?

(159) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the significant gap between the nominal GDP growth forecast provided for in the Québec Liberal Party's 2014 financial framework and the real nominal GDP growth rate over the last two fiscal years.

The Québec Liberal Party's financial framework presented on 18 March 2014 provided for a nominal GDP growth of 4.5% per year, owing particularly to the contribution of the Plan Nord +, the maritime strategy and measures to encourage the growth of our SMEs, innovation and exports. This growth was not achieved as it only reached 2.5% in 2014-2015 and 2.4% in 2015-2016.

Can the Minister of Finance tell me why, in his opinion, there is a significant gap between his party's election campaign forecasts and the real results in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 concerning nominal GDP? Does he acknowledge that his Government largely overestimated nominal GDP growth in the last election campaign?

(160) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the significant economic growth gap between Québec and Ontario.

Shortly before this interpellation was held, the Royal Bank of Canada announced its economic growth forecast for 2016 and 2017. According to the Royal Bank, the growth forecast in 2016 will be 1.4% in Québec and 2.3% in Ontario. For 2017, Québec's growth will be 1.8% and Ontario's will be 2.6%. These forecasts confirm a strong trend in the forecasts of numerous banks and economic organizations: the economic growth gap between Ontario and Québec persists and it does not seem as though it will be closed in the next few years.

I would like the Minister of Finance to tell me whether he too expects this economic growth gap between Ontario and Québec to persist over the next two years? Does this gap worry him and does he think it necessary to take concrete action to reduce this economic growth gap and, within the next few years, close it? If so, what concrete action does he plan to take so that Québec no longer lags behind Ontario regarding its economic growth?

(161) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the stagnation of Québec's unemployment rate and the gap between Québec's and Ontario's rates.

On 11 March 2016, Statistics Canada announced an unemployment rate of 7.6% for Québec, compared to 6.8% for Ontario. Historically, Québec's unemployment rate was higher than Ontario's and Canada's but this gap has gradually decreased, declining significantly since the year 2000. Québec's rate even dipped lower than Ontario's in January 2009 but the current situation shows that Québec needs to catch up to Ontario.

Does the Minister of Finance also acknowledge that Québec lags behind Ontario in terms of its unemployment rate and that this gap needs to be eliminated? What concrete action does he plan to take to enable Québec to catch up to Ontario?

(162) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the additional contribution for subsidized educational childcare.

This year, line 434 of the 2015 Income Tax Return introduces a new measure under which an additional contribution will be required of any family whose family income exceeds \$50,000, based on the number of children who receive childcare services and the number of days in the year for which the basic contribution has to be paid to the childcare provider.

For example, in 2016, a family with two children whose income is \$51,000 will have to pay \$280, whereas a family with two children whose income is \$85,000 will have to pay \$840.

Does the Minister of Finance acknowledge that his Government has imposed a substantial new tariff increase on Québec families? Does he recognize that this measure will increase the tax burden primarily on Québec's middle class? Has he assessed the impact such a measure would have on Québec's economic growth, and more specifically on consumer spending?

(163) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on Bill 76, An Act to modify the organization and governance of shared transportation in the Montréal metropolitan area.

One of the provisions of Bill 76, which is currently being examined by the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, stipulates that vehicle owners in municipalities belonging to the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal could be required to pay an additional \$45 annually to finance the city's public transit system. Given that a large percentage of the families living in Montréal's suburbs own two vehicles, this new tax could represent a \$90 contribution for them. Overall, more than 1 million vehicle owners could be affected by this new tax increase.

Has the Minister of Finance discussed this matter with his colleague, the Minister of Transport? Has he assessed the budgetary and economic impact this new increase would have on the taxpayers' burden, in particular on consumer spending? Can he table any analyses conducted by his department in this regard?

(164) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the proposal to lower Quebecers' personal income taxes.

In a context of weak economic growth, my party has proposed a number of measures aimed at boosting economic activity. One is to reduce personal income taxes in order to encourage consumer spending, which accounts for approximately 60% of Québec's GDP. This measure would also help retail trade at a time when numerous companies are closing in this sector of key importance for the Québec economy.

Does the Minister of Finance acknowledge that lowering personal income taxes would positively impact economic growth? In a context of restoring fiscal balance, does he feel that this proposal should be implemented as of fiscal 2016–2017? If not, what other measures does he intend to put in place to stimulate consumer spending and help retail trade?

(165) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the alarming increase in the number of bankruptcies in Québec.

The latest statistics show an increase in both bankruptcies and debt settlement offers in Québec. Compared to 2010, there were 5,934 more personal bankruptcies and settlement offers in Québec. Meanwhile, there was a decrease of 16,684 bankruptcies in Ontario and 13,399 in the rest of Canada. In 2015 alone, there were 3,770 more personal bankruptcies in Québec than in Ontario, despite the fact that Québec has 5.5 million fewer citizens.

Is the Minister of Finance aware of this disturbing situation and, if so, what does he intend to do to reverse this strong tendency? Has he fixed a specific target to reduce the number of bankruptcies and if so, what is it?

(166) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the idea of a no-higher-than-inflation tariff increase.

Last year, I tabled Bill 494, Taxpayer Protection Act, which stipulates that a tariff increase may be authorized only if it is less than the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Canada published by Statistics Canada for the preceding year. This bill provides that public bodies must notify the Government of their intention to increase costs to be borne by taxpayers and obtain its authorization to do so. It also requires applications for authorization to be accompanied by a detailed report giving the reasons invoked to justify the cost increase.

The Bill was introduced in response to a series of significantly-higher-than-inflation tax and tariff increases imposed by the Government or by various public or parapublic bodies.

Given that Québec families have experienced a substantial increase in their tax burden over the past two fiscal years, does the Government not think it relevant to apply the measures contained in Bill 494 to avoid further higher-than-inflation tariff increases during the remainder of its current mandate? If not, does the Minister agree with the overall idea of restricting these increases to the inflation rate and avoiding rate shocks?

(167) Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) – **15 March 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

During the interpellation that took place in the Committee on Public Finance on 11 March 2016 on the need to reduce citizens' tax burden and produce an economic recovery plan in the pre-budget context, for which notice was given on 25 February 2016, I planned to question the Minister of Finance on the Liberal's promise to create 250,000 jobs.

In the last election campaign, the Quebec Liberal Party promised to create 250,000 jobs over a five-year period. In its financial framework presented 18 March 2014, the Liberal Party also claimed that growth in forecast budgetary revenues is consistent with the creation of 250,000 jobs over the next five years.

However, in the past two years less than 100,000 jobs have been created in Québec, and the economic growth expected over the next two years indicates that it will be very difficult to achieve the 250,000-job objective.

In this more difficult economic context, and given the results obtained over the last two years, does the Minister confirm that 250,000 jobs will be created over a five-year period, as promised by his party in the last election campaign? If not, can he tell us what his Government's new job creation target is?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

(aa) An Act to amend the Civil Code to make judicial remedies for victims of sexual aggression imprescriptible – *Member for Borduas*.