



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 16 March 2016 — No. 152

Nine forty

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon

QUÉBEC

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Trois-Rivières on the following subject: *Underline the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Jeune Chambre de la Mauricie.*
- The Member for Matane-Matapédia on the following subject: *Projet Ambassadeurs of the Centre matapédien d'études collégiales.*
- The Member for Richmond on the following subject: *Commend the "Without a yes, it's no!" province-wide campaign.*
- The Member for Deux-Montagnes on the following subject: *April, Daffodil Month.*
- The Member for Sainte-Rose on the following subject: *Congratulations Ariane on your commitment to demystify epilepsy.*
- The Member for Gouin on the following subject: *Happy 20th anniversary to Imprime-Emploi.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Congratulations to SERCOVIE (Service communautaire à la vie) organization.*
- The Member for Masson on the following subject: *Mrs. Antoinette Yvoni, 102 years of age.*
- The Member for Saint-Maurice on the following subject: *Congratulations to Mr. René-Jean Grondin, who won the title of Volunteer of the Year at the Gala reconnaissance de l'action bénévole.*
- The Member for Rosemont on the following subject: *Québec Intellectual Disability Week.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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 (b) Reports from committees
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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

Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations) tabled on **15 March 2016**

(12) 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**

(13) 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**

(14) 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

(15)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

(16)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

(17)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

(18)Bill 76

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

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

(19) 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

(20) 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

Passed in principle on **15 March 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(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

Report Stage

(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

Report from the Committee on Institutions tabled on **15 March 2016**

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

(60) 15 March 2016

Motion by the Member for Montarville:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that Québec benefits socially and economically from immigration when its volume reflects our reception and integration capacity;

THAT it note that many municipal, community and economic sector stakeholders are concerned by our present inability to receive, integrate and francize all of the immigrants admitted to Québec;

THAT it ask the Government to take the current context into account and not raise immigration thresholds.

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 83**, An Act to amend various municipal-related legislative provisions concerning such matters as political financing (Order of reference given on 15 March 2016).
- **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).

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).

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

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).

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

(148) Mr. Lisée (Rosemont) – **11 February 2016**
To the Minister responsible for Labour

- What is the total number of arbitration requests received, per month, since 2012?
- How many arbitration requests have come from RI-RTFs, per month, since 2012?
- How many cases went before an arbitration board and when?
- What is the average waiting time?
- Is the Minister satisfied with this waiting time?
- What does she intend to do to reduce this waiting time?
- Does the Minister plan to appoint new arbitrators so that hearings can be held within a shorter period of time? If so, what is her timeline?
- Does she foresee establishing timelines so that the hearings are obligatorily held within a reasonable number of days?

(149) Mrs. Lamarre (Taillon) – **16 February 2016**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

In its report tabled in November 2015, the Auditor General (AG) demonstrated, after reviewing the agreements negotiated between the Liberal Government and the medical federations, that additional sums were paid to physicians upon closing the agreement on the averaging of wage increases. Page 21, chapter 2, of the report indicates that when the memorandums of agreement were ratified, the sums to be averaged over an eight-year period, which total \$5,675.6 million (table 6, line B), were overstated by \$148.5 million compared to the sums remaining to be paid in accordance with the compensation agreements, which total \$5,527.1 million.

In its comments, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux mentions that in paragraph 50, the Auditor General indicates that the sums to be averaged were overstated by \$148.5 million over the term of the agreement and that if there indeed was an error, the MSSS will correct it. (page 37 of the AG's report, chapter 2).

- How does the government plan to recover the overstated \$148.5 million paid to physicians following the signing of an agreement on the averaging of their wage increases?
- How will it correct its error?

(150) Mrs. Roy (Montarville) – **17 February 2016**
To the Minister of the Economy, Science and Innovation

Last 3 February, the Minister of the Economy, Science and Innovation stated that U.S. retailer Lowe's had given her the guarantee that jobs would be maintained as would RONA's headquarters in Boucherville. However, on 9 February she acknowledged that ultimately it will be up to the federal government to decide whether the guarantees provided by Lowe's to acquire RONA are sufficient to approve this transaction.

