



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 5 April 2016 — No. 157

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 1.40 o'clock p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to pay tribute to Me Casper Bloom.

Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the weekly newspaper La Seigneurie.

Mrs. Simard (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to invite citizens to visit the municipality of Baie-Sainte-Catherine, a new member of Tourisme Charlevoix.

Mr. Lemay (Masson) made a statement to underline the 70th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120 – Terrebonne Heights.

Mr. Giguère (Saint-Maurice) made a statement to congratulate Mrs. Marie-Claude Caron on her exhibition, presented in the context of International Women's Day.

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Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) made a statement to underline Mr. Jacques Clément's contribution to the classical music community.

Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of the Youth and Parents AGAPE Association.

Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) made a statement to pay tribute to the volunteers participating in the Walk for Alzheimer's.

Mr. Polo (Laval-des-Rapides) made a statement to underline Volunteer Week.

Mrs. Vallée (Gatineau) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Société québécoise d'information juridique.

At 1.51 o'clock p.m., Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Claire Kirkland-Casgrain, former Member for Jacques-Cartier and for Marguerite-Bourgeoys, and of Mr. François Cloutier, former Member for Ahuntsic and for Acadie.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Couillard, Premier, tabled the following:

The Québec youth policy entitled “Politique québécoise de la jeunesse 2030”.
(Sessional Paper No. 2065-20160405)

Mr. Arcand, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and Minister responsible for the Plan Nord, tabled the following:

The agreement between the Société du Plan Nord and the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, seconded by the Minister for Mines, concerning support for funding management of the Québec mining statistics program entitled “L’Entente concernant la contribution au financement de la gestion du Programme de statistiques minières du Québec, entre la Société du Plan Nord et le ministre de l’Énergie et des Ressources naturelles, secondé par le ministre délégué aux Mines”.

(Sessional Paper No. 2066-20160405)

Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, tabled the following:

The agreement between the Société du Plan Nord and the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie on the implementation of the Québec Government’s Plan Nord toward 2035, 2015-2020 Action Plan.

(Sessional Paper No. 2067-20160405)

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Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 11 February 2016 by Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean) on opposition to the private bill that modifies Ville de Saguenay's electoral map;

(Sessional Paper No. 2068-20160405)

The Government's reply to petitions tabled on 9 March 2016 by Mrs. Lavallée (Repentigny) on recognizing and supporting family caregivers;

(Sessional Paper No. 2069-20160405)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 10 March 2016 by Mr. Lisée (Rosemont) on maintaining residences specialized in autism and severe behavioural disorders;

(Sessional Paper No. 2070-20160405)

The replies to written questions from Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) on the increase in Québec's debt-to-GDP ratio, the Government's downward revision of the forecast for economic growth, the nominal GDP, the economic growth gap between Ontario and Québec, Québec's unemployment rate and the gap between Québec's and Ontario's rates, the additional contribution for subsidized educational childcare, a specific provision of Bill 76, An Act to modify the organization and governance of shared transportation in the Montréal metropolitan area, Quebecers' personal income taxes, the number of bankruptcies in Québec, no-higher-than-inflation tariff increases and the Liberals' promise to create 250,000 jobs – Questions No. 157 to 167, *Order Paper and Notices* of 15 March 2016.

(Sessional Paper No. 2071-20160405)

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

The 2015 report on its coroners' activities prepared by the Bureau du coroner;

(Sessional Paper No. 2072-20160405)

The supplementary agreement amending the agreement on the provision of policing services in the community of Mashteuiatsh, for the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

(Sessional Paper No. 2073-20160405)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 283, the President tabled the following:

The calendar for examination of the 2016–2017 estimates of expenditure.
(Sessional Paper No. 2074-20160405)

He then tabled the following:

The 2016–2017 budgetary forecasts and 2015–2016 preliminary financial report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec and of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 2075-20160405)

A copy of the notice of motion by Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin) to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 6 April 2016 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.
(Sessional Paper No. 2076-20160405)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Morin (Côte-du-Sud) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on family-type resources' and intermediate resources' remuneration, signed by 2,537 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 2077-20160405)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Roberge (Chambly) tabled the abstracts of two petitions on the presence of a family physician in Saint-Basile-Le-Grand:

- the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 145 citizens of Saint-Basile-Le-Grand;
(Sessional Paper No. 2078-20160405)

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- the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 1,212 citizens of Saint-Basile-Le-Grand.

(Sessional Paper No. 2079-20160405)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Couillard, Premier, together with Mrs. Thériault, Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mr. Péladeau, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Legault, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, and Mrs. David (Gouin), moved:

THAT the National Assembly pay tribute to Mrs. Marie-Claire Kirkland-Casgrain, first female Member of the National Assembly of Québec, first woman Minister within the Québec Government and first woman appointed Provincial Court judge;

THAT it highlight her invaluable contribution to advancing Québec society, particularly in terms of gender equality, one of its fundamental values;

THAT, lastly, the Members of the Assembly observe a minute of silence in her memory.

