



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Friday, 3 June 2016 — No. 181

Nine forty

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon

QUÉBEC

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Vaudreuil on the following subject: *Congratulations to the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion for the International Award UCLG.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *75th anniversary of the Cercle de fermières de Saint-Jean.*
- The Member for Jean-Lesage on the following subject: *Tribute to La Marée des Mots organization.*
- The Member for Borduas on the following subject: *30th anniversary of the Centre de femmes l'Essentielle.*
- The Member for Papineau on the following subject: *Tribute to Mrs. Marie-Claire Bourassa.*
- The Member for Rousseau on the following subject: *Fiftieth anniversary of Lanaudière's AFÉAS organization.*
- The Member for Côte-du-Sud on the following subject: *Tribute to the Société du patrimoine, des arts et de la culture of Saint-Just-de-Bretenières.*
- The Member for Viau on the following subject: *Underline World Environment Day.*
- The Member for Huntingdon on the following subject: *Underline the Festival nautique de Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix.*
- The Member for Gaspé on the following subject: *Tribute to the career of Laurence Jalbert.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

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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 72
An Act respecting the suspension of school by-elections
Introduced by the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research on **11 November 2015**
- (8) 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**

- (9) 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**

(10) 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

Report from the Committee on Culture and Education (consultations) tabled on **7 April 2016**

(11) Bill 98

An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system

Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **11 May 2016**

(12) Bill 100

An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting mainly transportation services by taxi

Introduced by the Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Transport Electrification on 12 May 2016

Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment (consultations) tabled on 31 May 2016

Resuming the debate adjourned on **2 June 2016**

(13) Bill 103

An Act to strengthen the fight against transphobia and improve the situation of transgender minors in particular

Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **31 May 2016**

(14) Bill 104

An Act to increase the number of zero-emission motor vehicles in Québec in order to reduce greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions

Introduced by the Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change on **2 June 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 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

(18) Bill 92

An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec and to amend various legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on 6 April 2016

Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations) tabled on 17 May 2016

Passed in principle on **26 May 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services

(19) Bill 101

An Act to give effect to the Charbonneau Commission recommendations on political financing

Introduced by the Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions on 12 May 2016

Passed in principle on **24 May 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on **25 May 2016**

Report Stage

(20) 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

Passed in principle on 12 April 2016

Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy tabled on **25 May 2016**

(21) 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

Passed in principle on 17 May 2016

Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services tabled on **26 May 2016** (Amend. handed in under Standing Order 252)

(22) 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

Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain tabled on **1 June 2016** (Amend. handed in under Standing Order 252)

Passage

(23) Bill 64

Firearms Registration Act

Introduced by the Mr. Moreau, Acting Minister of Public Security, on 3 December 2015

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 13 April 2016

Passed in principle on 10 May 2016

Report from the Committee on Institutions adopted on **31 May 2016**

(24) Bill 97

An Act to amend certain Acts establishing pension plans applicable to public sector employees

Introduced by the Minister responsible for Government Administration and Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 11 May 2016

Passed in principle on 18 May 2016

Report from the Committee on Public Finance adopted on **31 May 2016**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

(25) 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**

- (26) 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**
- (27) 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**
- (28) 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**
- (29) 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**
- (30) Bill 196
An Act to amend the Public Protector Act
Introduced by the Member for Deux-Montagnes on **1 October 2014**
- (31) Bill 197
An Act to reduce medication procurement costs in Québec
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **17 February 2015**
- (32) 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**
- (33) Bill 392
An Act respecting zero-GHG-emission motor vehicles
Introduced by the Member for Vachon on **15 April 2015**
- (34) 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**

- (35) Bill 395
Religious Fundamentalism Observer Act
Introduced by the Member for Taschereau on **11 February 2015**
- (36) Bill 396
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Granby on **19 February 2015**
- (37) Bill 397
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Rousseau on **26 February 2015**
- (38) 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**
- (39) 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**
- (40) 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**
- (41) 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**
- (42) Bill 494
Taxpayer Protection Act
Introduced by the Member for Granby on **28 May 2015**

- (43) 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**
- (44) Bill 496
Whistleblower Protection Act
Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **22 October 2015**
- (45) Bill 497
Inmate Pay-for-Stay Act
Introduced by the Member for Beauce-Nord on **4 November 2015**
- (46) 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**
- (47) Bill 590
An Act to amend the Auditor General Act
Introduced by the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean on **9 March 2016**
- (48) 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**
- (49) Bill 592
An Act respecting the selection of Québec senators
Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **9 March 2016**
- (50) Bill 593
An Act to put an end to illegal taxi services
Introduced by the Member for Vachon on **18 February 2016**
- (51) 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**

- (52) 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**
- (53) Bill 596
An Act to amend the Civil Code to make judicial remedies for victims of sexual aggression imprescriptible
Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **16 March 2016**
- (54) Bill 597
An Act to amend the Anti-Corruption Act to make the Anti-Corruption Commissioner a person designated by the National Assembly
Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **20 April 2016**
- (55) Bill 598
An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards civil status to allow a change of designation of sex for transgender children
Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **12 May 2016**
- (56) Bill 599
Anti-Farmland Grabbing Act
Introduced by the Member for Berthier on **26 May 2016**
- (57) Bill 690
An Act to amend the Police Act to minimize the cost of police services without compromising public safety and to facilitate service-sharing among police forces
Introduced by the Member for Blainville on **24 May 2016**
- (58) Bill 691
An Act to prohibit billing accessory costs for insured services
Introduced by the Member for Taillon on **25 May 2016**

Committee Stage

(59)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

(60)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

(61)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

(62)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

(63)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

(64)Bill 214

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

(65)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

(66)Bill 218

An Act respecting Ville de Chibougamau
Introduced by the Member for Ungava on **11 May 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(67)Bill 219

An Act respecting Ville de Sherbrooke
Introduced by the Member for Saint-François on **12 May 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

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

Statutory order

- Examine the preliminary report of the Commission de la représentation électorale and, for this purpose, hear the Commission de la représentation électorale (notice given on 1 June 2016).