There remains some uncertainty with regard to the manner in which these guarantees were reportedly given to her by Lowe's. I would like to know exactly how these guarantees were given to her: Can she confirm if they were given verbally or in writing?

Would she also table all the documents provided by Lowe's further specifying these guarantees, particularly concerning the maintaining of jobs and headquarters in Boucherville?

Lastly, in light of the guarantees that were given to the Minister, can she tell me exactly how many jobs Lowe's plans to maintain at the headquarters in Boucherville, and over what period of time?

(152) Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) – **25 February 2016**
To the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport

In September 2013, in an opinion entitled "Un engagement collectif pour maintenir et rehausser les compétences en littératie des adultes", the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation made recommendations to the then Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport de l'époque (recommendation 10, p. 142) regarding a substantial increase in the budget allocated to the Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation. The Conseil stressed the merits of the existence of two organization networks providing literacy services, the school network and the network of independent community action literacy organizations.

Last 15 September, the National Assembly unanimously carried a motion recognizing the scope of the problem of illiteracy in Québec as well as the the essential role played by community-based literacy groups in fighting illiteracy.

Four months later, on 12 January 2016, the Member for Charlesbourg, then Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research, publicly called into question the financing granted to literacy organizations, indicating that he wished to evaluate the amounts that were at his disposal and determine where they must be allocated to make a difference.

In light of the elements brought to the attention of the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport, we would like him to answer the following questions:

- Does the Minister intend to respect the 2015-2018 financial assistance agreements of each literacy organization financed by PACTE?
- What does the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport plan on doing to financially consolidate the literacy organizations whose essential role has been recognized by all of the Members of the National Assembly last 15 September?

(153) Mr. Turcotte (Saint-Jean) – **25 February 2016**
To the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport

Last 15 September, the National Assembly unanimously carried a motion on literacy.

Four months later, on 12 January 2016, the Member for Charlesbourg, then Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research, publicly called into question the financing granted to literacy organizations, indicating that he wished to evaluate the amounts that were at his disposal and determine where they must be allocated to make a difference.

The 128 literacy organizations, recognized and financed by the Ministère de l'Éducation, through the Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation (PACTE), reported in May 2015 financial requests of \$22,052,551, while their total financing amounts to \$12,817,185 for 2015-2016. This represents a difference of more than \$9.2 million. They also renewed their respective triennial financial assistance agreements last spring, indicating the amount to which each organization is entitled for the years 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Lastly, in September 2013, in an opinion entitled "Un engagement collectif pour maintenir et rehausser les compétences en littératie des adultes", the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation made recommendations to the then Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport (recommendation 10, p. 142), within the framework of the Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation, to ensure, in the short term, the financial consolidation of the network of independent community action literacy organizations that are already accredited and, in the medium term, to substantially increase the budget allocated to the programme, to see to the network's expansion by the accreditation of new groups.

- What is the Minister's intended course of action in terms of financing in the coming years with regard to recognizing and financing the 128 literacy organizations financed by his department?
- Will the 2015-2018 financial assistance agreements of each literacy organization financed by PACTE be respected?

- Does the Minister of Education intend to follow up on the recommendation of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation concerning the financial consolidation of the network of independent community action literacy organizations recognized under PACTE, on the one hand, by indexing each organization's annual subsidy, and, on the other hand, by injecting more funds into their mission financing?

(154) Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) – **10 March 2016**
To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor

Within the framework of the "lundis de Manon" activity, a monthly open-house day during which citizens and organizations of the riding are invited to come and discuss their concerns with their MNA, the Member for Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques met with Olivia Collette, an active member of the Marché Voyageur citizens' action group, an association of committed citizens interested in converting Montréal's former bus terminal into an intermodal public market. This public market would be a hub for urban agriculture, solar energy, social integration initiatives, with local growers and producers selling their wares and encouraging the local economy.