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By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the request of Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Mr. Drainville, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Mr. Caire (La Peltrie) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier), moved a motion concerning the Member for Louis-Hébert; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. Roy (Montarville) moved a motion concerning the prescription period provided for in the *Election Act*; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) moved a motion concerning the status of a minister under investigation by the Ethics Commissioner of the National Assembly; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Sklavounos, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 70, An Act to allow a better match between training and jobs and to facilitate labour market entry;

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- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, to continue and complete its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on the Green Paper on social acceptability entitled “Orientations du ministère de l’Énergie et des Ressources naturelles en matière d’acceptabilité sociale”;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech.

And by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143, he convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Culture and Education, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on 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;
- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 64, Firearms Registration Act.

Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Citizen Relations shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining petitions.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 6 April 2016, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion by Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin).

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This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly mandate the Auditor General of Québec to analyze the awarding of an \$11.2 million loan and \$8.5 million subsidy to the company Premier Tech, by Investissement Québec and the Ministère du Développement économique respectively, announced by Premier Jean Charest on 7 May 2012;

THAT the Auditor General do everything in her power to report to the Assembly by 1 June 2016.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 24 March 2016, on the motion moved by Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Marceau (Rousseau), Mr. Bonnardel (Granby), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet), Mr. Caire (La Peltrie), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Lisée (Rosemont), Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques), Mrs. Hivon (Joliette) and Mr. Villeneuve (Berthier), subject to the receivability of these motions.

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At the end of her address, Mrs. David (Gouin) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec severely censure the Liberal Government for its 2016–2017 budget and its Plan for Success in Education and Higher Education, which does not counterbalance the public education system's chronic underfunding caused by budgetary cutbacks made by this government and previous governments.

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Marceau (Rousseau), Mr. Bonnardel (Granby), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet), Mr. Caire (La Peltrie), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Lisée (Rosemont), Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), Mrs. Hivon (Joliette), Mr. Villeneuve (Berthier) and Mrs. David (Gouin), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his address, Mr. Kotto (Bourget) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Liberal Government for the lack of adequate financial means in its 2016–2017 budget for the francization of new Quebecers.

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Marceau (Rousseau), Mr. Bonnardel (Granby), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet), Mr. Caire (La Peltrie), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Lisée (Rosemont), Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), Mrs. Hivon (Joliette), Mr. Villeneuve (Berthier), Mrs. David (Gouin) and Mr. Kotto (Bourget), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his address, Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Liberal Government for doing nothing to assist or support entrepreneurs and businesses trying to get Québec back on its feet.

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Marceau (Rousseau), Mr. Bonnardel (Granby), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet), Mr. Caire (La Peltrie), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Lisée (Rosemont), Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques), Mrs. Hivon (Joliette), Mr. Villeneuve (Berthier), Mrs. David (Gouin), Mr. Kotto (Bourget) and Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his address, Mr. Rochon (Richelieu) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Liberal Government for its paltry investments in homecare and home-support services.

At 5.59 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 7.30 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 7.30 o'clock p.m.

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Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Marceau (Rousseau), Mr. Bonnardel (Granby), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet), Mr. Caire (La Peltrie), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Lisée (Rosemont), Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), Mrs. Hivon (Joliette), Mr. Villeneuve (Berthier), Mrs. David (Gouin), Mr. Kotto (Bourget), Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) and Mr. Rochon (Richelieu), subject to the receivability of these motions.

Given that 13 hours and 30 minutes had elapsed since Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, began the Budget Speech, the debate thereon was suspended in the Assembly to be resumed by the Committee on Public Finance, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 275.

Government Bills

Passage

Mrs. Vallée, Minister of Justice, moved the passage of Bill 89, An Act to ensure better consistency between the French and English texts of the Civil Code.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 89 was passed.

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Citizen Relations on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 77, Québec Immigration Act, together with the amendments transmitted by Mrs. Weil, Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness.

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The amendments were declared in order.

After debate thereon, the amendments were carried.

The report, as amended, was concurred in.

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, which met on 16 and 17 March 2015, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on the farmland grabbing phenomenon. The report contains observations, conclusions and 5 recommendations.

Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this debate: 56 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 33 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 23 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Second Opposition Group; and 7 minutes to the independent Members, subject to a maximum of 2 minutes to the Member for Arthabaska. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Mr. Morin (Côte-du-Sud).

At 9.30 o'clock p.m., the President adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 6 April 2016 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

JACQUES CHAGNON

President

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