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.
- Hearing on the administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère des Transports du Québec and as a follow-up to chapter 5 of the Auditor General's fall 2015 report entitled "Road Network: Inspection of Structures and Planning of their Maintenance".

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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 218**, An Act respecting Ville de Chibougamau (Order of reference given on 11 mai 2016).
- **Bill 219**, An Act respecting Ville de Sherbrooke (Order of reference given on 12 mai 2016).
- **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.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

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 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 101**, An Act to give effect to the Charbonneau Commission recommendations on political financing (Order of reference given on 24 May 2016).

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 98**, An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system (Order of reference given on 24 May 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

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 103**, Loi visant à renforcer la lutte contre la transphobie et à améliorer notamment la situation des mineurs transgenres (Order of reference given on 2 June 2016).

Order of initiative

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 92**, An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec and to amend various legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 26 May 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

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

- (186) Mrs. D'Amours (Mirabel) – **3 June 2016**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec is an important part of Québec's agricultural sector. The Régie was heard by the Committee on Public Administration on 8 September 2015. During this public hearing, parliamentarians noted several shortcomings with this agency, such as a strategic plan that had expired six years earlier, objectives that had not been met and undue delays in processing requests.

The Régie's delay in processing requests is a major issue for the agricultural sector. Important files were tabled before the Régie over one year ago. In its last annual report, the Régie reported that the average in-house delay to process requests was 307 days in 2014-2015. It took an additional 22 days to issue decisions in 2013-2014 and 62 days more in 2014-2015, which is almost three times more than a year earlier.

Owing to the strategic importance of the Régie for the development of agriculture, what actions has the Minister of Agriculture taken to reduce in-house delays to process requests and issue decisions? How does the Minister intend to ensure that the Régie will maintain reasonable in-house delays to process requests? When does the Minister intend to table the Régie's new strategic plan?

(187) Mrs. D'Amours (Mirabel) – **3 June 2016**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

On 1 December 2015, the following access to information request was sent to the Commission de protection du territoire agricole (CPTAQ):

(...), the list and details of all documents concerning Vaudreuil-Soulanges' logistics hub:

Since January 2012:

- List and copy of correspondence between the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec (CPTAQ) and the Minister of Agriculture
- List and copy of CPTAQ correspondence
- Plans of the areas concerned
- Details regarding the agricultural areas concerned
- Impact assessments
- Notices produced
- Documents provided to the Minister of Agriculture
- Reports and/or records and/or minutes of the consultations
- All other documents relating to the logistics hub

In reply to this request, the CPTAQ refused to send us the notice produced at the Minister's request. Moreover, no other documents were provided to me because they were, according to the CPTAQ, sketches, drafts, preliminary versions, preparatory memoranda, personal notes written on documents, and other similar documents.

At the interpellation held on 6 November 2015, the Minister mentioned that he had received an incomplete notice from the CPTAQ during the summer and had asked the CPTAQ to carry out the required work. He then stated that he was awaiting the Commission's final notice and that once the final notice was known, he would inform the public.

That was over five months ago and the notice still has not been tabled.

Does the Minister intend to soon table the notice produced by the CPTAQ concerning the Vaudreuil-Soulanges logistics hub? If this notice is still unavailable, when does the Minister expect to receive this notice and will he commit to immediately tabling it in the National Assembly? If this is the case, why is this notice still unavailable?

(188) Mrs. D'Amours (Mirabel) – **3 June 2016**
To the Minister responsible for Labour

Québec produces more than 50 % of all strawberries produced in Canada. Ten thousand tons of strawberries are picked annually in Québec. These strawberry producers, and those of several other farm products, hired over 9000 temporary agricultural workers in 2014. These workers come from Mexico, Guatemala, the West Indies and Honduras.

Temporary agricultural workers are an important workforce for agricultural producers. In Québec, agricultural producers provide, among other things, free housing to these workers. The rules of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), which provide a framework for the recruitment of foreign workers, allow producers to withhold \$2.21 at source per day for public services.

Moreover, producers from almost everywhere in Canada withhold this at source. This is not the case in Québec, however, as the *Labour Standards Act* only allows housing expenses to be withheld; it does not allow withholding at source for public services.

According to the Association des producteurs de fraises et framboises du Québec, this withholding for public services would represent at least 1 million dollars more for Québec businesses. It is important to understand that in agricultural production, profit margins are low and competition is fierce. Québec businesses must distinguish themselves from those of other provinces, especially of Ontario, to sell their products. This shortfall gives them even less flexibility compared to these businesses.

Considering the importance of temporary agricultural workers for Québec's agricultural production, the extent of expenses relating to housing and the fact that the SAWP should in principle allow withholding at source for service charges, which is what the majority of Canadian provinces do, does the Minister intend to modify Québec's labour standards to allow agricultural businesses to withhold at source for services?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

(a) 2 June 2016

An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other provisions – *Minister for Rehabilitation, Youth Protection, Public Health and Healthy Living.*

Private Members' Public Bills

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

(aa) An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions – *Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.*

(bb) An Act to amend the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Public Curator Act as regards the protection of persons – *Minister of Families.*

(cc) An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to modernize the environmental authorization scheme and to amend other legislative provisions, in particular to reform the governance of the Green Fund *Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change.*