Considering that the transfer of Revenu Québec employees to the former bus terminal at the corner of De Maisonneuve and Berri streets has been suspended since 2013 and that no clear direction regarding the future of this site has been announced since the current Government came to power, I ask the Chair of the Conseil du trésor, who is responsible for the Société québécoise des infrastructures, to answer the following questions:

- 1) Since the Revenu Québec towers project has been shelved and no timeline has been established, what does the Société québécoise des infrastructures intend to do with the Îlot Voyageur Sud project and the abandoned bus terminal?
- 2) Is the Government willing to consider a property development model that is rooted in the community and which sets forth sustainable development principles for the Îlot Voyageur Sud project instead of a high-density model targeting private developers?

(155) Mr. Paradis (Lévis) – **10 March 2016**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

On 28 April 2015, during Oral Question Period, the Minister of Health and Social Services underlined the important work carried out by orderlies in the healthcare network. I questioned him on the opportunity of meeting the Fédération des préposés aux bénéficiaires du Québec, which has long been working to establish a professional corporation with compulsory membership in order to protect the public and provide a proper framework for the work of orderlies. The Minister met with Fédération representatives the same day and made a commitment to examine the Fédération's proposal.

Close to 75,000 orderlies work under conditions that are not always optimal. They are practically the only healthcare professionals who provide care and services directly to patients and whose work is not governed by any standards. Moreover, this is a recommendation that was written in black and white in a coroner's report.

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 is the status of work at the MSSS regarding the establishment of an orderlies professional corporation and when does the Minister plan to follow up on it?
- b) Have any budgets been set aside for this project and if so, can he give us a breakdown thereof?

(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?

(168) Mr. Roberge (Chambly) – **16 March 2016**
To the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport

The first week known as "spring break" in Québec was held in 1979, at the instigation of school commissioner Fernand Paradis, who had calculated that the absenteeism rate was higher at the end of February. Inspired by France's school holiday, he shortened the Christmas holidays by one week and added this holiday week to March. Over time, this practice was taken up by all of Québec's school boards.

Not only does this holiday encourage family time between parents and students, but it also allows teachers, support staff and all education sector stakeholders to relax and unwind before undertaking the last stage of the school year.

It is also beneficial for several seasonal industries such as ski centres, outdoor winter parks and other seasonal businesses that welcome a greater number of visitors, which contributes to Québec's economy and, by the same token, to employment in the regions.

Following a dispute between the teachers' union and the Hautes-Rivières school board, spring break was removed from this school board's 2015-2016 school calendar. This decision had undesirable and unfortunate impacts, particularly a sharp increase in the absenteeism rate during that week.

Was the Minister informed of this unfortunate situation and what does he intend to do fix this problem? Has he considered the possibility of amending the *Education Act* to establish this week as a mandatory holiday for all school boards?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

(a) 15 March 2016

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

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

(aa) Motion by the Minister of Justice:

THAT the National Assembly:

Approve and concur in all of the recommendations and justifications contained in the report from the Committee on the Remuneration of Criminal and Penal Prosecuting Attorneys for the period 2015-2019, tabled in the National Assembly by the Minister of Justice on 6 October 2015; provided, however, that Recommendation 1 shall be amended as follows, for the reason set forth in the letter from the chair of this Committee, which was tabled in the National Assembly on 15 March 2016:

THAT the salary rates and ranges in effect on 31 March 2015 be increased in the order of 10%, without additional cost of living adjustments, and that the recommended increase be spread over the four-year period covered by this report in the following manner as illustrated below:

- 2.5% as at 1 April 2015 (which is added to the 1% adjustment paid on 31 March 2015);
- 2.5% as at 1 April 2016 (of the salary ranges in effect on 31 March 2016);
- 2.5% as at 1 April 2017 (of the salary ranges in effect on 31 March 2017);
- 2.25% as at 1 April 2018 (of the salary ranges in effect on 31 March 2018).